

Texts by Adolf Wölfli

Excerpt from «From the Cradle to the Grave», 1908

«Allgebrah:

?You don't say!! What does that mean; O, how fine is the Föhn.

Answer: Allgebrah is Music! Is that so!
That's it: And for Every Instrumentt.

Anything visible or invisible to the Human Eye: Can be transformed by means of the well-educated human mind, goodwill, hard work and existing, suitable material into Music-SongText and that goes for the smallest to the biggest object or nonob ject.

Der Dicht'r reimt den Text in Strophen: Tohnsetzer setzt den Tohn.
Beim Liebchen möcht ich einmal schlafen; Nun geht Es flugs dafon.
Und kommt der Böse mit den Schofen; So ist nur schuld der Sohn.
Der Guhte fürchtet sich vor Strofen! Und auch vor Spott und Hohn.
Drumm geht Er auch dafon.

Wandering diletannts! Piano virtuosos! Orchestras! Bands! the wanderer on the road! The oragnist and all the schools! From infants' school to High School: In short! All of them honor Allgebra, an old but Glorious invention of the Moorish peoples. ?How many a beautiful: song uplifting heart and mind: has sounded, from days of old: out of the throats of well-trained choruses. Choirs of all kinds: Young people in their schoolrooms, the worker in the field: the cowherd high up on the alp and only a few days ago, I heard out of the atmosphere the merriest yodelling from the gondola of a balloon. Verily! Everyone happy and of good cheer. But a song is sung also at the sickbed of gravely ill or dying human beings, a comforting song is quietly, gently and ever quietly sung. ?How often is a sinner who meets his fellow-creature at work, in the house or in the street, warned by soft sounds of his fellow-man's: Which however seldom finds its desired echo and dully shyly, yes, often even with mocking mien the Shepherd drops you, to tinsel, poison and ridicule.

Erschrecken heisst, ich sah den Geist, doch nicht auf rechten Weegen. Und wenn Er beisst, ei nun das weist, verlierst Du Gottes, Seegen. And now, dear fellow-humans: The voice of God is a human voice and is called Allgebrah.

Allgebra is music and song. May it be your sincerest endeavor forever and at all times to foster these gifts of God, to strengthen and ennoble them. God grant it! Amen! Manual.»

(Translated by Kiko Gaskel and Peter Jones)

Excerpt from «Geographic and Algebraic Book 11», 1913

«. . . and, endless eternity is, neither round nor square, has absolutely no limits. On a stretch of absolutley not less than about: 420,000,000 German miles or 1,680,000,000 hours along which, in 1868, with my very own beloved parents, brothers and sisters, friends, under the constant presence of God Almighty the Fattther, I travelled in the infinite spaces of creation by the most manyfold means of transport, as for instance: Gigantic and majestic carrier, luxury and, transport birds, island-mothships, giant-foundations, lightning-serpents, omnipotence-moths, etcettera, etcettera, always in quite comfortable riding informattion, I saw during every staar-bright night a chaos of staars of the most manyfold kinds such as the most skilful writer's hand is absolutely unable to describe and to explain. Indeed, God is good, omniscient, all-wise, all-merciful, omnipotent, and, his omnipotence, has no limits. Yes, I saw with my own eyes, By his powerful wonder word: Let there be: the creation of things which would, quite energetically deign to defy description. And now, one should still do a bit of «vöögeln»* but, in this text, I am not exactly a master at it. Appropo: The blue birds; The green birds; The orange birds; The red birds; The black birds; Hm!! They have many colors. Ha, ha, ha, ha. Alright!! I start small and, climb ever higher. But today I've had a fall, therefore the children bawl. The birds: Well, yes, I too have gevöögelt now and then: In our neighborhood they are certainly not of enormous size. And to characterize on the spot their various names which, after all, every child here knows rather exactly, would cost me too much, time, trouble and paper, and so I will start with the explanation of the many different flyers in the high southern zones and eternal snow regions, on the southern and southeastern part of our globe. Luxury and cage-birds. The Kaiser organ; The Gold Cock; The Sickel: The Dolphins: The Pheasant: The Pelican: The Rummel: The Ostrich: Etcettera: Are on the continentt Southmeridian, on the Great-East Sea, Brand Sea and Pacific Ocean islands, as well as the gigantic Swan, The Goose, The Duck, The Chicken and, manyfold, partly, gigantic pigeons, etcettera, not only because of their highly valuable plumage, and Their eggs: But also because of their highly tasty meat, (comestibles) are highly useful, and in afforesaid parts of the world, present in enormous numbers. Let us now turn, to the numerous birds of prey, which are, in those parts, in some places present in quite enormous numbers, and, are for man, animal and also for the lesser sorts of their own kind, in the

