

in human language
from Memoirs of My Nervous Illness *by* Daniel Paul Schreber (1842-1911)

i.

in their conversation
on purpose
in the surrounding
with me
in the same
into the streets
during every
at other times
on the part
from the people
to a few
in watching
of the corresponding
Of the deliberate
Of certain

ii.

by the actors on the stage
by their nerves
on the behavior
of other human beings
in order to bring about
in watching
to a few
from the people
on the part
in the same
with me
in the surrounding
on purpose
in their conversation
with

ABOUT THE POEM

“in human language” was created from *Memoirs of My Nervous Illness* by Daniel Paul Schreber (originally published 1903; the translation by Ida Macalpine and Richard A. Hunter is used here). About the poem and the process of composing it, Kathleen Hellen writes:

Focusing on his use of language, I selected two pages from the “Postscripts” of Schreber’s description of his psychotic delusions, then extracted from these a list of common prepositions and their phrases. The order of their appearance in the text was reversed, and I selected from these those that referenced in some way his relationship to the people around him. I retained capital letters if they started sentences.

