**In Search of the Poopacabra**

Quark

Know it or not, your future as a Black Rock citizen depends on the well-being of the Poopacabra. Unfortunately, the Carnivorous Peripetia is a threat—enormous, illuminated creatures that dig up the Playa. To keep Poopacabras out of your face, you must ensure that your personal hygiene is up to par. By maintaining the cleanliness of your urinal, you contribute to the Playa's overall hygiene and prevent Poopacabra incursions.

**A Car-Free Playa**

Usedez the Playa as a means to an end! This year's Playa will be car-free for the first time ever. The Playa will be filled with people, bikes, and art, creating a unique atmosphere. So, let's make the most of this opportunity and enjoy the car-free Playa.

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**Spin Jam Classes**

Do you have a burning desire to spin, swirl, and dance with fire? First-timers and veterans alike can join in the fun at Infinite Enlightenment (8:30-10). Tutorials will be held for those who wish to learn how to spin flaming torches and enjoy it safely. Revealing a fire spinner? Gather with your flame-wielding brethren for the big spin jam on Thursday. Both fire and neon will light up the night. Friday and Saturday (Thur's S.A.M., sightseers), Infinite Enlightenment will blend fire and thermos in Primitivism’s Revenge at the Coliseum.

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**Sweet Spectacles**

Flocking Out There

On the Playa, the right to the Playa is a matter of survival. If you refuse to participate, you may be invited to attend. So, let's make the most of this opportunity and enjoy the car-free Playa.
Playing With Fire

So it wouldn’t be Burning Man without the fire, right? Although fire performance has been done nearly to death, somehow this is the one environment where fire might actually fit. It’s not totally passé yet. So, fire fiends, you should remember a few things that will keep you and your spectators from becoming shade-chasing, foot-stomping, side-splitting, spin-off the exhaust fire, it is simply rude to light up and spray a bunch of people with water, and it’s just wrong to allow even worse, light an explosion.

The playa is also alkaline. Why? A combination of desert climate and mineral salts.

The surface of the playa changes annually, this year the top inch is softer and more powdery than usual. The playa typically breaks up in the winter as the frost thaws, then regroups when it floods in the spring, creating the familiar cracked surface. Lack of spring rains this year prevented the normal breaking up of the playa, leaving instead a soft crust that easily becomes airborne, as you may have noticed.

Loki the Trickster of the Earth Guardians says: “I have seen the worst dust storms in my history on the playa this year. Imagine not being able to see the front of your truck and choking on the air you breathe.”

Dust storms can build gradually, or can descend upon the playa as a gray wall two miles high. They last from a few minutes to several hours.

Dust storms are a natural symbol of suffering and poverty. In the Babylonian Epic of Gilgamesh, King Gilgamesh doesn’t accept the ancientpredicament vision: “There is the house whose people sit in darkness; dust is their food and clay their meat. They are clothed like hawks with wings for covering, so they see no light, they sit in darkness. I entered the house of dust and I saw the kings of earth, their crowns put away forever.”

The Babylon’s scribes say, “Oh, Children of Men! Know ye not why We have created you all from the same dust? That no one shall exalt himself over the other.”

In the Bible, Jehovah threatens to bring on the land of Israel, as a punishment for forsaking Him, a rain of “powder and dust” (Deut. 28:24). To cast dust on the head was a sign of mourning (Job 7:6), and to sit in dust, signify extreme affliction (Isa. 47:1) To throw dust at someone is a sign of abhorrence (1 Sam. 16:13); and to lick the dust indicates abject submission (Ps. 72:9). Temple of Atone ment - you may want to consider that last bit.

Ironically, the song “Dust in the Wind” has had unintended religious significance, according to Kerry Livgren, a former member of secular rock group Kansas. “More people have been led to Christ with the song “Dust in the Wind” than with everything else I’ve ever written. Not only did that song not mention Jesus, but I was not a Christian at the time. It just happened to be a truth that the song emphasized,” he told Contemporary Christian Music Magazine in February 1981. I wonder if he knows that some people mishear the lyrics as: “Ducks in the Wind... All we are is ducks in the Wind.”

The fear of dust is called amathophobia. This reporter’s life has been strongly affected by dust. My grandfather was an Okie during the drought in the 1930’s. The dust bowl region of the Great Plains suffered years of sustained drought until it basically dried up and blew away.

Dust drove my grandfather out of Oklahoma. He became a migrant farmerwork, dragging the family from farm to field. The Grapes of Wrath IS my family history. They eventually settled in Bakersfield, which was also but a temporary nesting place. The good stuff on escaped Bakersfield, and had kids. We ended up in Marin, and I performed at the Renaissance Faire until I started evaluation. I was awful. As an adult, I came to Burning Man. More dust.

I am allergic to dust particles.