

P.25 "PARTLY COLLAPSES & PARTLY COMES TOGETHER"

JPSP
Masked as
together
Small

WHAT IS LITERATURE by J-PS

I.
What is Writing?

p.2: "But the dim little meaning which dwells within it, alight joy, a timid sadness, remains immanent or trembles about it like a heat..."

p.7: "The crisis of language which broke out at the beginning of this century is a poetic crisis. Whatever the social & historical factors, it manifested itself by attacks of depersonalization of the writer in the face of words."

p.22: "the writer should engage himself completely in his works...as a choice, as this total enterprise of living that each one of us is..."

II.
Why Write?

p.23: "Each of our perceptions is accompanied by the consciousness that human reality is a 'revealer'..."

p.25: "This dialectic is nowhere more apparent than in the art of writing: the literary object is a peculiar top which exists only in movement. The writer neither foresees nor conjectures; he projects."

p.31: "Freedom is alienated in the state of passion; it is abruptly engaged in partial enterprises; it loses sight of its task which is to produce an absolute end."

III.
For Whom Does One Write?

p.43: Freedom "is nothing else but the movement by which one perpetually upsets and liberates himself. There is no given freedom."

p.69: "In the 17th c., by choosing to write a man embraced a definite profession with the tricks of the trade, its rules & customs, its rank in the hierarchy of the professions. In the 18th c., the molds were broken..."

p.89: "...after 1918 one wrote in order to consume lit: one squandered literary traditions hushed together words, then threw them against each other to make them shatter. Lit. as Negation became Anti-lit. 'never had it been more literary: the circle was completed.' (festival)"

p.99: "When I come to say later on that it found its belated fulfillment & its end in Trotskyising surrealism, one will better understand the function it assumes in a too closed society: it was a safety valve. After all, it's not so far from the perpetual holiday to the permanent revA"

"However, the 19th c. was the time of the writer's transgression & fall. Had he accepted unclassing from below, had he given his art a content, he would have carried on with other means & on another plane the undertaking of his predecessors...."

IV. SITUATION OF THE WRITER IN 1947

p.110: "In England, the intellectuals are less integrated into the collectivity than we...because remote predecessors whom we hardly deserve prepared the Revolution, the class in power, after a c. & a half still us the honor of fearing us a little, writers make a virtue of necessity and...attempt

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