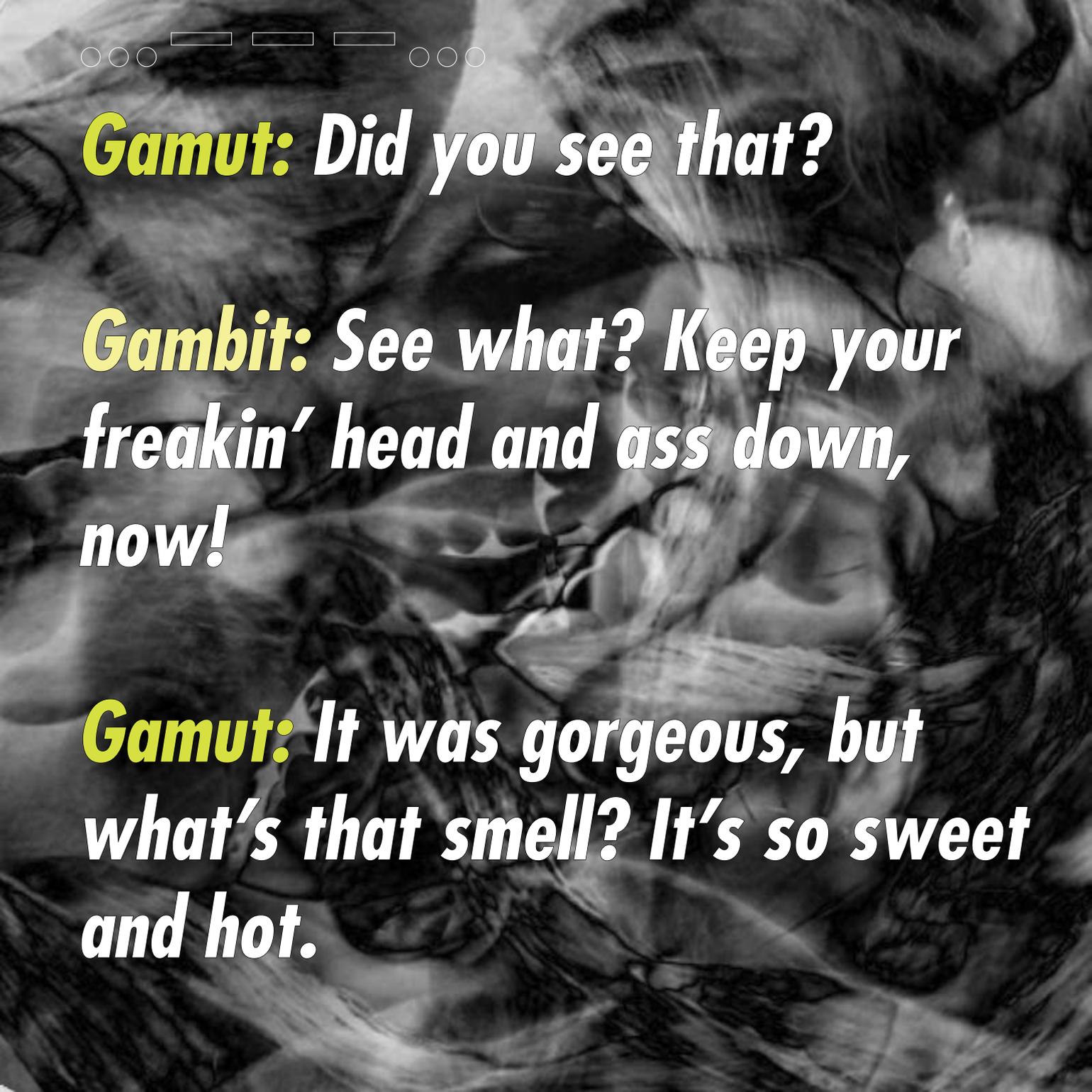


SOLDIERS

IN LOVE:

