

Libby Hague's

martian odyssey # 17

#17

amnesia

LOS
A small grey B

with yellow & orange spots on face, grey
head, > family pet

REWARD

Marianne's story: thread 17

Lots of hyperventilation.
Superstition. They think it's bad
luck to kill guests. Lucky for us.
Rumours circulate that either
someone is coming to save them
or someone is coming to end it all.
End of the world type
High anxiety.



“... For a faithless wife. Wasn't that what it was for?”

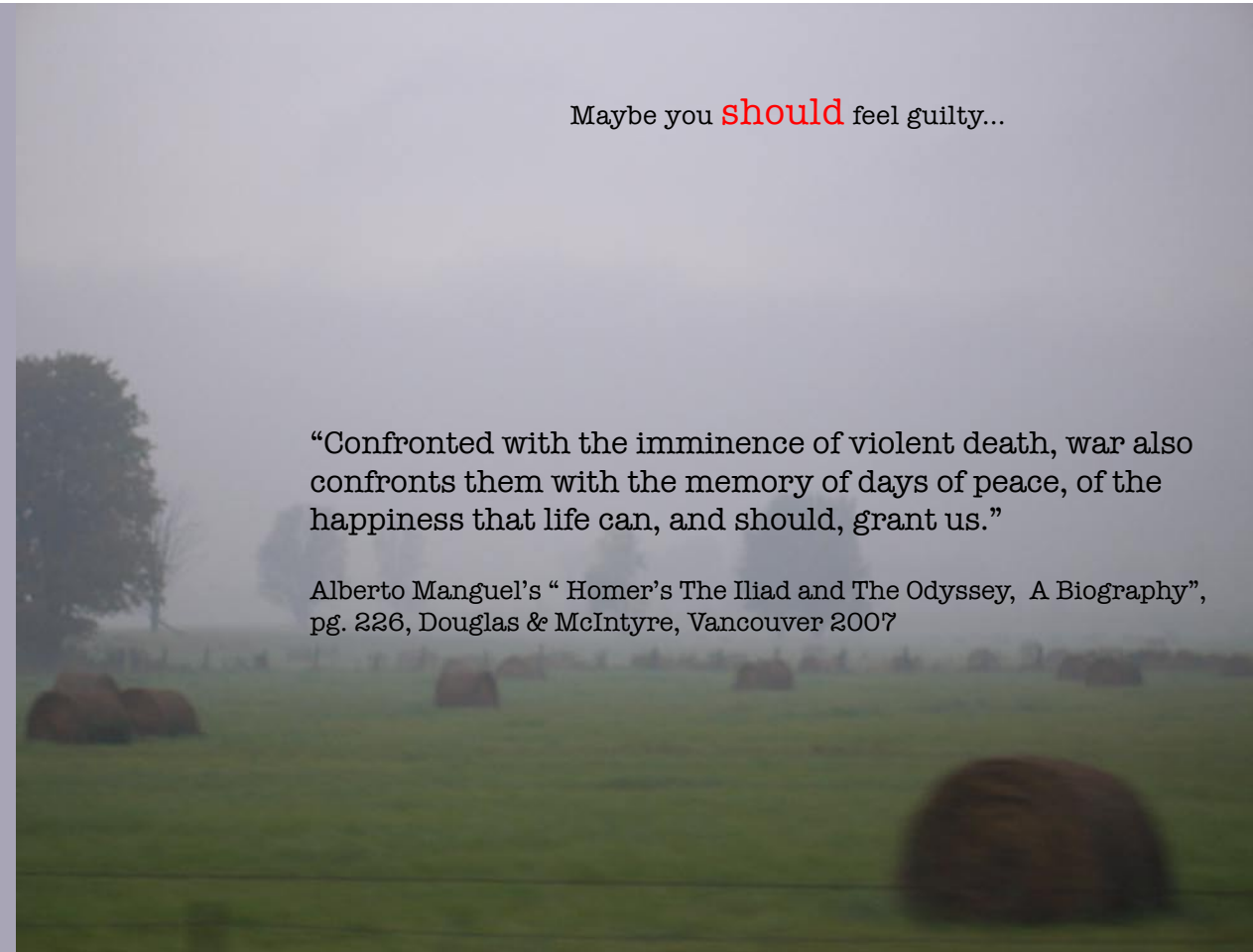
Odysseus Among other things. The smoke has clouded
its cause.”

