

## THE LOGIC OF YOO

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At night he replayed the *Vanity Fair* video,  
Hitchens strapped down, having hired large-armed men  
to choke him,  
to prove the naysayers wrong, though no one could feel  
what Hitchens felt, proving only  
that phenomenology was a slippery floor upon which to set  
the sneakered feet of logic.

He threw the dead man's switch.  
He forgot the code word.  
He was suffocated in a garage, a white Frigidaire  
humming next to his head.  
He gave his account  
in front of a piano, Haydn peering over his shoulder  
from an instruction manual, perhaps *The Creation*, its so-happy Vanities.<sup>10</sup>

The angel Uriel, solo:

O glücklich Paar, und glücklich immerfort,  
Wenn falscher Wahn euch nicht verführt,  
Noch mehr zu wünschen als ihr habt,  
Und mehr zu wissen als ihr sollt!

Oh happy pair, and happy forever  
unless weak-willed and mad  
you wish for more than what you have,  
to know more than you should.

He lay between the slick sheets & tried to imagine  
would he have gone mad & whether he wasn't already  
to live like this, even if to live like this  
meant he read *Pilgrim's Progress* & listened to music, watched YouTube.  
Moaning, a little contra-alto, he woke himself  
from the nightmares in which beautiful music played  
& grayed figures walked toward brick houses, their undoing.

<sup>10</sup> Christopher Hitchens, "On the Waterboard," *Vanity Fair* web exclusive, 2 July 2008; available from <[http://www.vanityfair.com/politics/features/video/2008/hitchens\\_video200808](http://www.vanityfair.com/politics/features/video/2008/hitchens_video200808)>.