WHAT GAMUT CLEF

SAID TO GAMBIT CLIFF



Gamut: *Did you see that?*

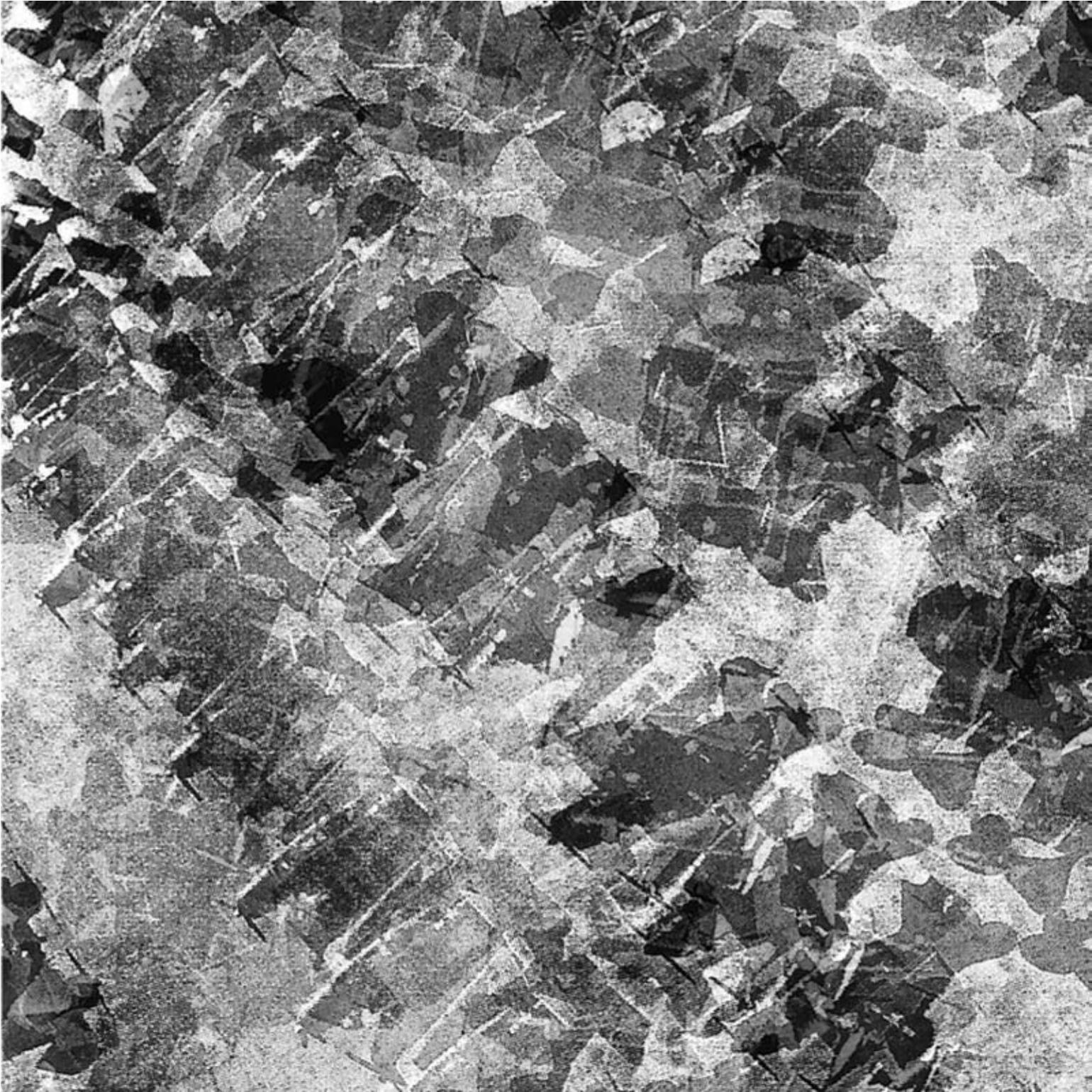
Gambit: *See what? Keep your freakin' head and ass down, now!*

Gamut: *It was gorgeous, but what's that smell? It's so sweet and hot.*

Gambit: *Don't inhale! Just keep your ass down, or you'll lose it dumbshit!*

Gamut: *I've got to know what it is.*

Gambit: *Later, later, just shut the fuck up already!*



Gamut: *Shit, it's all over the fuckin' place! Gambit, get it off of me! Now!*

Gambit: *I can't see anything! Where the hell is it?*

Gamut: *Check the flesh! My back, my legs, everywhere! Just get it off already!*

Gambit: Sorry, I can't do it.