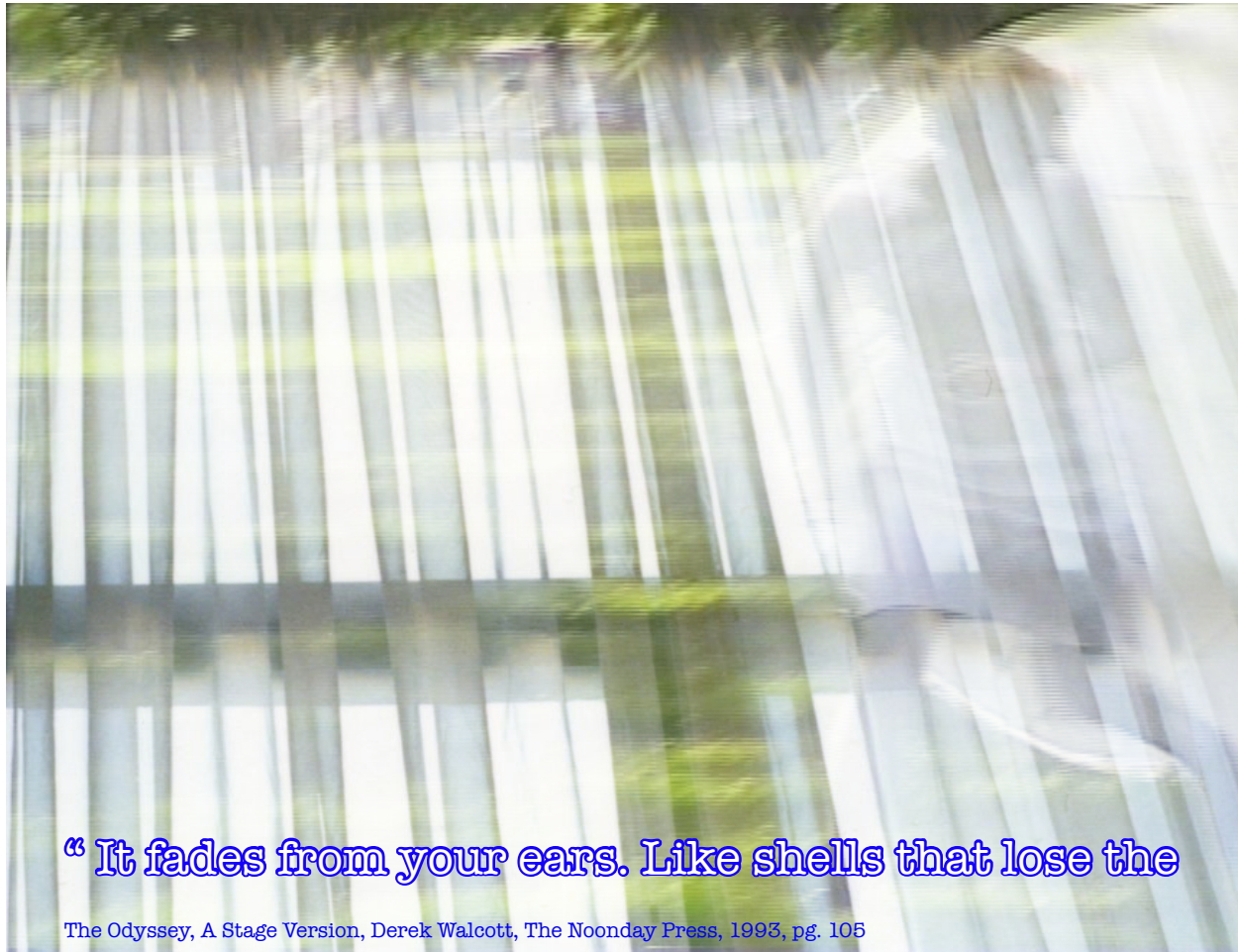
The Odyssey, A Stage Version, Derek Walcott, The Noonday Press, 1993, pg. 114

Maybe you **should** feel guilty...

“Confronted with the imminence of violent death, war also
confronts them with the memory of days of peace, of the
happiness that life can, and should, grant us.”

Alberto Manguel's “Homer's The Iliad and The Odyssey, A Biography”,
pg. 226, Douglas & McIntyre, Vancouver 2007






“ It fades from your ears. Like shells that lose the

The Odyssey, A Stage Version, Derek Walcott, The Noonday Press, 1993, pg. 105



sea's voice.”



