



LETTER TO SITO IN TIME OF WAR
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Cover collage by Luis Garcia

LETTER TO SITO IN TIME OF WAR

we find
ourselves
in a new
world
speaking
an old
language

we speak
of beauty
and feelings
while the
machines
blast
the birds
from our
hearts

watch
the words
hear
the howl
come
to the ear
eye
nose
lip

scream
at the
dichotomy
of the

**comma—
a dream
an illusion
how time
passes**

**dinosaurs
dance off
the map
where you
and I sit
drinking
coffee**

**we hold
down
this loose
end
of the
universe
feeling
at home
in the smoke**

.

**it begins
like this**

**and ends
like this**

and continues

.

**in the
beginning
it was**

**done on
a blank
page—**

**white
on
white**

**on the
day of
creation**

.

**hear
here**

**is a bird
in the
window**

**is a bee
a flower**

**a garden
in the
mind**

.

**dilute the
potion**

**pour in
water
with the
hemlock**

**open the
windows**

**look for
patterns
in this
dream**

.

**a new
dimension?
shaped
words,
canvases
of space**

**song
bird**

**word
word**

**heard
third**

.

**we are
running
we are
mad**

**the stars
point out
the way**

**we are
naked**

**we are
free**

**there are
flowers on
the path**

.

**I was
told**

**I was
shown**

**it was
pointed out—**

**the narrow path
the word's wisdom**

.

**so
intricate**

**so
complex**

so amazing

**the dead
leaves**

**on the
sidewalk**

**the dog
barking**

**the man
scratching**

.

**what's out
side is
within**

**is there
emptiness
without
awareness?**

.

word

**wise
will**

word

**weed
worm**

word

**were
wood**

word

**weld
wink**

word

**wild
wing**

word

wall

war

.

**construct
something
out of
clay
dirt**

**obscene
words
in the
wash
room
stall**

**Vietnam Vietnam Vietnam Vietnam
ietnam Vietnam Vietnam Vietnam V
etnam Vietnam Vietnam Vietnam Vi
tnam Vietnam Vietnam Vietnam Vie
nam Vietnam Vietnam Vietnam Viet
am Vietnam Vietnam Vietnam Vietn
m Vietnam Vietnam Vietnam Vietna**

**no time
not place
no mind**

**for it—
it is
a dark
sentence,
a joke on
the wall**

.

island

city

**one can
loose**

**oneself
in any**

**pattern
any tree**

**star
cloud**

**mountain
field**

.

**a problem today
is to put down
the black-white
marble of mind**

**draw a circle
take your shot
feed daffodils
to crocodiles**

**there
is a
cemetery**

**in the
heart
tombstoned**

**we look
for it**

the door

**that
opens
onto**

**gardens
and
graveyards**

**there
are stars
in the
branches
of the
tree**

**all the
windows
of the**

**moon
open and
close**

**the count
and how
to count
the count**

.

**how is it
sir?**

**how
is it?**

it is

**how
it is**

**is
how
it
is**

**down
that
road**

**soften
it up**

**how
it
sir**

**Spring
do not**

**mistake
me for**

**a flower
or a tree**

**Death
knows**

**there's
music**

**in the
air**

SONG

**the president of the univers-
ity Ph.D LL.D
acting in good faith
opened the key to symbols
and saw**

**the new requirements
applicable to persons
not embarked
are shown in circles**

**Do Not Fold, Bend
Stipple or Mutilate**

**Beware of kindergartens
early elements
exceptional
specialized
adults
credentials
supervision**

**TEXTBOOKS
MAPS
IRS REGULATIONS**

**under the current regulations
peace and gladness
cannot be deducted**

PATTERNS

**look at the numbers
Kant 478a-79d
there is beauty in moral order**

**and Bacon who should
be in Everyman's Library
knew Augustine confessed**

**I have a friend who says
there are 3 principles
the good, the bad
and that which is neither
good nor bad**

**as for the which is neither
my friend told me to stop
smoking, which changed my life
because I do smoke 2 to 3 packs**

**I write this sitting
on a Persian rug
listening to a harpsichord
on a Victrola play
Partia #2 in C Minor
Schmieder 826**

