

THE GARDEN OF EARTHLY DELIGHTS

... a comic opera ...
Trevor Wishart (2019)

Overview

LIMBO

We, at *Going Forward Together (GFT)*®, are working tirelessly on your behalf.

Libretto : Martin Riley

THE VAGRANAUT'S CROSSING

Traffic Incident Report : Surveillance cameras report a suspicious individual shouting at traffic on the Main Highway. Please investigate.

Libretto : Martin Riley

THE ORACLE

Abstract : Recent advances in psychometric game theory and algebraic hand-waving have converged in the promising new field of Artificial Wisdom. Our newly developed interface, Oracle-2, is currently in the testing stage.

Libretto : Trevor Wishart

THE MISSION

Mission Statement : *GFT*® announce a rigorous selection process for The Mission. We expect to have a highly qualified team assembled by the time the escape vehicle is launch-ready.

Libretto : Martin Riley

THE RALLY

Press Release : We are proud to present another Great Leader® who, as is customary, will solve all your problems – in return for unwavering loyalty.

THE FOREST PATH

Recommended Route : Cross the stile and follow the path that enters the wood. After a short ascent, cross a stream. Continue through trees into open country until the summit is reached.

Libretto: Katrina Porteous

THE NEGOTIATIONS

From our Foreign Correspondent: Intense negotiations are continuing over matters of mutual concern. We are unable to throw any light on the progress of these talks.

Official Guide

LIMBO

“Thank you for calling. You have reached G.F.T. – Going Forward Together. We are experiencing a high volume of calls just now but you can speak to Naomi, our on-line avatar, at any time ...”

“Thank you for calling. You are now two thousand, one hundred and sixth in the queue. Your call is important to us and a representative will be available to speak to you just as soon as one becomes available ...”

“Thank you for holding. Did you know that G.F.T. have the highest on-line approval rating for Govtech agencies in this quarter year. To register your feedback ...”

THE VAGRANAUT’S CROSSING (1)

... “ *When the Green Light flashes it is safe to go* ” ...

“Just been freed, me! ...”

“Bad stitch! No time! Gotta be there by two ...”

“Fuckin’ pressure gets to you ..”

“Alarm lights! No room in the bus! ...”

“... ...”

THE ORACLE (1)

“Augury 3 : Finite-element sorcery reveals that sample-wise hopelessness may give way to price-inelastic tranquillity.”

“Augury 4 :”

THE MISSION (1) – Department of Personnel Assessment

“CCTV recording on. Safeguarding level Yellow-Beta. All staff retina-checked for your security...”

“Form spoiled, questions ignored. Unpaid student debt. Shifty eyes. Slurred voice. Next!”

“Stubborn and opinionated – unresponsive to authority. No gene-test certificate. Next!”

“Home library questionnaire reveals traces of Socrates. Ethical score rated Retro. Next!”

“Bad breath and serious tooth decay. Short sleeved Hawaiian shirt. Keeps a hamster. Next!”

“.....”

Those selected for Stage 2, please ... await further instructions

THE RALLY (1)

"Hear and heed the words that we, not me, we have to say....."

"Take your country back!" "Our country. Our borders Our military"

"We are The Movement of The Future."

THE FOREST PATH (1)

"We'll lowp the dyke at Biteabout.

At Seldom Seen an' Sundaysight;

Ye'll nivvor say Noo at Sillywrae steed

Or Goodwife Hot.

...."

THE NEGOTIATIONS (1)

"KaramaraRa, Karamalata. Che! Ma! Na!

AramanamanaRa, Kararamumala... Che! Ma! Na! Che! Ma! Naaaaaaaaaaaa !!"

THE MISSION (2) – Judgement Time

"...CCTV recording on. Safeguarding level Orange-Beta. All staff retina-checked for your security..."

"Welcome, welcome everyone, one and all, to Test Two Time!!"

"We'll put the Fabulous Forty through their paces!"

"....."

"It's Judgement Time!!"

"....."

"And the lift! Such an aetherial experience!"

"That's the way to do weightless!"

"....."

"Leaving Donetta, Shirley, Shafiq, Nikola, You Made It!!"

"...Congratulations ... those who have not been selected will qualify for end-of-life enhancing experiences

.... Those who have been selected please remain seated and await further instructions"

THE VAGRANAUT'S CROSSING (2)

..... *"When the Green Light flashes it is safe to go" ...*

"Do you read me?"

Life's a bitch. Done my time, paid my dues!

Pain! Pressure ...

Alarm lights now all continuous!

...."

THE ORACLE (2)

“Augury 69 : Cerebro-spinal, a posteriori inference reveals a landscape of ecstatically-graceful, choreographed suffering.”

“Augury 70 :”

THE FOREST PATH (2)

“The bracken, the steyn an’ white thrussel-seed:

Ablow the ruin at Halterbornheed

Lay me down under the jumm’ly-bed

An ’tumellin’ sky.

....”

THE RALLY (2)

“....Our country Our borders Our military”

NEGOTIATIONS (2)

“Feefee. Toto-ke! Sh-froo-t-k-pa, how_R_t_k_paaa !

