

— STEFANO JEFF BLUES —

AUREA FAMES

T E N T R A N S A C T I O N S F O R A V A N I S H I N G S O U L



LIBER NIGER
LEDGER OF ACCOUNT

ASSETS
LIABILITIES
MEMORIES
PROMISES
NAMES
REGRETS
INTEREST

BALANCE

ACCOUNT BOOK

X

T R A N S A C T I O N S

PARENTAL
ADVISORY
EXPLICIT CONTENT

X
T R A N S A C T I O N S
• O N E N I G H T •

FIRMA QUI.
FIRMA ANCORA.
FIRMA SENZA NOME.

28.93
28.89
43.93
19.89
33.95
33.93

T E N T R A N S A C T I O N S F O R A V A N I S H I N G S O U L



HUNGER FOR GOLD

Aurea Fames is the craving for wealth.

Money not simply as a desire for wealth, but as a physical need that cannot be satisfied. It is a paradoxical hunger: instead of diminishing when it is fed, it grows. Gold therefore becomes the symbol of a desire that promises completeness yet continually produces a new lack.

LIBER NIGER

LEDGER OF ACCOUNT

ASSETS	+
MEMORIES	-
PROMISES	-
NAMES	-
REGRETS	+
INTEREST	+

BALANCE	∞
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Aurea Fames tells of the gradual transformation of a man who tries to assign an economic value to everything and ends up applying the same principle to his own identity. The protagonist is called "the Accountant".

The whole album takes place, ideally, during a single night, inside an almost deserted financial city. The Accountant is given the chance to close, before dawn, the definitive deal: a transaction able to grant him incalculable wealth.

**TO COMPLETE IT, HOWEVER, TEN AUTHORIZATIONS ARE
REQUIRED.**

EACH ONE CORRESPONDS TO A RENUNCIATION.

At first these surrenders seem mere formalities. Progressively, however, what is handed over no longer belongs to the material world alone. The Accountant begins to sacrifice his time, his affections, his memories, his voice, his face and finally his name.



The ten tracks therefore represent ten successive transactions and ten stages in the disappearance of the individual.

The central paradox of the album is that the protagonist seeks freedom in money, yet every new conquest makes him ever more dependent on what he owns.

**BY THE END OF THE NIGHT HIS
ECONOMIC BALANCE IS PERFECTLY
POSITIVE.**

HIS HUMAN BALANCE, INSTEAD, IS
IMPOSSIBLE TO CALCULATE.

When dawn arrives, the Accountant has obtained everything he wanted, but he can no longer remember for whom, or for what reason, he wished to become rich.

SURRENDERS

TIME	-
AFFECTIONS	-
MEMORIES	-
VOICE	-
FACE	-
NAME	-



THE TRANSFORMATION

Aurea Fames tells of the transformation of the Accountant, who moves from the conviction that everything possesses a measurable value to applying the same logic to his own existence. His hunger for wealth in fact arises from an inner void and from the need to feel recognized: every conquest, instead of satisfying him, generates a new lack. Progressively memories, affections, relationships and time become goods to be assessed and sacrificed, until he confuses what he owns with what he is. The search for freedom through money thus turns into dependence, because the more he accumulates, the more he must protect and multiply what he has obtained. The Accountant understands what he is losing, yet chooses to continue, taking responsibility for his own dissolution. Behind every gain, therefore, an invisible debt grows, made of broken promises, abandoned people, lost time and feelings turned into numbers. The final paradox is that, in trying to prove his own worth, the protagonist sacrifices precisely what gave him human worth: the hunger for gold reveals itself as a hunger for recognition, identity and meaning that no wealth can truly appease.



