

HM TO SHADS IN UP TIBET

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Recently, while browsing through an old bookstore, having finished the Erotica I ran into the Esoterica. There, on a toadstool table topped with a Victorian mirror, I found a small pamphlet or notebook, badly worm-torn and dog-eared, obviously a poorly-bound student's scratch pad. The cover caught my eye; for just barely discernible was the faded inscription

D. M. Epehtpo
His Commonplace Book

The price, at five dollars, seemed excessive, but on impulse I bought it.

Most of the contents were completely undecipherable, the ink having almost disappeared. I caught a few words (?) such as "fumious", "brillig", and something that looked like "bandersnatch".

Fortunately, the central portion, probably since it had been protected from time's ravages, was clearer. I discovered the following very strange entry:

OW at the PX and JO on KP

There are no SHADS in far TIBET
An ADDER has no BEEFS
The fighting ANTS will have a BOUT
Don't give HER any IFS
In AYR the air has no BZS
A KOR of gin gets LPS
And also ADD a buzzing BEE
LOR call out the MPS
The Russian CZAR each eye he DABS
Blows a HORN IPSO
Goes to the SHOR but gives no TIPS
His FAN is his GBO
From a's to ZADS each will ABET
A STAR to shine on TUBS
Forget all IDS while on a JET
And do not CHAR the DIBS
Accept no NOS or else you'll OPT
To ADMIX coat and BENJY
The INS will never give a JOT
For PS on the QT
Spray no BZS upon thy CAT

No ROHU for a SPIV
 Though out of p's and Q'S thou 'RT
 Smith NEE Jones is OFF
 The dogs all GNAR when e'er he HOBS
 VDS to every WET
 Bad RNA can cause a SOB
No SHADS in far TIBET

On a separate page was the list -

SNEER / TOFFS	DUD / EVE	NUN / OVO
SHEER / TIFFS	END / FOE	DOM / EPN
SNOD / TOPE	ONS / POT	RHO / SIP
OHMS / PINT	TOR / UPS	NOD / OPE
ADDS / BEET	ZAX / ABY	

And the next page had the most cryptic inscription of all -

SGHR HR Z ITKHTR BZDRZQ BHOGDQ ZKRN
 BZKKDC Z BZDRZQ RTARSHSTSHNM

Although the whole thing makes little sense to me, I have sent it to Word Ways since there may be some logological interest in it.

I did check in Webster's Third Unabridged Dictionary and determined that all letter combinations in the "poem", no matter how strange in appearance, are legitimate words -- none is purely an abbreviation.