

Chapter 8

Sonata for Unaccompanied Achilles

Just call me on the horse-less talking machine – David Brookshire

8.1 Abstract

A Dialogue which imitates the Bach Sonatas for unaccompanied violin. In particular, Achilles is the only speaker, since it is a transcript of one end of a telephone call, at the far end of which is the Tortoise. Their conversation concerns the concepts of “figure” and “ground” in various contexts – e.g. Escher’s art. The Dialogue itself forms an example of the distinction, since Achilles’ lines form a “figure”, and the Tortoise’s lines – implicit in Achilles’ lines – form a “ground”. *GEB pp. viii - ix*

8.2 Study Questions

1. What was the tortoise doing that caused Achilles to twist his neck?
2. What was the tortoise’s ingenious but degenerate solution to the HE puzzle?
3. What was the tortoise’s second solution to the HE puzzle?
4. What is the solution to the ADAC puzzle?