

## **AUSTERITY ABÉCÉDAIRE**

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## arbitrary

the market value of tomato  
the market value of klimt

make punishment fit crime

conjugal solidarity

unfurling effect following    action  
  reaction  
  subtraction

see also: rent

*antonyms* mathematics, chess, language

## bank

imperative form, 'neither a lender nor a  
borrower'

not a church or university (entities  
which pay no taxes at all)

## **contract**

experience-as-text

language that wills itself not to be forgotten  
nor erased

anemic division of labor

code and authority faced with petty theft;  
or, embargo and prohibition

see also: sanction

*antonym* aphasia

## **dress**

pressed upon by habit  
and occupation

horror of becoming  
one's uniform

## english

alternative economic currency

idiom of the call center and  
p.a. system

airport default

(who does the totalizing effect of  
language serve?)

angelinos who live twenty years without  
speaking it

(pennsylvania dutch?)

there are americas  
there were holy roman empires

## fate

loss of ability to change  
the composition or outcome of one's dreams  
or plans

he grappled with the  
corruption of any possibility to shape or alter  
the future

birdcage / seal / attrition  
combustion / lunar orbit / serf

## **grief**

cousin of mercy and exhaustion  
tearless bacchanalia within sanctity of self  
expiation without wrongdoing  
guilt without culpability

## **household**

state(s) of rest play sick

official claim of child or incapacitated  
adult as dependent

province of reliance contempt soup  
ritual nurture

protection of self  
safety in numbers  
hatred of dependency

in the absence or unwillingness of the  
state

## **ingratitude**

life boat  
necessary object for rescue

thanklessness is related to self-preservation  
vital for growth

shed the gratuitous, free  
dislocate favor

to reward nothing  
to demand everything  
to offer something

## **jazz**

improvisation as survival  
syncopation (displacement and subtraction)  
as structural disruption

to keep count, to keep an account

see also: transatlantic slave trade

## **kcal**

heat it takes to make one shower hot

## **landline**

(endangered species)  
fallen into disuse  
with the rise of the mobile phone  
(landlords are not yet extinct)



## **money**

mostly: options

see also: fiction

## **nation-state**

names among congested routes  
(anonymity, mass)

appropriation of power  
without consensus  
on its illusory  
effects

## **octopus**

purple tentacle sliver

‘market confidence’  
‘corporate citizenship’

custodians of murky waters  
out of light’s reach

economy of soft brains and viperous reach

## **place**

history as humiliation  
of the indigenous

‘population and environment’

see also: toke, token, taken

## quesnay

does the economy's power  
still derive from its agricultural production?

if agriculture, then surplus  
if not agriculture, then what

all the free trade mantras  
from 1700s (versailles) to 2000s (davos)  
laws of supply and demand

'unable to compete with cheaper chinese  
labor'

'china can make everything cheaper than we  
can'

'some companies are looking elsewhere for  
what was once china's selling point'

for every job created  
another vanquished

## rubble

this is not really a crisis  
some of this actually needs to go

waste not  
want not

waste much  
want much

mackerel sky over a landfill  
after the hurricane

finely-dispersed mineral particles  
wafting in a common air

fire-resistant, like asbestos

## scarcity

*austeros* (gr.) bitter, harsh, makes the tongue dry

domestic condition induced in periods of prolonged foreign war

lack (of)

among/in plenty

futile lactation

instigator of means for commercial luxury being there in low degree (and) high desire

passive capability: an impression received from without

abstract form of sacrifice (*sacrificium* from *sacer*, holy)

harbor and maintain darkness, wine, fear

## time

*mensis*: destined for one month

wage quota pan

meting out labor for another's enterprise

probability of debt

like an aerial missile:  
burdens that kill

## **utterance**

tool to break soundlessness

linguistic gambles

seeking

shared power

## **void**

to abrogate a law

to annul a marriage

to declare invalid not legally binding

emptiness caused by loss

ineffectual or useless—

lacking

## walpurgisnacht

distraction: sexual jubilee  
any night of judgment & salvation

‘(Guesa, having traversed the West Indies, believes himself rid of the Xeques and penetrates the New York Stock Exchange; the voice, from the wilderness:)

—Orpheus, Dante, Aeneas, to hell  
Descended; the Inca shall ascend  
*Ogni sp'ranza lasciate,  
Che entrate...*

—Swedenborg, does fate new worlds  
portend’

(Swedenborg answering later:)

—Future worlds exist: republics,  
Christianity, heavens, Lohengrin.  
Present worlds are latent:  
Patent,  
Vanderbilt-North, South-Seraphim.’<sup>i</sup>

## xanadu

building domes in air  
(unwinnable luxury or beauty)  
beware beware

‘We desire objects only if they are not immediately given to us for our use and enjoyment; that is, to the extent that they resist our desire. The content of our desire becomes an object as soon as it is opposed to us, not only in the sense of being impervious to us, but also in terms of its distance as something not-yet-enjoyed, the subjective aspect of this condition being desire...’<sup>ii</sup>

the vulgar and common becoming brave

## yolk

inscription by sa'di on the united  
nations building:

humankind  
indelibly fused

## zone

*lat.* girdle worn by men for containing  
money; money-belt  
girdle worn about the loins by women  
(no evidence of money)

kind of herpes or erysipelas which spreads  
about the body  
and destroys life

imaginary circle dividing the earth

belt of orion, a constellation

as in: red zone/ under budget/ strapped,  
hampered by inadequate funding

see also: green zone, baghdad

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<sup>i</sup> Sousândrade, 'Wall Street Inferno,' trans. Odile Cisneros.

<sup>ii</sup> Georg Simmel, 'Value,' *The Philosophy of Money*, trans. Tom Bottomore and David Frisby.