

OUT OF AFRICA

must imagine a long, pregnant, as if deeply responsible, pause before each phrase. All Natives are masters in the art of the pause and thereby give perspective to a discussion.

Kamante now made such a long pause, and then said, "I do not believe it."

I had nobody else to discuss my book with; I laid down my paper and asked him why not. I now found that he had been thinking the conversation over before, and prepared himself for it; he stood with the *Odyssey* itself behind his back, and here he laid it on the table.

"Look, Msabu," he said, "this is a good book. It hangs together from the one end to the other. Even if you hold it up and shake it strongly, it does not come to pieces. The man who has written it is very clever. But what you write," he went on, both with scorn and with a sort of friendly compassion, "is some here and some there. When the people forget to close the door it blows about, even down on the floor and you are angry. It will not be a good book."

I explained to him that in Europe the people would be able to fix it all up together.

"Will your book then be as heavy as this?" Kamante asked, weighing the *Odyssey*.

When he saw that I hesitated he handed it to me in order that I might judge for myself.

"No," I said, "it will not, but there are other books in the library, as you know, that are lighter."

"And as hard?" he asked.

I said it was expensive to make a book so hard.

He stood for some time in silence and then expressed his greater hopes of my book, and perhaps also repentance of his doubts, by picking up the scattered pages from the floor and laying them on the table. Still he did not go away, but

KAMANTE AND LULU

stood by the table and waited, and then asked me gravely: "Msabu, what is there in books?"

As an illustration, I told him the story from the Odyssey of the hero and Polyphemus, and of how Odysseus had called himself Noman, had put out Polyphemus' eye, and had escaped tied up under the belly of a ram.

Kamante listened with interest and expressed as his opinion, that the ram must have been of the same race as the sheep of Mr. Long, of Elmentaita, which he had seen at the cattle-show in Nairobi. He came back to Polyphemus, and asked me if he had been black, like the Kikuyu. When I said no, he wanted to know if Odysseus had been of my own tribe or family.

"How did he," he asked, "say the word, *Noman*, in his own language? Say it."

"He said *Outis*," I told him. "He called himself *Outis*, which in his language means *Noman*."

"Must you write about the same thing?" he asked me.

"No," I said, "people can write of anything they like. I might write of you."

Kamante who had opened up in the course of the talk, here suddenly closed again, he looked down himself and asked me in a low voice, what part of him I would write about.

"I might write about the time when you were ill and were out with the sheep on the plain," I said, "what did you think of then?"

His eyes wandered over the room, up and down; in the end he said vaguely: "*Sejui*"—I know not.

"Were you afraid?" I asked him.

After a pause, "Yes," he said firmly, "all the boys on the plain are afraid sometimes."

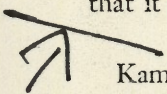
"Of what were you afraid?" I said.

OUT OF AFRICA

Kamante stood silent for a little while, his face became collected and deep, his eyes gazed inward. Then he looked at me with a little wry grimace:

"Of Outis," he said. "The boys on the plain are afraid of Outis."

A few days later, I heard Kamante explain to the other houseboys that in Europe the book which I was writing could be made to stick together, and that with terrible expense it could even be made as hard as the *Odyssey*, which was again displayed. He himself, however, did not believe that it could be made blue.

 Kamante had a talent of his own that became of use to him in my house. He could, I believe, cry when he wanted to.

If ever I scolded him in earnest, he stood up straight before me and looked me in the face, with that watchful, deep sadness which the faces of the Natives take on in a single moment; then his eyes welled, and filled with heavy tears that slowly, one by one, rolled out and down over his cheeks. I knew them to be pure crocodile's tears, and in other people they would not have affected me. But with Kamante it was a different thing. His flat wooden face, on these occasions, sank back into the world of darkness and infinite loneliness, in which he had dwelt for many years. Such heavy, dumb tears he might have wept as a little boy on the plain, with the sheep round him. They made me uneasy, and gave to the sins for which I scolded him a different aspect, a smaller look so that I did not want to go on talking about them. In a way it was a demoralizing thing. Still I believe that by strength of the true human understanding which existed between us, Kamante knew in his heart that I looked through his tears of contrition and did not take them for more than they were,—indeed that he himself looked upon

20 Aug, '80: use a variant of delayed decoding, as discussed in Watt, for the Kolosh canoe chief's point of view.

winnow "Used" section for Blue or travel cards.

