

## THE LOGIC OF YOO

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He learned the first verb  
before eat or love or sleep  
the French verb *être*—"to be"—

*he is, they are, I am*  
in another  
language, another tongue, *autre lèvres,*

lips not the least organ of transformation.  
Derrida writes of *world hospitality*  
as antidote to *toleration,*

& Habermas  
of *mutual perspective-taking,*  
the *I* permeable, a slice of toast<sup>5</sup>

the world's butter melts into,  
not the *I* of the life raft, which  
if punctured is sunk.

Sitting inside Dick's, in Seattle,  
he watched the young men go off,

board planes, east to Afghanistan,  
bound west with black-hooded citizens *confined,*  
*of no country,* dark-skinned, praying.

*They were, he was,* not going  
to become anything new: tongue-lashed,  
sand-eyed, bone-shamed.

<sup>5</sup> John C. Yoo and Robert J. Delahunty, "Kant, Habermas and Democratic Peace," *Chicago Journal of International Law* 10, no. 2 (Winter 2010).