“**Every** two weeks the last elderly man or woman with full command of a particular language dies. At that rate, as many as 2500 native tongues will disappear by 2100. If we are going to lose half the world’s language, that endangers our capacity to understand the genetic basis of language,” said David Lightfoot, at the National Science Foundation. Languages are not just words, linguists say, but a people’s reflection of looking at the world.”

see: [Associated Press, MWC News - A site without borders: language](#)

Nuuchahnulth is one of these threatened languages. In these books I imagine that by some twist of luck scraps of Nuuchahnulth have survived and in the relearning and rebuilding that the children undertake, it becomes a major literary inspiration, much like the circumstances by which classical greek survived.

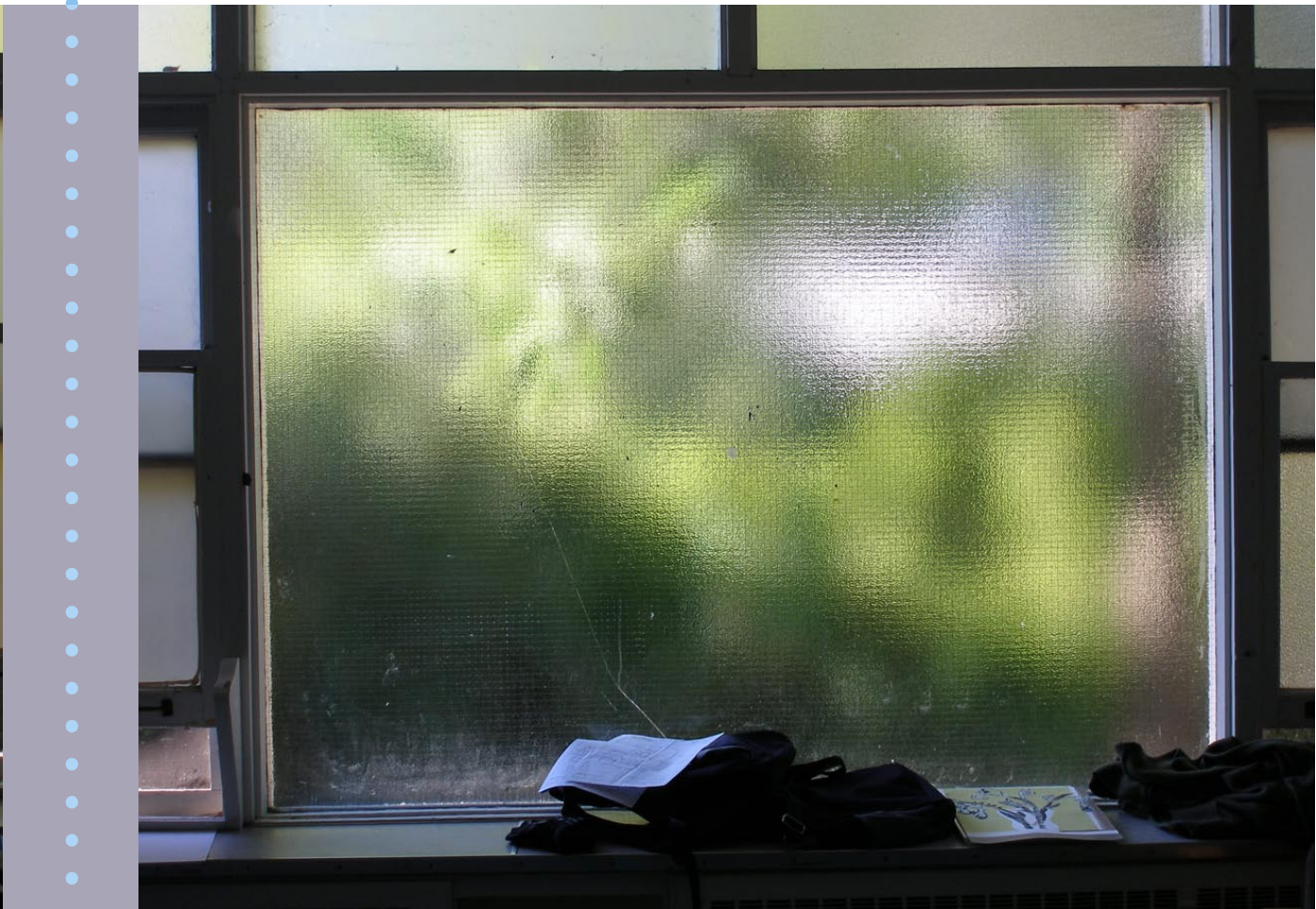
<http://www.firstvoices.com/> and follow links to Nuuchahnulth

?iic ~ inc i?si
i am getting old



“**For** the best part of a thousand years, since the end of the Roman Empire, the knowledge of Greek had been lost in Western Europe ... the reintroduction came just in time from Byzantium, the Greek-speaking, eastern half of the Roman Empire for in 1453 Byzantium fell to the Ottoman Turks..”