Blue

3 Sept. '80

Marilyn--

I'd like this double-spaced, in a larger typeface than the one used here, if you can manage it. (If it's not convenient, never mind.)

Where I have a space mark--#--between paragraphs, please leave a space of 4 lines.

Ignore everything written in the margins, and also ignore the red underlinings of verbs on the first page and a half. Go ahead and do any other underlinings that show up in the manuscript.

Please number the pages just in pencil, in the upper right corner.

I'd happily have you do all of this, if you can manage it by next Wednesday. But if it turns out to be more than you want to tackle, would you ask Merlyn on Monday if she wants to do the rest? 9/10

I'll be out of town probably from Thurs. morning until Tuesday morning. Any ~~words~~ words or sentences that baffle you, skip and we'll fit them in later. Thanks. 9/9

Alan

542-6658

Alaska trip

Edward Blaschke, The Medical Topography of Port of
New Archangel, Capital of Russian Colonies in America.
Transl. from Latin by J B Saunders, M.D. (MD distn,
Imperial Medical-Chirurgical Academy of St. Petersburg.
Petropolis, K. Weinholber et filii, 1842.

1841 - Nark'l popn 986: 680 adults, (482 men, 198 women)

Blaschke/2

1838 census: chief/actor
asst " "

11 naval captns - imperial class

14 " " - ordinary

10 asst g mtrs, greater part creoles

Sec. to chief/actor

4 clerks

in. secretariat of merchants' hall

Mgr

acctnt

asst "

2 registrars

5 scribes

5 caretakers of grain

15 " " naval supplies

Besantke/5

in: church - priest & 2 ministers

" " school - teacher & mgt

" " port - 2 caretakers & steward

in: arsenal: 2 sergeants, (decussines, of artillery & creoles)

20 naval g mstrs

27 marines

3 inteps

2 naval archts

maker of math & instrmts

" " machines (steam boxes)

5 box masters (keepers of records)

2 tanners

5 ironworkers

2 fabri sclopterarii (sailmakers?)

5 sawyers

5 brassworkers

Blasthe/3 - arsenal cont.

- 3 coopers
- reper maker
- drawn of canelles
- soap maker
- 2 painters
- 3 furnace makers
- 2 tailors
- 2 furriers
- 4 shoemakers
- 40 carpenters
- 5 caulkers.
- 117 Tm, Fm, Jm, & other workmen
- 6 cooks & bakers serving sch & hospit
- 2 herdsmen

36 servants engaged in defense & as guides

(Those enumerated... as workmen are employed in heavy labor, as watchmen, in voyages to ports, by fishing, in cutting beams & wood, & engaged in defending ships.)

Blastke/4

workmen do 10-hr shifts: summer; 1 hr instans, then 6-11 a.m.
1-6 p.m.

winter: 6:30-11:30 a.m.
12-5:30 p.m.

"remaining time ... for completion of their own work"

flour allowance: 20^{lb}/mo. for unmarried
3^{lb}/mo rice can be bought
herring /istid in 8^{lb} quantity

salt fish^{eaten} from Oct-April

occasional salted sea lion & sea elephant mt

sauerkraut

B lasco 15

poth occasional o / east days

of wild plants, cowparsnips are eaten + often

seafood: cockles, mussels, little fish

tea: women have 3-5 times/day, "often add ... butter, fat, kitchen salt, bread ... so that it is eaten
← a spoon from a platter c salt/fish.

1 # tea/mo sold to unmarried

3 # unrefined sugar "

2 # butter "

2 # beef fat "

Blaschke / 6

dress: w/men, wooden undershirt

tunic & trousers 7/ps a wool
jacket like "Eng blanket which does not
int/fer & free movmnt while at labor"

→ in rain: overshirt made by intestines 7 sea lion

→ baths: 1 for w/men & 1 for garrison

→ - heated once/wk

Cherny, p. 33: these are called kamleika

Silke & bay: like imprint of single claw mark

from near Sheffield House, night of 21 Jan '81:

rock-face on which the guardhouse sits gleamed darkly in the rain and dusk; it and the blockhouse ~~xx~~ sat in strong outline.

