



image from *Between Life and Death*

Radhesh Amin

Darcy Cloud

Uchenna Godwin-Offor

Sydney Kaltman

Danny Nguyen

Index of *alphabet* by Inger Christensen

With a concentration on metaphysical concepts

Introduction

In her haunting and cryptic poem, *alphabet*, Inger Christensen utilizes a multitude of themes that push the reader to devote their attention to notice the subtle details and shifts that truly establish *alphabet* as a critical and thought-provoking poem. One of the themes that was embedded within the onslaught of ideas and words is the curious concept of metaphysics. You may wonder, what is metaphysics? It is not an ordinary word you come across in your everyday life, but it is a concept that involves everyone and everything. In particular, metaphysics is often described as a branch of philosophy that explores the fundamental nature of reality, being, knowing, space, identity, and other abstract concepts that often evade the presence of our minds.



image from *The Withering of a Blooming Youth*

In the approach of creating an index for this daunting theme, there was a priority for meticulous reading. Due to the complexity of this theme, each word had to be carefully read in terms of context and meaning in relation to Christensen's work. In this sense, any word that could be considered 'metaphysics' had to be deciphered. The context, for one, was a vital component in determining whether this word should be included in this index. In conceptualizing the sections that this index overlooks, such as mythology and space, death and life, existence and nonexistence, it is clear that metaphysics involves both ends of the spectrum, a wide arrange befitting of life and reality. From this index, metaphysics is encompassing of all aspects of creation, and this wide-reaching concept can be observable in the smallest, like poems, to the largest, like space and thoughts.

Reading Experience

As we approached this book for the assignment, we knew that “normally” reading the text would deter us from the goal. First, we had to contemplate the definition of metaphysical which, to us, was a transience of existence. Once we found this definition, we then dove into the bulk of the assignment: word searching.

For the appeal of the reader and the further organization of the index, we came to the agreement of using subcategories. This is where the intense questioning of the meaning of “metaphysical” came into play. In order for us to have paced ourselves to finish our work while getting a proper definition of metaphysical, we had to consider the context of the words we were using. This led us to do a “word-check” on every member and remove the irrelevant words from the ones that seemed more “metaphysical” than others. This then made our assignment more of a word-based analyzation of the book.

As we look back at our progress and work, we concluded that this assignment did not even consist of much in-depth reading. The bulk of the work was perusing the book for words and alphabetizing the index. Normally reading this book would have been less of a grind than creating an index for it.

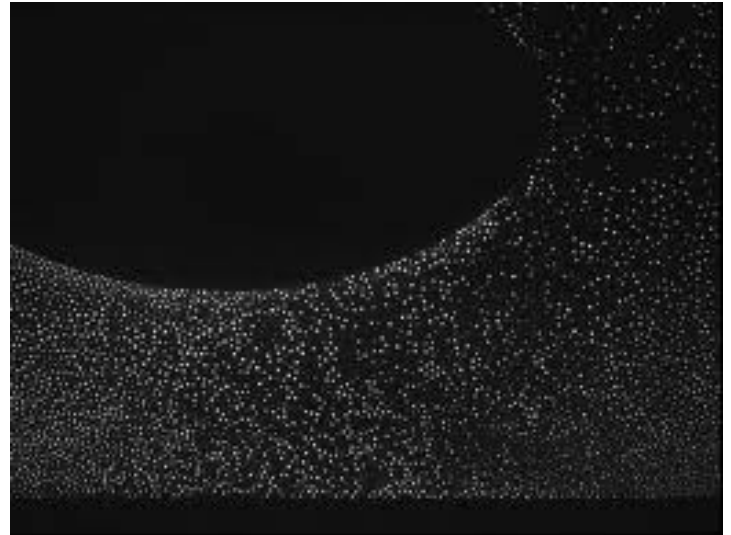


image from *The Economics of Nonexistence*

Additional Note: Words that appear more than once on a page are listed in our index with the number of times it appears on that page in parentheses. Example - Exist: 11 (2). The word ‘exist’ appears on page 11 two times.