Oadi!!! ‘wa-oo, ‘wa-oo, ‘wa-oo, ‘wa-oo, ‘wa-oo, ‘wa-oo, ‘wa-oo ! Zz, zz-zz, ha_t_ka.

Uoooooooooooooooooooooooooooooti !!!!

THE ORACLE (3)

“Augury 160 : Applying enlightened, inter-departmental exhilaration-vectors to the think-aloud, Navier-Stokes Gaiety Mean one can be sure the result will be quantitatively serial merrymaking.”

“Augury 161 :”

THE MISSION (3) – Department of Intelligence

“...CCTV recording on. Safeguarding level Orange-Beta. All staff retina-checked for your security...

Please turn on your pads and be ready to respond to the multiple choice questions posed ...”

“This sound ... means your time is up” “This ... for selection A” “This ... for B” “This ...”

“What is a soul?” “Do dogs have a soul?” “Do fish have a soul?”

“Which thought system celebrates ...”

“Fire and Ice?” “Death and Rebirth?” “Law and Order?” “Belt and Braces?” ...”

“Choose which to save!” “Decide!” “Decide Now!”

“Congratulations! The algorithm reveals that three – those three whose screens are displaying the firework and sunshine glyph – have qualified for the Mission Hub Portal final selection ...”

THE FOREST PATH (3)

“... For the moorhen, the swaller, the blackcock, the flee –
Mony lives o’er-smar’ for the sharpest ee,
Aa’ bent in yen mash, o’er-mony t’see –
Ootbye ...”

THE VAGRANAUT’S CROSSING (3)

... “*When the Green Light flashes it is safe to go*” ...
“Green-witch mean time fourteen forty-two ...
No oxygen! Pressure ...
Holy shit! This can’s gonna blow!....”

THE RALLY (3)

“...All the money is in”

NEGOTIATIONS (3)

“Twerpötiderwerpöt-h-t-p-di, da-p-di, Ga!! Bro, BrrrrrrrrrrrrrO !!
fa-Fa-t-d-da-t-d-d-kohoch-p-d-n-p-du. Kotch ! ...”

THE ORACLE (4)

“Augury 1624 : Variable-ratio, transitional retina-midbrain plausibility combined with self-winding,
non-parametric, agrarian embodiment suggests an indefinitely affine-deformed,
super high-tech dismay.”
“Augury 1625 :

THE MISSION (4) – The Launchpad

“...CCTV recording on. Safeguarding level Orange-Alpha. All staff retina-checked for your security...
.. Awaiting results of pre-flight checks ...”

“... Oh Dear ...”

“...Going Forward, Together, to the Stars without. Without you. Forever, to the stars. Without you ...”

NEGOTIATIONS (4)

“i-b-di-bu-Kooochch! NadigaBa !! –g- shiz-kud, Haaaa, Haaaa !*%!

THE FOREST PATH (4)

“... Sing Aye, for the wild a’ the sky’s boondless glitter,
Sing Aye, for the braidin’ a wund, fire an’ wetter,
An’ ee but a blink that its bonny bleeze scatters,
Till all on your Yesses are stars in its river –
An’ rhyme.”

LIMBO

“Th...a...n..k y... f... c...lling ... hv reach... G.F.T. ...”

THE VAGRANAUT’S CROSSING (4)

... “*When the Green Light flashes it is safe to go*” ...
“Fuel cells at zero ...
Suit pressure falling. Not much I can do ...
Good to go, repeat – good now to go! ...”

Performers of vocal source material and other collaborators

The Oracle : Lore Lixenberg and First Year Choir of the Royal Conservatory, Den Haag.
The Negotiations : Marie Guilleray, Áslákur Ingvarsson.
Recording Engineer: Marko Uzunovski.
The Forest Path : Katrina Porteous.
The Vagranaut : Martin Riley, with Jacqueline Wishart.
Music for “Limbo” : Ben Eyes, University of York.
Bureaucrats, Mission1 : Hannah Airs, James & Sue Elliot, Amber Ford, Doreen & Charlie Gurrey,
Claire Hind, Samantha Hindman, Amber Holt, Kathryn Morris McHanny,
Roger & Catherine Moore, Ryan Preston, Emma Sharp, Mitchell Strong,
Jay Sullivan.
Recording Space : York St. Johns University (mostly) Facilitator : Claire Hind.
Judges, Interrogators,
Mission 2/3 : Luke Dickson, John Mee, Rebecca Riley, Maggi Stratford.
Recording Space : University of Leeds. Facilitators : James Mooney, Oliver Thurley.
Brass players : Honor Hornsby, Martha Dean, Samuel Gibb.
Recording Space : University of Durham.
Recording Engineer: Martin Allison.
Forest Path : outdoor recordings : advice on locations, & transport: Bob Pritchard
Applause Sources : Leeds College of Music; thanks to Jo Wilson and Mark Rogers.

Special thanks to the Konrad Boehmer Foundation.