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What wants to know Mr. P. M. Apostol Department of Theoretical Physics, Institute of Atomic Physics, Magurele-Bucharest MG-6, POBox MG-35, Romania email: apoma@theory.nipne.ro

My friend Mr. P. has publicly challenged me to buttress the Romanian scientific research, as if this would be within my powers. He would have learned that I had a minister in my pocket and prompted me, in our specific Balcanic style, to intercede with this higher-up to give money "of research", for the "researchers' " empty pockets are "crying" out for money.

Along the same line, he asserted that I would "know a lot of things" and, on this occasion, inquired me into the secret plans which he presumed I would have with my minister - and we, the others, must know them in order to devise ways and means of insinuating and infiltrating ourselves, as any other impartial Romanian does.

This is the same Mr. P. who on a previous occasion, was publicly picking on the said minister saying that: "he says one thing and "smokes" another".

Here's my answer to Mr. P.

Dear Friends,

Obviuosly, Mr.P. was trying to provoke me into replying and I hope I am not intruding by submitting You my answer.

I do know a lot of things, I always did. My profession is to know a lot of things. But I never kept them secret.

On his own sweet way and with his well-known gracefulness, as always, Mr. P. stands up for research. But I am asking You: whose research? Mine, Mr. P's, Yours, theirs, ours? For this is quite fuzzy.

The Romanian research? Let me put it in a nutshell.

Countless of false scientific researches performed in universities, aberrant scientific researches carried out in the Romanian Academy, occult departmental research, an enslaved, perverted and abused scientific research conducted in national institutes.

Who is to blame for this? Why, ourselves of course, and our scientific managers marching in front.

We are to blame because we talk wrong and act wrong; because we are greedy and have no God.

What are the salaries of the directors and the scientific managers running the Romanian scientific research? After 35 years of activity, my colleague E.C., doctor in physics, senior researcher II, received a retirement pension of 7 million lei (approximately 175 euro). What are the salaries of the scientific managers? And how much bonus do they get ? Do you know? Is there any comparison whatsoever?

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What are the incomes of those scientific research "engineers" beneficiaries of the 4000 euro granted by the Romanian Government Decision no. 475/2007? These highly-connected dummies with all Romanian agencies of the so-called "research" which have, moreover, impossible acronyms?

How much cumulate these cumulards in the Romanian research and university education system? Our Cathy the chatty, is today beside minister, member of parliament and university rector and professor and the boss of all women and men rectors. Do you think she will stop if she is not stopped? Do you think that professors and academicians will ever stop by themselves as if their helical spring reaches the maximum elongation and they cannot be pushed any further?

A former minister of research in Romania got his Ph.D degree while a minister, another one was studying the "psychopathic virtual reality" (*i.e.* he puts a lot of PCs in the hospitals of mental diseases)– a "small" project that pays off big

Have these defective individuals not destroyed the education system in Romania for which we now weep and mourn so pharisaically?

Are they not some young bucks who strive to grab all they can - including the airs and graces? Do we not pet them on their heads, spit them on their foreheads (to ward off the evil eye), stroke their haircut and then put them on the buttonhole? For they (just) came from America!

Are we not betrayed by the trade unions? Do you think the trade unions ring their bells for the common man? No way! Wishful thinking! Their bells are ringing for us and our pals – the moneybags. Dear friends we cannot but get sad!

How many aberrant research projects are not heavily- and ultra-heavily funded by our agencies of the so-called "research"? Why our extremely vocal managers shirk from turning out transparently their pockets? Pockets to control, please! Let's walk out of the temple and turn out our pockets: you, me, all those who talk so passionately of "our poor research"! Let's do it, please! I kindly ask you to do that! Jesus Christ is knocking at the door. Come along! ("Balls to the walls!" as sailors say).

There are about 10, 50, 100 embittered researchers working in our scientific research, who are marginalized, humiliated, derided by these fed up, alleged managers, leaders, projects directors, retiring agents. Romania – swine's country!

Would you not welcome a slice of justice? Let's beware of what we wish for because we just might get it.

The other months, I went - a poor naïve in T - shirt and sneakers with only one salary and no back to prop myself up – to became a poor head of my Department of Theoretical Physics (where I am working in for 35 years). The Honorable Joint Management Board of my Institute rejected me – delicately, I must say – arguing that I put it awry not straight. This is the Romanian scientific research.

To cut a long story short, we must: suppress the false, aberrant, foolish research activity in universities, Romanian Academy, departments; introduce a single payment scheme; strictly forbid the cumulation of salaries and positions; eliminate the research projects; stop the onerous payments across Europe and elsewhere. Let's chase away from the temple the Pharisee and Sadducee!

This is what you want to know, dear Mr. p.! And if you find it difficult to accept all these it's because you do not smoke. Generally speaking, a non-smoker should refrain from judging a smoker.

'Cause he dunno about tobacco!

(Translated from Romanian Antiphys. Rev. 158 (2009) by Iulia Negoitza)

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