

MARABUNTA

THE CREATION AND CONTEMPLATION OF NON - EXISTENT ENTITIES

by Angelo Cornuto, B.A.

The Marabunta school of poetry with all description or representation of any existing situation, object, or emotion. It does not try, as did Baudelaire and the symbolists, to find mystical truth or to explore the shadowy regions of the human consciousness by use of images which are logically incongruous but in which, however, a congruity can intuitively be apprehended.

The symbolists have sometimes tried to use poetry as an instrument for attaining enlightenment. Marabunta is totally meaningless.

These comparisons with the symbolist movement are being made because the symbolists have done things that Marabunta might mistakenly be believed to be trying to do again.

A Marabunta poem is a conglomeration of images for the sake of images. It is not necessarily an attempt to build up an atmosphere. It can sometimes be an attempt to coagulate an atmosphere which could not be conceived without the Marabunta poem

which expresses it. In any case, a Marabunta poem is not meant to represent anything and is itself what it represents.

Some might argue that if Marabunta poetry has no basis in anything that can be coherently fitted into a systematizable conception of the human mind or of the universe, then anyone could write down some incomprehensible gibberish and claim that it is a perfect poem because it is perfectly just what it is. The whole point of Marabunta poetry is to communicate within the realm described by the principle of not representing anything at all. As that which Marabunta poetry commun-

icates is not based on anything that exists, it cannot be described in any way but by writing a Marabunta poem. The writing of the poem does perhaps in a way become the experience that the poet communicates, since words and conceptions can be used as "take-off" points. (MAYBE Marabunta poetry will at some time reach a point where it can be premeditated.)

The only test of a good Marabunta poem is that it communicates something to the reader and that which it communicates not only does not, but cannot, exist outside the Marabunta poem.

SONNET No. 69

by Haviland Arbuthnot, B.A.

My father wears an aged purple feather
To bolster up the elephantine beam.
He has a shoulder holster made of leather.
He sits and pets a zebra with a scream.
My MOTHER tears up strips of soaked seaweed.
Her hair is long and braided in a "zee".
She sits upon a stool and eats a colloid.
She croaks and shouts at coaled cups of tea.
My brother sees a snake in every shoebox.
He giggles and he mutters as he peers.
He puts his little finger on his smallpox
And quivers at the steps which bend the stairs
The aged feather on the windowsill
Won't last forever, but these verses will !

SONNET No. 153

by Angelo Cornuto, B.A.

Go, feeble crow, and castigate the rood.
Come pin a paper angel on my brow.
Full long enough my grandfather hath mewed
At leafy prongs upon his rusted plow.
The obligatos of a tin cocoon
Of late have disarranged my peevish Rib.
O Crow, sustain the wrinkle in the rune
And nuture bald diseases o'er the crib.
Yet, dirt within the crevices of love
Dispels all good the muckle raven wreaks;
And gastronomes shriek benisons above
Amid the litter of the gluttoned beaks.
Consider then, the things that would distort
The cheeses' grieving for its humble sort.

A place in the sun for France

By A. St. G. Abbott

Relinquishing her post-war claim to being the "sick man of Europe" ("sick woman" might be a happier phrase, since there is something quintessentially female in the image of France), the French nation has undergone a tremendous rejuvenation since the advent of de Gaulle's Fifth Republic.

The remarkable speed and scale of this rejuvenation seem at present to be but dimly apprehended in North America. Yet France has now become a leading world industrial power, with a strong currency and a steadily growing export surplus. She has succeeded in curbing inflation and yet spends more on aid to under-developed countries than any nation except the United States. For the first time in many years there appears to be an expansion in the French population, while the post-war problems of Empire (with the massive exception of Algeria) have been solved, not by France, but for her.

Architect of Prosperity

It is of course true that not infrequently bloody riots occur, and that a quarter of the electorate is likely to vote for the Communist ticket when given the chance. Also, the continual plots against General de Gaulle threaten at any moment the sudden removal of

the principal architect of France's prosperity. These worries cannot alter, however, the encouraging fact of national rebirth.

Side by side with growing prosperity there has been another development of great importance—the fact that the French no longer fear the Germans (or rather the 50 million Germans in West Germany). The one thing that would cause the French to fear the Germans again would be if West Germany were to break away from Western Europe and form a re-united Germany, neutral to it not allied with the Russians. It is therefore an absolute necessity for France, if not to grapple Germany to her with hoops of common European steel, at least to bind her as strongly as possible to Western Europe and the Atlantic alliance.

Britain and E. C. M.

The new relationship between France and West Germany has also affected Anglo-French relations in an important way. Hitherto de Gaulle's attitude towards Britain's entry into the European Common Market has been positively obstructive. This no doubt stemmed from his fear that the weight of Britain entering the boat, insisting on accommodating all her Commonwealth relations with her, would rock it severely, if not sink it outright. Also France's hand would no longer remain so securely on the helm.

In recent weeks there have been signs of a relaxation in de Gaulle's attitude to Britain's entry.

This may stem from the fact that de Gaulle's attitude to political, as opposed to economic, union in Europe is nearer to that of London than to that of Bonn or Brussels. General de Gaulle's attitude towards political aspects of European union favours nothing much more than machinery for close consultation. The remaining 5 of "the 6" advocate distinctly federal ideas, perhaps with a directly elected Assembly. Since Britain's attitude would certainly be more in sympathy with de Gaulle's than with a complete political union, the General may have appreciated the need for an ally which, by insisting on keeping Britain British, may also assist France in remaining French.

De Gaulle's attitude towards the larger issues of relations with Russia and the Berlin question is partly shaped by the factors I have discussed; the need to retain West Germany bound to Western Europe, and the need for West Europe to be sufficiently united and strong to be able to influence an American policy which, in regard to foreign affairs, traditionally tends towards a dangerous naivety.

De Gaulle's Charisma

One of the most remarkable things about General de Gaulle is the way he so often manages to make his influence felt without, so to speak, any visible means of support. Single handedly he has succeeded in imposing his views on Kennedy and MacMillan regarding the inadvisability of negotiating with Khrushchev over Berlin—at least for the present. Such is the respect for this formidable man in the councils of the West, that for so long as he is alive France can be assured of her influence there. After his death (one can hardly conceive of a second retirement now), French prosperity will continue, but her influence will wane.



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