***The Other Noah*** o

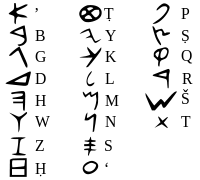
o 

o

*It is rising in the water.*

What is rising?

*Ascending into air.*

 ית What is ascending?

*Into the watery firmament.* אר

What is bobbing on the water?

*Something uncanny.* ي

ي Animal, vegetable, mineral?

*A pale balloon* ي

*sacred to air, sacred* ي**רפ**

טביעה

 *to nothing.* ك

*Do you remember sinking?* Backwards, eyes

Ψ looking up at the surface.

*You saw there was a sky*

*below the sky.* An underwater sky.

*What did you see above the water?* Forms moving,

תפ whiteness. Wavering.

*And their gestures?*

Some distant solicitation,

**ي** it could not reach me.

*You had sunk too deeply*. 

ῶ They moved as I imagine angels

move, indistinctly,

**הלך** in another element.

*Or like?* 

Like surgeons in white masks,

seen through ether.

*But distant.*

**σ** Very distant.

*You sank slowly.*  *n e*

Past pillars of kelp,  *a g*

 suspended *ua*

in cathedral light.  *f r*

*Did you settle?* β

In a sad luxuriance. The child stretches on his deathbed.

*Dreaming?* Ω

He dreams the water.

The water dreams him.

*What does the child see?* ξ

 Fish rushing through

 Ψ the husk of a trawler.

**Scaly gold** pouring

in and out of portholes.  ******ω

*He floats beneath our prayers.*

*Look how he adorns Death’s body.*  Ancient treasure.

*Who could count grief’s blessings?*  I have only ten cold fingers. 

*That whiteness you saw…* I was afraid. Because…

*There is no cause to fear.*  **ς**



*It is only* 

*the shadow of the rainbow.*  The skeleton of light.



*The name*

a

n

c

h

o

r

a a a

n n n

c c c

h h h

o o o

r

*of a pale undulation* **ξ**

*of amino acids*

*is anemone.*Waterflowers sway

gravely on their stems.

*Wavering is their decision.*

The water seconds it.

*Who would have thought*

 *there was such strength*

*in wavering?*

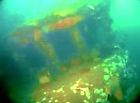
 فبای I fear for my mates—

the wind is mad, and the water!

*I was already drowned*

*before hands lifted*

*saw and hammer.*

*I am the other Noah.*

Why do you hide your face

in shadow?

Why are you so tall?

ἁλί φθορία

*To reach down my staff* لف

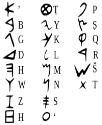
*and strike the bottom* **אָלֶ**

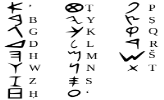
*of the world. To startle* لف

*a flounder, ripple the oil*

*in a whale’s bone.* ת

*A ray, a heavy ray, flaps by,*

*dove of the depths.* o When the flood came

 o what did you see?

*A mountain shrinking* o

*up into an island. I watched*

*the water tremble over* *t e u*

*a pinpoint peak. The mountain*

*remembered its secret.* I am afraid. *b*  *t*

*b a t*

*Do not be afraid.* o *s e a u*

*Come into my stone boat.* b a n No, I am not ready.

*It is here.*

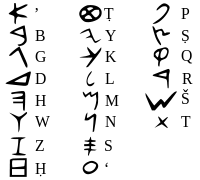
h u s **No.**

*It was built for you.*

*Not with hands, but with*

*the idleness of hands.* Leave me. I must

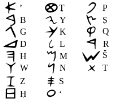
think this over.

*It has come for you.*

 *It was built to drown*

*fear. Sink past*

No.

 *the storm’s reach!* No.

*Sink slowly.* **No!**



*Look, we are passing*

*the City of Coral.*

I cannot look.

*******Look at the teeth,* ♫

*the bulbs of the eyes* ♫ It is not me.

*It is you, but you are no longer yours .*

**ὀkσnτoέchονen**

**ὀk σnτoέchονen**

♫ Go away!

*My shoulder is strong.*

It is heavy.

*Do not be afraid. Water* **♫**

*is a thing in the water.*

θ

*There is water under* ά  ض *the water. Repeat after me:*  ν ς

There is water α τ ο

under the water

*It washes ashore*

*and it washes the shore* It washes ashore

*and it washes ashore* and it washes the shore

and it washes ashore

*We are walking on the bottom* **ي**

*of the ocean.* I am tired.

So tired.

*I will take you to the Cave of Sleep.*

*Take me to the Cave of Sleep*.

*I am the other Noah.*

ض **संस्कृतम्**

*Noah of no heir. No air*.

**ج**

*Come into my stone boat.* *Where?*

*It is here. Now.*

***Nowhere****.*

**