highest degree, harmful, troublesome, and dangerous. There are, for the huntsman and gun, in the first place The Condoor: The Agralong: The Murvitt: The Muhrfrison: The Printtong: The Horatoos: The King: The Kaiser: The Duke: The Prince: The Knight: The Graph: The Master: The Menelik The Sartoos: And many others more: Most of them of gigantic size. Oh yes: didn't all the Swiss-Avanttgaarde of huntsmen and Natuhrvorscher ride Anno 1868 on the great East Sea on the majestic back of a gigantic Horatoos for no less than a distance of 280 hours from the Djungle Giant Island as far as the giant town of Wangen, 186,000,000 souls in the Fatttherwood district along the Southmeridian east coast as comfortably and without danger as in the most elegantt cab on land. But apart from that, the afforesaid giant birds are the most pecuniary robbers of The whole Southern and Southeastern Conttinentt. And now we come straight to the manyfold load, luxury and satellite birds of the extreme Southeast, on our planet, Earth. And that which is not, May it soon be. Ha, ha, ha. ?How: ?Would you, kind reader, like to stage with me a majestic voyage, as far as or to the very farthest heavenly bodies in the realm of The divine Universe: So kindly accompany me by ship, vehicle and railway, to the gigantic God-Fattther-Heaven Island, in the Southern part of the immense, almost endless, Great-East-Sea. Ha, ha, ha. Starting from Corpse-Rage-East or, Sun-Rage-East, two respectable giant towns on the Southeasterly part of the Southmeridian or, St. Adolf Continentt, travelling Eastward in a rather straight line over the great East Sea, we now come straight into the harbor of God-Father-Heaven-Hall, the giant town numbering a little over 80,000,000 souls. And, after a short inspection of afforesaid giant town and lts, majestic surroundings, we now go on by vehicle, or train, straight over the greatest part of afforesaid island South coast, past numerous great and giant towns, villages, places and market towns, through the most manyfold forest plantations, gaardens, woods, meadows and promenades towards God-Fattther-Heaven-Serpent-Hall, the giant town, which, Today, Anno 1913, counts a little over 100,000,000 souls. Alright!! After reciprocal Rundetzvaus and manyfold discussions, explanations and, arguments with the supreme authority there, you will immediately find them prepared to arrange the journey to the very furthest heavenly bodies on gigantically majestic carrier and transport giant birds, in the presence, of God the Almighty Fattther as long as you are all ready

to serve the Latter and be devoted to Him with all your heart, body and soul. Holy cow: Gigantic, scintillating Allbatross: ditto, Kormanntts: ditto, Ferantoo's, Garnie, Kolang and Muralt-Giant-Transport-Birds carry Altogether our manyfold travel utensils, as well as the whole, enormous, Swiss-Avanttgaarde of huntsmen and Natuhrvorscher, with numerous, actiive and passiive members, among them of course also the extremely pretty, youthful Highness, Princess Amalia of, God-Fatther-Heaven-Serpent-Hall: And, after already having in every detail investigated and inspected innumerable of the most many fold staars, we find ourselves, without knowing how, on the Quarantt Heaven, in God's holy halls. And so on. Song, in honor of the afforesaid, charming and gracious princess, Amalia of G.F.H.Sp.Hall.... »

*vögeln is slang for sexual intercourse.

(Translated by Kiko Gaskel and Peter Jones)