Being: 40, 63, 73

Be: 34, 35, 43 (2), 50, 53

Become: 50

Becomes: 29

Death: 14, 43, 50, 53, 54, 60 (2) 56 71

Armageddon: 18

Broken: 27, 41

Coffins: 21 (2) 41

Corpse: 21

Dead: 24 (2), 26, 29, 50, 51, 73

Deathbed: 51

Decay: 19

Destroying: 54

Die: 30, 35, 42

Died: 24

Dies: 76

Dissolved: 45

Dissolves: 37

Dolls: 21

Dying: 24, 51, 74

Grave: 50

Graveyard: 57

Kill: 41

Killers: 14

Obliterated: 41

Poisonous: 17, 54, 56

Widow: 15

Withering: 26

Exist: 11 (2), 13 (2), 14 (4), 15 (4), 16 (9), 17 (6), 18 (7), 20 (11), 21 (6), 22 (4), 23 (2), 24, 26 (2), 30, 40, 44 (4), 54, 58, 62 (4), 63

Exists: 12 (2), 15 (3), 16, 17 (5), 18 (4), 20 (3), 21 (2), 22 (2), 23, 26 (2), 33, 44 (3), 62 (3)

Existed: 21 (2), 33

Eternity: 56 (6), 57 (6)

Indelible: 56

Life: 31 (3), 43, 69

Angels: 15, 47

Angelic Orders: 19

Aliveness: 45

Born: 53

Half Life: 40, 42

Live: 41, 42

Lives: 45

Living: 69

Mother's Breast: 44

Soul: 50 (2)

Mythology

(Greek)

Chimera: 27

Hades: 18

Icarus: 21 (6)

Narcissus: 27

Styx: 20

(Norse)

Jotunheim: 23

Nonexistence

Absence: 70, 71

Alone: 64 (3), 65 (5), 75

Banished: 21

Blank: 34

Darkness: 21 (2), 44

Disappears: 66

Empty: 50, 67
Endless: 27
Erased: 41
Haze: 14, 18, 47, 49, 56
Hidden: 36 (2), 45, 50, 56
Invisible: 28
Invisibility: 48
Invisibly: 22
Lone: 17
Loneliness: 15
Lose: 53
Lost: 35, 55, 57
Mute: 34
Mutely: 76
Namelessness: 62 (2)
No one: 22 (2), 27, 29, 48, 77
Nothing: 40 (3), 41, 43, 62 (2), 75 (3)
Oblivion: 17, 26, 42
Seclusion: 15
Silence: 25, 29
Silently: 52
Unseen: 74
Vanish: 26 (2), 28 (2)
Vanishes: 75
Vanishing: 26 (4), 44, 59

Purgatory

Mortal: 56
Stillborn: 24
Unborn: 48
Unreality: 32

Religion

(General)

Church: 74
Omens: 23
Jerusalem: 23 (2)
Heavens: 18
Heavenly: 22
Godforsaken: 17
(Christian)
Jacob's ladders: 22
Judas's Kiss: 23
Jesus of Salt: 23
Armageddon: 18
Gods' Punishment: 74
Manna: 33
Crucifix: 21
Condemned: 20

Sleep

Dream: 34 (3), 49
Dreamed: 18, 22, 49, 50, 62
Dreamer: 14, 21 (2), 34 (2), 73
Dreams: 22, 34, 49, 73 (2)
Non-sleeper: 47
Sleeper: 47
Sleeping: 22, 34
Sleeptrips: 45
Sleepwalker: 52
Wakens: 48

Space

Earth: 19, 23 (6), 28, 47, 55, 56 (2), 63
Galactic: 22
Halley's Comet: 18
Milky Way: 23, 52
Stars: 53, 55, 76

Stars' Core: 47

North Star: 53

Stones of Stars: 58

Innermost Space of the Cell: 62

Hadir: 62

Naos: 62

Planet: 74

Zenith: 62

Moon: 27

New Moon: 63

Half-Moon: 18

Full-Moon: 75

Alien Space: 47

Charles's Wain: 27

Sun: 52, 63, 75

Space: 51

Alien Space: 47

Thoughts: 45, 71

Afterthought: 15, 22

Comprehends: 22

Consciousness: 23, 62 (2), 74

Forgotten: 30

Memory: 15 (2)

Mind: 20

Remember: 26 (2), 31

Think: 27, 40, 41, 42 (11), 76 (2)

