THE CHAOS

by Gerard Nolst Trenité

Dearest creature in creation, Study English *pronunciation*
I will teach you in my **verse**, Sounds like corpse, corps, horse, and **worse**
I will keep you, Susy, **busy**, Make your head with heat grow **dizzy**
Tear in eye, your dress will **tear**, So shall I! Oh hear my **prayer**

Pray, console your loving **poet**, Make my coat look new, dear, **sew it**!
Just compare heart, beard, and **heard**, Dies and diet, lord and **word**
Sword and sward, retain and **Britain**, (Mind the latter, how it's **written**)
Made has not the sound of **bade**, Say-said, pay-paid, laid, but **plaid**

Now I surely will not **plague you**, With such words as vague and **ague**
But be careful how you *speak*, Say break and steak, but bleak and *streak*
Previous, precious, fuchsia, *via*, Pipe, snipe, recipe and **choir**
Cloven, oven, how and **low**, Script, receipt, show, poem, **toe**

Hear me say, devoid of **trickery**, Daughter, laughter, and **Terpsichore**
Typhoid, measles, topsails, **aisles**, Exiles, similes, and **reviles**
Scholar, vicar, and *cigar*, Solar, mica, war and *far*
One, anemone, **Balmoral**, Kitchen, lichen, laundry, **laurel**

Gertrude, German, wind and *mind*, Scene, Melpomene, *mankind*
Billet does not end like *ballet*, Bouquet, wallet, mallet, *chalet*
Blood and flood are not like **food**, Nor is mould like should and **would**
Viscous, viscount, load and **broad**, Toward, to forward, to **reward**

And your pronunciation's **okay**, When you correctly say **croquet**
Rounded, wounded, grieve and *sieve*, Friend and fiend, alive and **live**
Ivy, privy, famous, **clamour**, And enamour rhymes with **hammer**
River, rival, tomb, bomb, **comb**, Doll and roll and some and **home**

Stranger does not rhyme with **anger**, Neither does devour with **clangour**
Soul but foul, haunt but **aunt**, Font, front, wont, want, grand, and **grant**
Shoes, goes, does; now first say *finger*, And then singer, ginger, *linger*
Real, zeal, mauve, gauze, gouge and **gauge**, Marriage, foliage, mirage, and **age**

Query does not rhyme with **very**, Nor does fury sound like **bury**
Dost, lost, post and doth, cloth, **loth**, Job, nob, bosom, transom, **oath**
Though the differences seem **little**, We say actual but **victual**
Refer does not rhyme with **deafer**, Feoffer does, and zephyr, **heifer**

Hint, pint, senate and *sedate,* Dull, bull, Geoffrey, George ate *late*
Scenic, Arabic, *Pacific*, Science, conscience, *scientific*
Liberty, library, heave and **heaven**, Rachel, ache, moustache, **eleven**
We say hallowed, but *allowed*, People, leopard, towed, but *vowed*

Mark the differences, *moreover*, Between mover, cover, *clover*
Leeches, breeches, wise, **precise**, Chalice, but police and **lice**
Camel, constable, **unstable**, Principle, disciple, **label**
Petal, panel, and *canal*, Wait, surprise, plait, promise, *pal*

Worm and storm, chaise, chaos, **chair**, Senator, spectator, **mayor**
Tour, but our and succour, **four**, Gas, alas, and **Arkansas**
Sea, idea, Korea, **area**, Psalm, Maria, but **malaria**
Youth, south, southern, cleanse and **clean**, Doctrine, turpentine, **marine**

Compare alien with **Italian**, Dandelion and **battalion**
Sally with ally, yea and **ye**, Eye, I, ay, aye, whey, key, **quay**
Say aver, but ever, **fever**, Neither, leisure, skein, **deceiver**
Heron, granary, **canary**, Crevice and device and **aerie**

Face, but preface, not **efface**, Phlegm, phlegmatic, ass, glass, **bass**
Large, but target, gin, give, **verging**, Ought, out, joust and scour, **scourging**
Ear, but earn and wear but **tear**, Do not rhyme with here but **ere**
Seven is right, but so is **even**, Hyphen, roughen, nephew **Stephen**

Monkey, donkey, Turk and **jerk**, Ask, grasp, wasp, and cork and **work**
Pronunciation—think of **Psyche**! Is a paling stout and **spikey**?
Won't it make you lose your *wits*, Writing groats and saying *grits*?
It's a dark abyss or **tunnel**, Strewn with stones, stowed, solace, **gunwale**

Islington and Isle of **Wight**, Housewife, verdict and **indict**
Finally, what rhymes with '*enough*'? Though, through, plough, dough, cough or *tough*?
Hiccough has the sound of *cup*: My advice? Just give it *up*!