

Jerome Rothenberg's collaborative translation, with Richard Johnny John, of traditional Seneca poetry: these the slow stately opening songs of the hajaswas or ceremonial leader for the cycle of curing & renewal called P'dos in Seneca—either 'Shaking the Pumpkin' or 'The Society of the Mystic Animals' in English. Seneca poetry, when it uses words at all, works in sets of short songs, minimal realizations colliding with each other in marvelous ways, a very light, very open play-of-the-mind, the words set out in clear relief against the ground of the ('meaningless') refrain. The attempt in the present version is to provide paginal equivalents for all such elements, i.e. to translate the poems onto the page, as with 'concrete' or other types of minimal poetry, letting the words of the (oral) original program the translation. The full sequence to appear soon in J.R.'s anthology of Indian poetry, Shaking the Pumpkin (Doubleday & Co.), the whole a sequel to Technicians of the Sacred.

From SHAKING THE PUMPKIN: SONGS & OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES
OF THE SOCIETY OF THE MYSTIC ANIMALS: *The Opening Songs*

T	H E H E H H E H
h	
e	H E H E H H E H
The animals are coming by	H E H U H H E H
n	
i	H E H E H H E H
m	
a	H E H E H H E H
l	
s	

T
h
e

H E H E H H E H

H E H E H H E H

The doings were beginning

H E H *U* *H* H E H

o
i
n
g
s

H E H E H H E H

H E H E H H E H

T
h
e

H E H E H H E H

H E H E H H E H

The doings were begun

H E H *U* *H* H E H

o
i
n
g
s

H E H E H H E H

H E H E H H E H

A
 s
 A she-loon too soon
 e
 -
 l
 o
 o
 n

H A H A H H A H
 H A H A H H A H
 H A H U H H A H
 H A H A H H A H
 H A H A H H A H

A
 h
 A he-loon soon too
 -
 l
 o
 o
 n

H A H A H H A H
 H A H A H H A H
 H A H U H H A H
 H A H A H H A H
 H A H A H H A H

T
h
e

She drifts on the water

r
i
f
t
s

H O H O H H O H

H O H O H H O H

H O H U H H O H

H O H O H H O H

H O H O H H O H

T
h
e

He drifts on her water

r
i
f
t
s

H O H O H H O H

H O H O H H O H

H O H U H H O H

H O H O H H O H

H O H O H H O H