



The Laverytory

Devoted to media matters, politics, autobiographical reflections, and the experiences of an American expatriate in the UK, the Laverytory is the blog of David Lavery, literature, film, and television scholar/critic, now teaching at Brunel University in London.

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Major Men: Jorge Luis Borges

Several years ago I started out to read poets commemorating some of my intellectual heroes. I was going to call the book "Major Men," a term (apologies for the sexism--gendered language was just then being discovered) borrowed from Wallace Stevens' "Paisant Chronicle." Major men, according to Stevens, are "characters beyond reality/composed thereof."

I am going to post some of these here in the hope that they might mean something to someone other than myself. First up: a prose poem inspired by the Argentinian master Jorge Luis Borges.

LINES TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE JOURNAL FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF REALITY

for Jorge Luis Borges

Poetry knows of a palace, is a palace, and the palace is a word, for all palaces (and all poems) are libraries of splendid theses, abecedaria, that biographers of the infinite (you were one) remember, magnify to nothingness the Alephs through which an alluding mind (yours was one) inquire, with faith in modest history (escaped from the influence of De Mille), and see in the books' binding, precursor of the dream's vigilance, the skein unwind into the darkness' permutation. Then collaboration beckons, among the registry of light, to a knower of the knowers (you were one) and eternal objects intone—as persistent and discrete as

intuited cats to heresiarchs (you were one) who fathom what the Buddha didn't know. How many dogs are there in each dog? From how many points of view? Where do gestures go? Why do hands surprise? What becomes of a mirror's reflections? The imagination knows (no nouns!); a Simurgh (you were one) it flies in longing—a migration to itself (or Stratford)—in a winter that is Ithaca.

11/80

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