

PARABOLA

recitative for solo performer

for paul mortilla

ROBERTO GRANADOS

This piece may be performed anywhere possible. You will need an offering bowl (or similar burn receptacle) to place on the floor in front of you. Place a candle to one side of the bowl and keep it lit for the duration of the performance. Carry a bottle of water with you.

During the performance, you will read the text contained below and on the next several pages.

Begin the performance by clearly stating the first words ("What is a Parabola?"), then sit on the floor behind the burn receptacle and begin speaking through the text. Maintain a clear, consistent tone of voice and quasi-rhythmic inflection, as if reciting a religious chant.

Between each page, stop to tear the finished page lengthwise into strips, setting each one on fire in the candle flame and transferring it to the burn receptacle. Then, drink a small mouthful of water and extinguish the embers by spraying the water, from your mouth, over the receptacle. Take your time with this pseudo-ritualistic process. Repeat this until you have completed the piece and all pages have been destroyed.

After destroying and burning the last page and speaking the closing phrase ("*ex cinere in cinerem*"), take some of the ashes and smear them on your face before exiting.

~~~~~

## What *is* a Parabola?

According to Wikipedia, a multilingual online encyclopedia created and maintained as an open collaboration project by a community of volunteer editors using a wiki-based editing system, and the largest and most popular general reference work on the World Wide Web:

***In mathematica, quae est Speculum parabola, oriri curvam planam, et ratae partis commensus fieri circa U informibus. Diversi generis ignominiam mathematica congruat plura quae definiri posse probari eadem curva.***

**Involves a puncto Parabolæ unum descriptio (focus in) et recta (directricem). Focus est non mentiri de directrix. Parabola vero est locus ex eo planum est in quod puncta aequidistent a in directrice atque ambo focus.**

*Alius descriptio tangit sectionem quamvis Conicam Parabolæ est tamquam: creatum est ab intersectione ad rectam et circularem conica superficies a plano alia quae planum tangit superficiem conicam.*

***Perpendicularis ad directricem focum transiens (nempe recta per medium scindit Parabolæ) vocatur "axe symmetria". De quo puncto axis parabolæ ad peccandum illecebris similes concurrat cum dicitur quod "vertex" et in puncto Parabolæ est ad curvam acerrimos sensit. Distantia foci verticem mensurata per axem symmetria est "petitio principii." Quod "latera" arcus Parabolici chordam non esse parallela directrici Parabolæ qui transit per quod focus. Parabolæ patefacio sursum deorsum reliqui jure vel alio quolibet ire. Rescaled repositum est, et fit prorsus parabola quaecunque potest in alia parabola, hoc est omnes parabolæ similes sunt eam geometricè haberent.***

Parabola habet proprietatem, ut si ex materia manifesta luce lumen euolat parallela axi symmetriae Parabola agit concava refertur ad focum ratione qua in Parabola fit reflexio. Vice versa, quod lux illa trahit originem ex parte focus in fonte resultat in parallel ("collimated") trabem, relinquens Parabolam contingens axi parallela efficitur symmetriarum. Sane occurrit eosdem undis. Haec est proprietates reflective ex multarum rerum in usus parabolis.

***Est usus tot Parabola de curru in tortor parabolicae antenna parabolicum Headlight reflectors ballistic telorum et consilium. Et saepe usus est in Physicis sunt, engineering et multis aliis locis.***

**\*destroy and burn the page here. Then say:**

*"Ex cinere in cinerem"*

**smear some of the ashes on your face and exit\***