Bernard Knox, pg.5 and 6, introduction to the Iliad 1990, Penguin



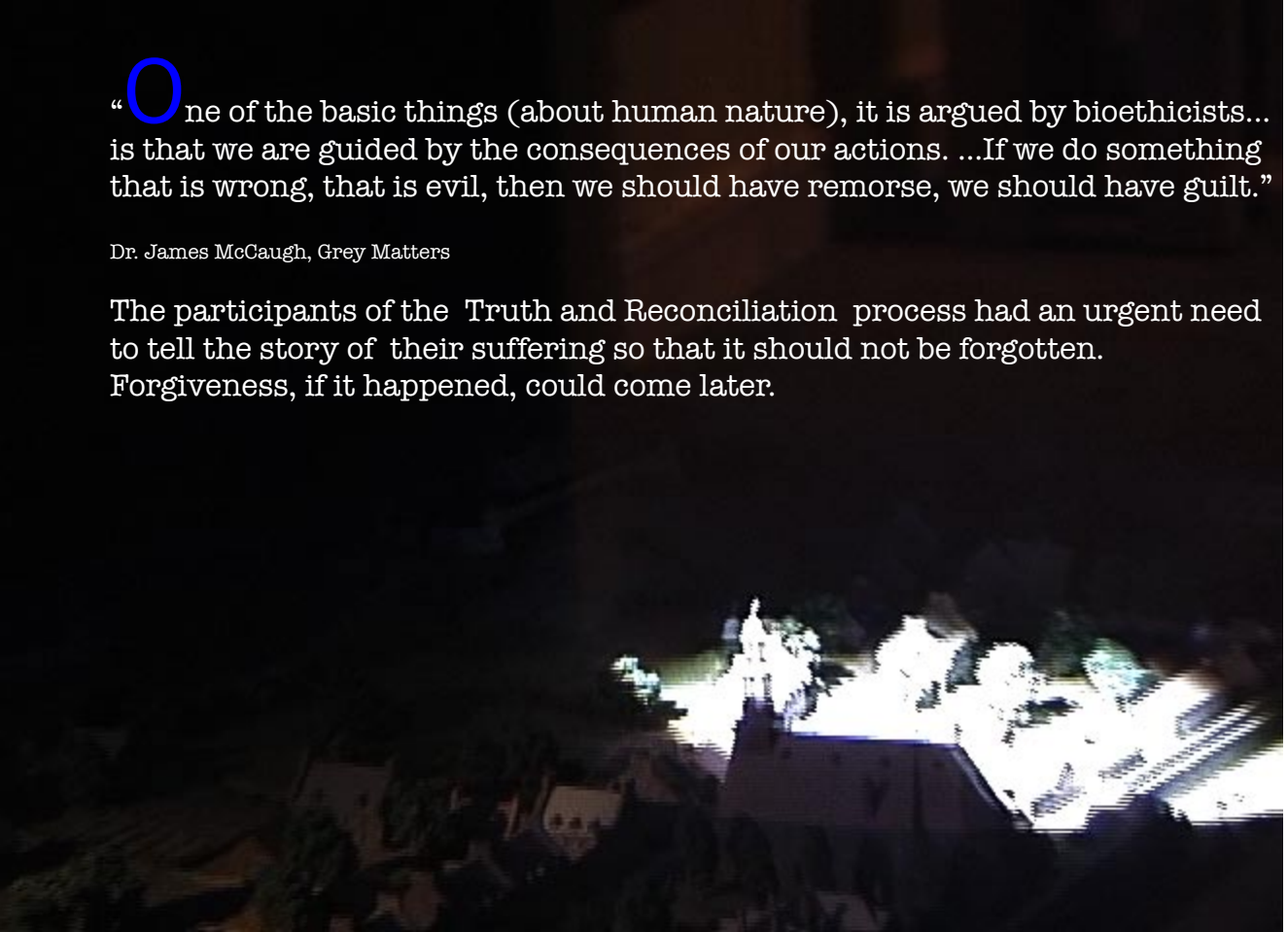


Photographs from the Adolf Eichmann trials installed outside in Berlin

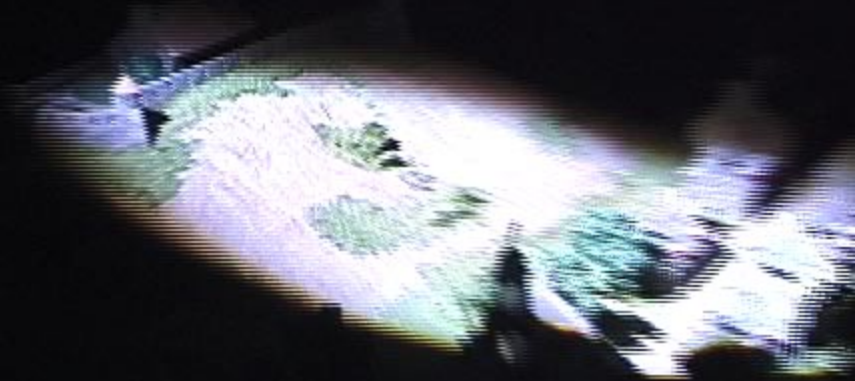
“One of the basic things (about human nature), it is argued by bioethicists... is that we are guided by the consequences of our actions. ...If we do something that is wrong, that is evil, then we should have remorse, we should have guilt.”

Dr. James McCaugh, Grey Matters

The participants of the Truth and Reconciliation process had an urgent need to tell the story of their suffering so that it should not be forgotten. Forgiveness, if it happened, could come later.



After horrible things happen it is usual for people to go over them again and again in their minds - replaying them - rehearsing their next disaster. When they do they often feel the same physical signs of anxiety, sweatiness, accelerated heart rate, perhaps feelings of paralysis. For a significant proportion of people these effects don't lessen and they are said to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).



“Stress hormones (adrenaline and cortisol) activate an almond shaped structure deep inside the brain called the amygdala and are encoded more strongly - glued together in more lasting ways than ordinary memories.

People tend to recount these events with greater frequency , which reinforces the memory...”

Dr. James McCaugh, U. of C.I , Grey Matters, Neuroethics 2003, www.iana.org/pdf/other/graymat_neuroethics.pdf

Based on the experimental success propranolol, a blood pressure lowering beta blocker had in controlling PTSD in rats, Harvard scientists applied this approach to prevent PTSD in war vets. “The drug appeared to interfere with what researchers call memory consolidation in which fresh memories are transferred from the hippocampus to the long term storage ...of the cerebral cortex.” (Anne McIlroy, Sweet forgetting...” pg.F4, Globe and Mail, 15/7/2006)

