

You are the reflection, the mirror, the other, the self, the witness.

You are the verb that animates all things, eternally conjugated in the compound present.









[As the two of them swim through the sky after their plane has cracked apart]

‘Fly,’ Chamcha shrieked at Gibreel. ‘Start flying, now.’ And added, without knowing its source, the second command: ‘And sing.’

How does newness come into the world? How is it born?

Of what fusions, translations, conjoinings is it made? How does it survive, extreme and dangerous as it is? What compromises, what deals, what betrayals of its secret nature must it make to stave off the wrecking crew, the exterminating angel, the guillotine?

Is birth always a fall?

Do angels have wings? Can men fly?

—Salman Rushdie, *Satanic Verses*







Outward dog, inner sheep,  
*Siempre* hung for a lamb  
No contest







*L'architecture est un mélange de nostalgie et d'anticipation extrême.*

—Jean Baudrillard (inscribed in red letters on the inside of the huge steel doors of the marché in Sarlat [Périgord, France] – once a Gothic nave)









*Notas bene:* Two Quaker readers have set yours truly straight about an error in iA!7, to wit:

“Flushing Meeting is associated with the Flushing Remonstrance, issued in about 1660 but under entirely different circumstances than the document to which you refer, also issued in 1660. The former was sent to Peter Stuyvesant as governor of Nieuw Amsterdam; the latter was prepared by a small group of Quakers in London and presented to Charles II—an attempt to avoid persecution that, for the most part, failed to protect them from hideous retribution over the next thirty years. In the case of the Flushing Remonstrance, however, one John Bowne of Flushing was sent by P.S. in irons to Holland; when the managers of the Dutch trading organization heard from him that he was being punished for what P.S. considered illegal worship, they freed Bowne and sent him back with a letter to P.S. telling him to stop all religious discrimination. Peace, Jim”

“Hi, Eric. Just FYI, and perhaps (it’s up to you) for the readers of iA!, the piece about wars and fightings credited to the Flushing Friends’ Meeting House is better known throughout Quakerdom as a snip from the Quakers’ 1660 Declaration to Charles II, by George Fox and others – available in full at <http://www.qhpress.org/quakerpages/qwhp/dec1660.htm>. Salaam alaykum, John”