Gamut: You're acting like you have no idea about what I'm talking about, do you?

Gambit: Not a clue, and I don't want to know. Just tie it in a knot and swallow it.



Gamut: *That's it? It feels like I just shallowed half the ocean.*

Gambit: *Is that all you've got? It's really not all that difficult. Just be good, shut-up, and get back down and protect yourself.*

Gamut: *Are you with the cavalry?*

MYTHOLOGICAL TRACKING:

Venus/Aphrodite: beauty > aesthetic > art > love > relationship

Mars/Ares: warrior > protector > dumb > contractual > relationship

The notion of a neuro-mythological condition is purely speculative, but it may be wise for us to acknowledge this parallel, non-linguistic, idea when thinking about what's transpiring within our heads during an event.

Mythology holds a steadfast position that is parceled deeply within our understanding of what we are.

IN A CATASTROPHIC EVENT, WHAT MAKES US US MAY NOT MATTER AS MUCH AS FIGURING OUT WHAT MAKES US NOT US?

Events induced through trauma exacerbate the degree of this awareness, making us susceptible to unknown emotions, pain, and revelatory experiences.

Culturally, our infatuation to compartmentalize complex ideas, such as love from hate, war from peace, anything from anything else, is about dividing ourselves into parts. This form of compartmentalization merely postpones us from healing and keeps the wounds invisible.

There is a din, a noise. We bathe in its whiteness more than we realize. It is audibly inaudible. When immersed within it it gives vision a new imperative, a sort of one sense down survival strategy where we either struggle and compensate to make it work or we give in. We never own it.

The bluish glowing of screens against a users flesh is both visceral and progressive: a Manierismo hue via Pontormo's Deposition in Florence or Il Rosso Fiorentino's Volterra alterpiece. Fugitive and lovely.

All catastrophic events are different. The physical, biological, age, background, and the desires of each individual presents a unique set of circumstances and behaviors to understand.

Recovery is an isolated activity, and recovery is, in fact, a possibility. All catastrophic events whether in a physical conflict [war] or biologically internalized [stroke] significantly change who we are and what we thought we were.

WHAT IS SHARED IN PHYSICAL TRAUMA WHETHER CREATED BY AN EXTERNAL ATTACK OR INTERIOR SLIPPAGE?

Catastrophic health events immediately take us "out of our mind" and grounds us deeply within another world, an alternative universe, where priorities change according to unknown conditions. In battle, as in love, survival is a priority. The language to control either situation is unscripted, even though words may be found quickly: often too quickly in haste for resolution. There is no code for negotiating this other world. You may wonder who will understand what you are experiencing, but

thinking this will only turn you further inside. There are suspicions, private voices, battling each other on a daily basis. Eventually you come to learn that these voices are not voices at all, for they create no specific sound forms, and they taunt your waking hours with no agenda. As noise, the best these voices can do is echo off all of the vulnerabilities the mind can muster, and they do this very well.

Where exactly this occurs in the brain from a neurological point-of-view is incidental. That there are feelings at all [new found sensations both positive or negative] suggests an opportunity for recovery.

Bodies, and body parts, are idealized, made aesthetic, i.e. beautiful. An outside physical wound can be seen and measured. The interior wound is equal to the task, although they are invisible to the eye. Measuring interiority, and making it visible, would need extensive comparative imaging, say 24/7, to observe and track any changes within the body. Note: knowing what causes a catastrophic health event does not necessarily bring a cure.

Mythology and neurology carry a pre-verbal understanding unique to our species. There is no learning curve involved, since it runs in our DNA and is expressed in our every breath.

Soldiers, creatives, lovers, extreme athletes, for example, just happen to be experts in this area, which is why historically they have been culturally perceived and treated as canaries in the proverbial coal mine.

Special thanks to Emily Grunfeld, Nathan Kitch, Katherine Kashanchi, Jeffrey Joseph, McKenzie Castellano.

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