→ 23 Jan.: about 8:30 this morn, re-checked this; the rock is sheened with the wet, is a gray-brown, ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ like great odd kettle in contrast to New A's wood and the forest.
shield

--also at 8:30, climbed up beside blockhouse: from top of 18' stockade there, M handily would have been eye-level across New A with B's Castle.

--I think sounds of music would carry from the Castle to the stockade wall and blockhouse.

Sitka 22 Jan.

--These were narrow days.

(Sitka Sentinel, 21 Jan., says sunrise 9:20 a.m., sunset 5:05 pm.

22 Jan, 5:20 pm - growing dark rapidly, bldgs losing distinctness

(Sitka Sentinel, 22 Jan: sunrise 9:18, set 5:07

add Sitha details:

7-8: M my barracks to blockhouse

- what M sees, my eye-level across to B's Castle.

12 - K + M outside stockade

19-²³₂₁ New Arch'd

- Ventura

49-55- escape

- blackness

signs of spring in Sitka?

Jan. review

p. 105

possible adds to scene of Wennberg sneaking up on canoe:

although his broad back stubbornly poked itself above the line of logs...

...He kept himself as invisible as possible, which was short of entire:
a tribesman ~~stopping~~ who happened to glance from the trees beyond the canoe
would have seen a broad back occasionally surface above the logs like a
dolphin breaking water...

...Jesu Maria those fish-fuckers in the forest would Jesu Maria have to
have been born without ears Jesu Maria not to hear the commotion...

Jan. review

p. 1--add "Tlingit" to canoe descptn? *No*

--add it in some later references to canoe?

No

Jano review

ask Jean: pic of a rock cod?

--Diane Zink's brother: it's like a red snapper.

Jan. review

Have M--and the others?--call Russians "Rooski"?

cut from ms, Dec. 17, '81

103

Pouched as the four were in the canoe day on day, the closeness could not help but rub on them. Be it said, among these new watermen waited crosscurrents which, if they were let to flow free, might prove as roily as any of the North Pacific's.

Hell's own choir
pipe organ

use "And" as # lead.

a side memory came to him now (meaning a small detail)

have them use the sail occasionally

--possibly have predominant weather along Vancouver make the sail unusable,
a stroke of luck which kept them from being seen by Indians.

p. 113--dour: tell Mark about it.

add scene?

In first portion of book, deepen their reasons for wanting to escape?

p. 1--use "buoyant" somewhere?

--change "19 days" and "January"?

--reference to sand-dollar: does it have a "shell"?

possible add

247+--fog scene

--Pacific material?

--K's calluses have moved

possible add:

some closely-described scene, maybe derived from Brueckmann letter, as earlier counterpart to Tow Hill close description.

sound of canvas flapping in wind

add smells:

--campfire

--spruce boughs they slept on

p. 96-7--add lore from Brueckmann: current along shore, etc.

possible add

wind scything off tops of waves: Kaigani?

cross seas (have M say)

tide races

Swan, p. 93, W Bros: frogsong sign of spring

possible add

smell and feel of campfire (person warm on one side)

wind on tent. frost on, or in, tent. — added, p. 167 1-28-82

flashback?

add a scene of K and W, just the two of them facing off, before escape?

p. 92 --possibly insert Brueckmann detail of logs

→
"trunks of drift trees" (?)

show wear on the canoe bottom

No

--indicate Ft. Victoria being built at the time.

mention equinox?

possible K monologue:

Had I been M, gone sailing, put the world together in my mind..M went to death, too.
Something to be said for the habit of wait. . .

desc. K using Indian style of stroking?

Wd it be. same when he's using steering paddle?

NO

1st mention of gate: simply use verb "opened" instead of "came open" or ~~xxx~~ "winked"?

Dona

--have K miss first shot at one of the deer.