

To consider Chelsea Manning at Guangzhou Airport

1. *Scoping*

word docs surprise in the departure lounge
under foreign infomercials: the unrecognisable

pixels you are – fonts align
solvent cultures
from cabin to smoking alcove
the hour rebranded, air smartened, no biography necessary
is Triskelion not a drug?

diasporic maintenance /
movement the music of ideology,
try on breath:
beginnings, nothings, dwelling
on Chelsea's weak chin
& the edge on the air

2. *Prostrate*

doubt Europe's crowded skies
until further information

tepid rapport suggests itself
among those watching screens
from low places,
a sit-in
in the name of a face / here
it is the idea of Him that inspires
no more

the actuality of Her
and me
growing dimmer
in the distorted glow of
a new morning's haze

Barnaby Smith. 'To consider Chelsea Manning at Guangzhou airport'.
Transnational Literature Vol.10 no.2, May 2018.
<http://fhrc.flinders.edu.au/transnational/home.html>

illuminating factories in the distance
as if deleted scenes

Barnaby Smith

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