**478 79 3 2 2 2 826
in the bottom of the 9th**

TALE

**an ancient tale
of a river
that fell in love
with a maiden**

**my soul stretches as a river
and your image is reflected
deeply, quietly**

blue eyes and bright face

**kind, calm
a fresh flower on a spring day**

**when the image is lost
my soul
floods with despair**

A BOOK ENTITLED

**when you die we will plant you
beneath the magic mushrooms**

they will grow lush and perfect

**on a night with a full moon
you will hear them cry out
to be gathered**

**eebee
eebee
ooooo**

**eebee
eebee
ooooo**

**Listen!
Prepare the Jell-O!
Light the sofa!**

VISION

**my vision of a fish
brown with a yellow streak
and an amorphous red eye**

encircled by a river
has fused with the dead cat
in the gutter I sent
to heaven with flower-stars

SPACED

Time stopped—
and like the drool
on the lip of an idiot

I hung over the abyss
looking inward
amazed

YES

o yes
read first

by all means—

now, a
string of DNA
floats

having
come unstrung
from its coil

o yes
I keep a
loose vowel

MY POEMS

**Who said it
wasn't just
sound, Gail?**

**You just
happened
to come**

**On a night
when I've
lost all**

Of my poems.

A TEST

**don't leave
it's more clear**

**goodnight
goodnight
tomorrow
tomorrow**

**a test
a visa**

**to Mexico
to Africa**

**golden leaves
in earthenware
in the sun**

ELIZABETH SAYS

**I get that feeling
you get in your nose
when you eat ice cream
in my eyes when I hear
the sound of the needle
at the end of the record
like a mouse eating crackers**

DEAR MOM

**a god
just
passed
a win-
dow
The
Lion's
Mouth
"That's hard,"
Lu said.**

**I quickly
jumped.**

**A BRAMAVITS SITS ON THE HEAD
OF A NEO-CLASSICIST
*for Wolfman & the Big X***

3 out of 4 hippies aren't

**badminton
mushrooms
mungbeans
moonbeams**

**sitting in Kip's
with a book and a burger
my valves are loose
and my chains clank**

ODE TO GRAHAM CRACKERS

**GRAY
HAM**

**AND
peanut butter**

**sliced pickles
and
peanut brittle**

take another toke

**cherry pie
on rye**

27½ BEFORE 3

**close to a
symbol stupor**

**do not listen
unless you know
what you are doing**

**we must be careful
when filling special
dietary needs**

**beware of toxic chemicals
beware of toxic poetry**

TAXMAN

**clanking chains
electronic brains
a harpsichord?
no, a cowbell**

**there are two angels
one records and the other
dictates**

**listen to the hum
take a cosmic breath
relax, man, Hell is hung
with pretty pictures**

**listen to the sitar
Indian hard-bop twisted
on the frame of a fugue**

**sit and listen
as it tears your soul from you**

LINE DRIVE

**ami
ma moo**

**ami
ma moo**

**that's a train
we go on that train
yes, we go on that
train**

**power steering batting average
power steering batting average**

stop.

**I cannot ignore
certainly not dismiss
Anulios**

AGUSTUS TURNS IN HIS TOMB

**bottom of the 13th
Willie faces the left-hander
2 for 5
homerun for the 9th
Overcast has blown away
in the next room
a sewing machine whrrrs
draining the power
Static
fast ball hit into right
for a base
The mood shifts
LeFever is up**

**Why is the spectacular held
in San Francisco
when the riots are in L.A.?**

OUT OF THE PARK

apparently

I did not understand

when He spoke of the grain

which is the symbol of man

looking to the burial of the seed

its death and resurrection

I want mustard on my hotdog