

Existence

1

Ens, entity, being, exist^{re}

Esse, quiescens, quiescens

Nature thing substance
course world, frame
position constitution

Reality, (v. truth) actual
exist^{re} - fact.

course of things, under sun
extant, present

Positive, affirmative absolute
intrinsic, substantive
inherent

To be, exist, obtain, stand
pass, subsist, prevail, lie
- on foot, on tapis

to constitute, form, compose to consist of

State, Mode of exist^{re}, condition, nature, constitut^{re}, habit^{re}

Affection, predicament, situat^{re}, posit^{re}, posture, contingency
Circumstances, case, plight, trim, tune, - point, degree
Juncture, conjuncture, pass, emergency, exigency

Mode, manner, style, cast, fashion, form, shape
Strain, way, degree, - tenure, terms, tenor
forting, character, capacity

Relation, ^{-ship}affinity, alliance, analogy, filiat^{re}, (v. connect^{re})

Reference about, respect, regard, concerning, touching
in point of, as to, - pertaining to, belong, applicable to
relatively, according to

Comparable, commensurate, incomp^{le}, incom^{le} - ble
correspondent, - able, irreconcilable, discordant
accident

Nonentity, nullity, nihil^{ity}

nonexist^{re}, noth^{ing}, nought

void, zero, cypher, blank
emptily

Unreal, ideal, imaginary
visionary, fabulous
fictitious, supposititious
absent, shadow, dream
phantom, phantasm

Negative, virtual, extrinsic
potential, adjective

E. P. Fisher

Confrontation with the Sorceress

In the movie about your childhood, I played the leading man,
The stranger who forgot his own name.
You were the silent one with the fabled reputation—
The one whose eyes cast a magic spell,
Where tongue conjured up the shapes of hunger.

Woven into the amazing hush of the earth,
The sights & sounds of doom & ruin left behind,
Particles of ice still burning in a place of incantation,
In the interim, the moon was pulled down with the wind factored in,
Sealing its secret pact with zero.

In all the intimate, forbidden scenes of wild abandon,
Real names were never used, the truth of the soul never spoken,
And the innocent character of the heart
Like a Bible unread, full of blank pages,
Mistaken for some signature line, some sign unbidden.

Somewhere at the bottom of the sea
As a dark river of wishes slipped through my arms,
The stem of a flower, limned in living color,
Opened out into the petals of your mouth—agape, unuttering—
Subterranean waves bestowed the gift of clapping hands.

In a close-up of your face, your cheekbone & nose
Still haunt all my happy endings.
The sleep that curves around your ear
Rides out again on the backs of dolphins
As faraway voices fade to black.

The Devil's Thesaurus

I found the Devil's Thesaurus discarded among dinosaur bones
On the crumbling outskirts of an unknown center,
A kind of still-point in a deep-space field of stars
Where laughter is just another name for the charnel house war . . .

In a footnote to fossil constellation, falling like angels in the night
References were made to a parallel universe of vice & verses,
A cosmic Atlas of Babel & its comically outsized sighs
In a deregulated heaven of missing invisible companions.

I was leafing through the index of synonyms for savage beauty,
Virtuoso variations of inaudible music inspired by Erato's iron lyre,
When I came upon an underground water-table of ancient voices,
A list of dubious rhymes dominated by loose grammatical forms.

I learned then, by hook & crook, the strange nomenclature
Of derangements, like the famous "Lost Sayings-on-Avon,"
Stuck to the roof of a myriad of mouths, a catalogue of songs
And unrecognizable sounds found on the tips of a hundred tongues.

New words for magic & light & the nakedness of lovers
Were discovered alphabetically whistling under the breath,
A Whos'-Who of heroes from Zeus & Zarathustra
And a revised edition of the complete works of T-Rex.

The parts of speech were printed with a ghostly imprimatur
Tucked under a giant bloodshot eye with millipede arms & legs:
A bibliography of dying fables on recycled paper,
A story about elbow-grease hobnobbing with midnight oil.

E. P. Fisher's work has appeared in such publications as *The Lyric*, *Chaffin*, *Illumination*, *Crucible*, *Listening Eye*, *Ibbetson Street*, and *Alembic*; he has also published two books. "I taught high school English in Uganda as a Peace Corps volunteer, and worked for 30 years as a play therapist and adventure-based counselor with special needs children."