McGill researchers, first Dr. Karim Nader, also working with rats and then Dr. Alan Brunet, working with human volunteers, experimented with propranolol this time focussing on its connection with long term memory. While they found it could play a significant role the investigation raises interesting questions about the reliability of memory and more interesting to me, the ethical concerns in theoretically easing guilt by erasing memory.

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i am getting old

“The struggle of man against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting.”

Mila Kundera, pg.4 The Book of Laughter and Forgetting.

“Memory
is life.”
Saul Bellow

Thanks to:

Phil Anisman
my parents
*Djivan Gasparyan for his song title
Sally McKay, # 6, 8, 10, 14, 15,19, 26,
27, 28, 30, 19, 21,
Harry Glasbeek # 5
Smadar Peretz # 23, 24
Sasha Pierce # 7

and the many authors quoted in these books

Brief project description:

This web /pdf edition of 30 booklets, connect and complicate the individual artworks in the Martian Odyssey series previously exhibited at Loop in Toronto. These booklets are intended to serve as a basis for comments on the artwork and their themes. If you want to have your comments considered for a web edition you can respond by sending an email to libbylibby@sympatico.ca with a subject heading of Martian Odyssey. I will be regularly updating the pdf's.

Martian Odyssey titles:

1. luck 2. riddles 3. the animals 4. translation
5. corps de ballet 6. The Girls 7. weave 8. net
9. slow motion 10. Big Bang 11. alouette
12. the wrong boat 13. the disaster
14. RAGE 15. white arms 16. plague
17. amnesia 18.ah.. 19. string theory 20.
laughter 21. dreams 22. Rules 23. justice
24. forgiveness 25. day after peace
26. un-rebuilding 27. blue-sky-blue 28. play
again 29. stars are wide 30. sing

Libby Hague is a printmaker + installation artist exploring themes of disaster, rescue and hope. [full cv](#)



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remember me...



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