

Learning to Fly

William Shatner

Into the distance,
a ribbon of black
Stretched to the point
of no turning back
A flight of fancy
on a windswept field
Standing alone
my senses reeled
Fatal attraction
is holding me fast,
How can I escape
this irresistible grasp?
Can't keep my eyes
from the circling skies
Tongue-tied and twisted
Just an earth-bound misfit,
I
Ice is forming
on the tips of my wings
Unheeded warnings,
I thought I thought of everything
No navigator
to find my way home
Unladen, empty
and turned to stone
The soul intention
is learning to fly
Condition grounded
but determined to try
God keep my eyes
from the circling skies
Tongue-tied and twisted
just an earth-bound misfit,
I
Friction lock set
Mixture rich
Propellers fully forward
Flaps set 10 degrees
Engine gauges and suction
check
Mixture set to maximum percent
recheck

Flight instruments...
Altimeters
check
both
(garbled word)
on
Navigation lights
on
Strobes
on
Confirm 3 8 Echo ready for departure
Hello again, this is now 129.4
129.4
It's to go.

You may commence your takeoff,
winds over 10 knots.
3 8 Echo
Easy on the brakes.
Take it easy.
Its gonna roll this time.
Just hand the power gradually,
and it...
Above the planet
on a wing and a prayer,
My grubby halo,
a vapour trail in the empty air,
Across the clouds
I see my shadow fly
Out of the corner
of my watering eye
To dream unthreatened
by the morning light
Could blow this soul
right through the roof of the night
There's no sensation
to compare with this
Suspended animation,
A state of bliss
Can't keep my mind
from the circling skies
Tongue-tied and twisted
just an earth-bound misfit,
I