

1 - Last Pages of the First Surrealist Manifesto

One Single type of Human Thought

Breton and Science...

“ And from then on, it takes me a great desire to consider with indulgence *The scientific reverie*, so unbecoming in the end, in all respects. Wireless? Good. Syphilis? If you want. Photography? I have no problem with that. The movie theater? Bravo for the dark rooms. The war? We laughed well. The phone? Hello yes. The youth? Charming white hair. Try to get me to say thank you, “Thank you...” Thank you. ”

Science Researchers Motivations

“ If the common man has a high opinion of things which properly speaking belong to the realm of the laboratory, it is because such research has resulted in the manufacture of a machine or the discovery of some serum which the man in the street views as affecting him directly. *He is quite sure that they have been trying to improve his lot.*

I am not quite sure to what extent scholars are motivated by humanitarian aims, but it does not seem to me that this factor constitutes a very marked degree of goodness. ”

Actual Scientists versus “Rationalist” Ones

“ I am, of course, referring to **true scientists** and not to the vulgarizers and popularizers of all sorts who take out patents.

In this realm as in any other, I believe in **the pure Surrealist Joy** of the man who, forewarned that all others before him have failed, refuses to admit defeat, **sets off from whatever point he chooses, along any other path except a reasonable one, and arrives wherever he can.** ”

Research Apparatus & Academic Packaging of Results

“ Such and such an image, by which he deems it opportune to indicate his progress and which may result, perhaps, in his receiving public acclaim, is to me, I must confess, a matter of complete indifference.

Nor is the material with which he must perforce encumber himself; *his glass tubes or my metal pens...* “

As for Thought, "Scientific Method" is a Tale

“ As for his method, I am willing to give it as much credit as I do mine.

I have seen the inventor of the cutaneous plantar reflex at work; he manipulated his subjects without respite, it was much more than an "examination" he was employing; ***it was obvious that he was following no set plan.*** Here and there he formulated a remark, distantly, without nonetheless setting down his needle, while his hammer was never still. ***He left to others the futile task of curing patients. He was wholly consumed by and devoted to that sacred fever.***”

Absentmindedness... And Freedom of thought

“ Surrealism, such as I conceive of it, asserts our complete nonconformism clearly enough so that there can be no question of produce it, at the trial of the real world, as evidence for the defense.

It could, on the contrary, only serve to justify the **state of complete distraction** which we hope to achieve on earth. Kant's absentmindedness regarding women, Pasteur's absentmindedness about "grapes," Curie's absentmindedness with respect to vehicles, are in this regard profoundly symptomatic.

This world is only very relatively in tune with thought, and incidents of this kind are only the most obvious episodes of a war in which I am proud to be participating. ”