
Dysfluent Waters

were put on the work.

One of the features of the improvement
was the digging of a canal.

Many of the Africans succumbed
under this work.

7'05"

8'05"

When they were (

d d d d d d d d d d d d d d d d
d d d d d d d d d d d d d d d d
)disabled

they would be left
by the bank of the canal,
and the next morning
the returning gang would
find them dead.

7'15"

8'15"

prone supine prostrate

They were kept at night in cabins
on the shore of the lake.

At night they would begin
to sing their native songs,

saxophone growls down into new ground

and in a short while
would become so wrought up that,

7'25"

8'25"

utterly oblivious
to the danger involved,

they would
grasp their bundles
of personal effects,
swing them on their shoulders,

drums flow down from the mountain shouting:
and setting their faces towards Africa,
would march down into the water
singing as they marched

7'35"

8'35"

lift yall faces!

till recalled
to their senses only by the drowning
of some of the party.

the pianos have not forsaken us

they bring back the morning

lift!

The owners lost a number of them in this way,
and finally had to stop
the evening

7'45"

8'45"

singing."¹⁰

a smaller shout brings the storm and the grief

7'55"

8'55"

drums disperse to their separate countries

9'05"

10'05"

when in fact I have.

The current (*tr tr tr*) just hasn't surfaced.

we are left right side up in a swirling thirst for wisdom

9'15"

10'15"

I saw an image of this
when
an otolaryngologist
performed a fiberoptic
laryngoscopy on me

and I watched my vocal cords

at rest,
speaking,
and blocking.

*a family of saxophones announce:
Mother Earth is endlessly generous
honor her in your climbing and your research and your laughter*

9'25"

10'25"

When I blocked, *tr tr*
I saw my vocal cords (*tr tr tr tr*
tr tr
tr tr tr tr
tr tr
tr tr tr tr
tr tr) tremble.

The contra-diction
of stuttering
is that I am both speaking
and not speaking.

9'35"

10'35"

I saw the word's journey,

its not-having-arrived.

The bow is bent

but the arrow still hasn't flown.
track ends

Mid-sentence I block on a word.

Sound stops coming from my mouth,
but I haven't reached the end of my thought.

9'45"

10'45"

The current of my speech
has just
gone
underground.

Or I block
on the first word of a new sentence.

9'55"

10'55"

It sounds like I haven't begun
speaking yet,
