

ALL WATCHED OVER BY MACHINES OF LOVING GRACE

by Richard Brautigan

I like to think (and
the sooner the better!)
of a cybernetic meadow
where mammals and computers
live together in mutually
programming harmony
like pure water
touching clear sky.

I like to think
(right now, please!)
of a cybernetic forest
filled with pines and electronics
where deer stroll peacefully
past computers
as if they were flowers
with spinning blossoms.

I like to think
(it has to be!)
of a cybernetic ecology
where we are free of our labors
and joined back to nature,
returned to our mammal
brothers and sisters,
and all watched over
by machines of loving grace.

emotion is another form of information

feelings
like people
can they feel us?
can computers cry?
do they have feelings?
like people?

chemistry
touch feels totally different
all the little touches
every single atom
such abstract systems
we loose control
something electrical grows
from the fibres through the wire

emotion is another form of information

all the static
all the noise
network in the bowels
his skin is so sticky
so cold
so soothing

emotion is another form of information

from the grid to the computer
from the computer to the bowels
from the bowels to the distant star
from the distant star to the distant cloud

emotion is another form of information

love
care
future

emotion is information

All Watched Over by Machines of Loving Grace

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All Watched Over by Machines of Loving Grace is a celebration of trans-species unity between human, network and the radical other. A song of hope, lyrics based upon quotes formed during a collective dreaming session on the subject of networked intimacy and care.

A visual matrix session was held in Stavanger University in June 2022. The starting point of the collective dreaming session was a reading of the poem "All Watched Over by Machines of Loving Grace" by Richard Brautigan, written in 1967 during his poet-in-residency stay at the California Institute of Technology.

Selected quotes and images from the workshop has been translated and modified by the artist and neural networks to form the lyrics for the song "Emotion is Information". The toads in the video sing using the speech software SAM (Software Automatic Mouth) published for the Commodore 64 in the year 1982 by Don't Ask Software (now SoftVoice, Inc.). This piece borrows its title from the original poem by Richard Brautigan.

On the following 2 pages "All Watched Over by Machines of Loving Grace" is reproduced in its original form and the lyrics for the song "Emotion is Information" is placed next to it.