

# E·RATIO

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*from Infinite Variations*

by Marci Nelligan

1.

Belief in various objects  
led to resemblance  
the mouth of the whale  
or lower eye.

We cannot explain the world  
singularly—  
various causes  
construct for god  
bodies in  
one country  
whilst in another  
trees or bread.

The hand will strike  
segments of a limb used solely for locomotion  
its enemies will change to orchids—

through the occasional here  
a mamma-blood apparatus  
secretes nutritious fluid.

Mankind acquired reason  
this should be this  
and also *that*

closer and—all the more  
a perfect mind.

2.

Near the head  
exists a close analogy—  
the tail

before the eyes  
plumes of birds,  
teeth of certain lizards

under my thigh  
your hand  
in electric intervals  
finally lost  
its transition

spoken in the ears  
as well as the cave  
trees that were buried  
now mature

the same country

put a field of organs  
in manifest irritation

the land is old  
and powerful

in defense of which  
is something new

3.

What would you give me  
for four hundred years' servitude—  
count the stars, can you count them  
connecting together  
proceeding from north to south,  
lowland to upland &c?

Your reward goes out  
from your own body raised  
only to the rank of doubtful species.

In a parallel story  
vultures descend  
intercrossing "the species"  
there was deep slumber-  
fright and great darkness falling.

The sun changed  
its intervals.  
Many outlying islands  
around a continent.

Structures. Very small steps.

The children—

unconscious—

knew “affliction” had come.

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