TRANSACTIONS

TEN VOICES · ONE NIGHT

-
- I THE VALUE OF THINGS
-
- II COMPOUND INTEREST
-
- III THE THIRTEENTH HOUR
-
- IV GOLDEN HANDS
-
- V INVENTORY OF AFFECTIONS
-
- VI INVISIBLE DEBT
-
- VII SELLING YOUR NAME
-
- VIII THE EMPTY VAULT
-
- IX BALANCE OF THE SOUL
-
- X DAWN AT CLOSED TRADING
-





THE VALUE OF THINGS

In the night city the Accountant looks at a faceless coin and understands that everything can have a price. Then he looks at people and asks himself a new question: how much is a man worth?



COMPOUND INTEREST

The first gain generates another, and then another still. The Accountant discovers the intoxication of growth. Having enough is no longer enough: stopping now already feels like a loss.



THE THIRTEENTH HOUR

Money can buy almost everything, the Accountant thinks, so perhaps time as well. He therefore tries to purchase a thirteenth hour, without realizing that every minute gained is taken away from life.





GOLDEN HANDS

Whatever he touches rises in price, but loses something invisible. A house becomes property, a gift an investment, a person a contact. His hands produce gold, but can no longer give warmth.



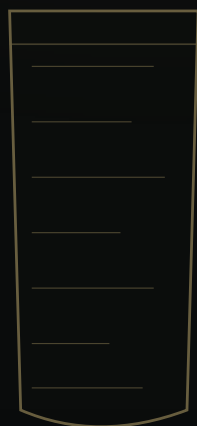
INVENTORY OF AFFECTIONS

The Accountant opens his register and enters the people he loves. To each he assigns risk, cost and yield. Names become figures and even memories end up turned into data.



INVISIBLE DEBT

In the ledger appear accounts he does not remember writing: broken promises, forgotten people, lost days. No figure can erase them. It is the debt that wealth cannot settle.





SELLING YOUR NAME

He is granted one last chance to stop, but the Accountant chooses to sign. This time the price is his name. After the signature no one can call him any more: the man becomes anonymous.



THE EMPTY VAULT

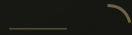
At last he reaches the promised vault. He opens it, but inside finds no money: only another room and another vault. He understands then that he has built an endless fortress around emptiness.





BALANCE OF THE SOUL

It is time for the balance. On one side is everything he has won, on the other what he can no longer remember. The result is perfect, but the man who should have benefited from it no longer exists.



DAWN AT CLOSED TRADING

At dawn the market falls silent. The Accountant finds the faceless coin again, but now he recognizes his own features on its surface. Someone picks it up and the cycle seems ready to begin again.



“WHEN NO ONE IS BUYING, HOW MUCH IS A MAN WORTH?”

SYMBOLOLOGY

THE FACELESS COIN

It represents value separated from identity. Through the story it progressively takes on the features of the Accountant, up to the closing revelation.

THE BLACK LEDGER

It records wealth and human loss at the same time. The economic entries are visible; the moral ones remain hidden until it is too late.

THE GOLDEN HANDS

They represent the ability to increase the economic value of things while destroying, at the same time, their sentimental value.

THE THIRTEEN-HOUR CLOCK

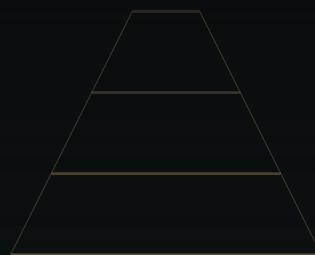
It represents the attempt to turn even time that does not exist into profit. The thirteenth hour is the one the man believes he can buy.

THE LIT WINDOW

A single window lit in the dark city. At first it appears as a symbol of ambition and perseverance. Progressively it takes on the look of a safe.

THE BLACK WATER

It is the protagonist's submerged conscience. It appears in glass, in puddles and in reflections as something that goes on existing beneath the rational surface of the transactions.



The essential point is that awareness does not automatically produce redemption.

The Accountant understands what is happening before the end, yet continues all the same.

That choice makes his fall a responsibility and not simply a sentence imposed on him.



IF EVERYTHING CAN BE BOUGHT, HOW
MUCH IS SOMEONE WORTH WHO HAS
ALREADY SOLD HIMSELF?

MUSIC BY STEFANO JEFF BLUES

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