A

Absence: 70, 71
Afterthought: 15, 22
Alien Space: 47
Aliveness: 45
Alone: 64 (3), 65 (5), 75
Angelic Orders 19
Angels: 15, 47
Armageddon: 18
Armageddon: 18

B

Banished: 21
Be: 34, 35, 43 (2), 50, 53
Become: 50
Becomes: 29
Being: 40, 63, 73
Blank: 34
Born: 53
Broken: 27, 41

C

Charles's Wain: 27
Chimera: 27
Church: 74
Coffins: 21 (2), 41
Comprehends: 22
Condemned: 20
Consciousness: 23, 62 (2), 74
Corpse: 21
Crucifix: 21

D

Darkness: 21 (2), 44

Dead: 24 (2), 26, 29, 50, 51, 73
Death: 14, 43, 50, 53, 54, 56, 60 (2), 71
Deathbed: 51
Decay: 19
Destroying: 54
Die: 30, 35, 42
Died: 24
Dies: 76
Disappears: 66
Dissolved: 45
Dissolves: 37
Dolls: 21
Dream: 34 (3), 49
Dreamed: 18, 22, 49, 50, 62
Dreamer: 14, 21 (2), 34 (2), 73
Dreams: 22, 34, 49, 73 (2)
Dying: 24, 51, 74

E

Earth: 19, 23 (6), 28, 47, 55, 56 (2), 63
Empty: 50, 67
Endless: 27
Erased: 41
Eternity: 56 (6), 57 (6)
Exist: 11 (2), 13 (2), 14 (4), 15 (4), 16 (9), 17 (6),
18 (7), 20 (11), 21 (6), 22 (4), 23 (2), 24, 26 (2),
30, 40, 44 (4), 54, 58, 62 (4), 63
Existed: 21 (2), 33
Exists: 12 (2), 15 (3), 16, 17 (5), 18 (4), 20 (3), 21
(2), 22 (2), 23, 26 (2), 33, 44 (3), 62 (3)

F

Forgotten: 30

Full-Moon: 75

G

Galactic: 22

Godforsaken: 17

Gods' Punishment: 74

Grave: 50

Graveyard: 57

H

Hades: 18,

Hadir: 62

Half-Life: 40, 42

Half-Moon: 18

Halley's Comet: 18

Haze: 14, 18, 47, 49, 56

Heavenly: 22

Heavens: 18

Hidden: 36 (2), 45, 50, 56

I

Icarus: 21 (6)

Indelible: 56

Innermost Space of the Cell: 62

Invisibility: 22

Invisible: 28

Invisibly: 48

J

Jacob's ladders: 22

Jerusalem: 23 (2)

Jesus of Salt: 23

Jotunheim: 23

Judas's Kiss: 23

K

Kill: 41

Killers: 14

L

Life: 31 (3), 43, 69

Live: 41, 42

Lives: 45

Living: 69

Lone: 17

Loneliness: 15

Lose: 53

Lost: 35, 55, 57

M

Manna: 33

Memory: 15 (2)

Milky Way: 23, 52

Mind: 20

Moon: 27

Mortal: 56

Mother's Breast: 44

Mute: 34

Mutely: 76

N

Namelessness: 62 (2)

Naos: 62

Narcissus: 27

New Moon: 63

Non-sleeper: 47

No one: 22 (2), 27, 29, 48, 77

North Star: 53

Nothing: 40 (3), 41, 43, 62 (2), 75 (3)

Obliterated: 41

O

Oblivion: 17, 26, 42

Omens: 23

P

Planet: 74

Poisonous: 17, 54, 56

R

Remember: 26 (2), 31

S

Seclusion: 15

Silence: 25, 29

Silently: 52

Sleep: 18, 34

Sleeper: 47

Sleeping: 22, 34

Sleeptrips: 45

Sleepwalker: 52

Soul: 50 (2)

Space: 51

Stars: 53, 55, 76

Stars' Core: 47

Stillborn: 24

Stones of Stars: 58

Styx: 20

Sun: 52, 63, 75

T

Think: 27, 40, 41, 42 (11), 76 (2)

Thoughts: 45, 71

U

Unborn: 48

V

Unreality: 32

Unseen: 74

Vanish: 26 (2), 28 (2),

Vanishes: 75

Vanishing: 26 (4), 44, 59

W

Wakens: 48

Widow: 15

Withering: 26

Z

Zenith: 62