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### Letters to the System. 1. Derision and humiliation

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The System does not want to consider for the annual evaluation of the activity neither my books (1200 pages in the last 3 years), nor my articles in J.Theor.Phys. (an average of 10 per year), nor the general seminars held at Magurele – mine and my collaborators’. From my total of about 1300 points of evaluation it cuts around 700. I ain’t offended by it nor take offence at this, and I ain’t vexed either ‘cause with the remainder of my publications I still have the highest score in the institute (except for a couple of proved perjurers), I’m just amusing myself a little bit with matters of principle as the old Greeks used to do while walking on the empty shore of the Aegean Sea. They reject my books on the alleged reason that they come out with my own publishing house (as if they would have wanted them to appear in theirs!); they reject J. Theor. Phys. because it is mine, not theirs and it is not ISI either (viz. it is not approved by Philadelphia Institute of Scientific Information-ISI, a private company that gives preference to whomever it wants; as if I would approve them!). They reject my seminars because they are noticeable and conspicuous. In 2010 I initiated a series of 6 general seminars (together with MG) in which I solved 3 major problems (all of the current problems, I think!) on the workplan for the next 20 years proposed by ELI (“Extreme Light Infrastructure”), the famous Romanian-European-International Research Programme. All the results were published in 2010 and 2011 in 4 or 5 ISI publications. One of them was highly appreciated by the editors and held the main highlight webpage of the respective publication for about a month. During that time, the System was organizing an international “workshop” on the same subjects. Although everyone knew about my successes, no one said a word about it at this workshop, neither ours nor theirs. Silenzio stampa! for the gypsies in Bucharest. I just wonder how they would have rejected me if I had wanted to deliver a presentation at that “workshop”. Luckily for them, I do not speak twice on the same subject.

Am I a braggart like Tartarin? With such people, yes I am and this is exactly what they deserve! Maybe they want me to be a liar like themselves. Such accusations coming from this sort of people leave me completely cold. Maybe they want me to keep my head down, like a bashful damsel, when it is about my Physics. My modesty is not for their noses. Unlike them I know my limits; unfortunately for them my limits are extremely large, virtually infinite. They are overwhelmed by their own limits, they cannot get an insight about them because these limits are all over them - inside and on, they cannot see them for they should take some distance in order to be able to do this.

I may be a braggart, but the problems I’m boasting myself about were lying unsolved for dozens of years and were to remain so for other dozens of years. Whether they like it or not (I know they don’t) I solved them. From now on they are definitely solved. By myself. Maybe they have a grudge against me for this reason? Well, let them have it! Maybe I seem repulsive, indecent, grotesque to them? Well, this is the exact perception they should have of me; actually, this is the

way I am with them. At the mere hearing of my name they must shiver with fear, be seized with agonizing colics, turn pale and then blue, like a rancid, baldy mushroom burnt by a scorching sun, nothing shall remain from them but a putrid wish-wash; and when they see me, may they be paralyzed by a sudden apoplectic seizure, may they feel as if the prophet Elijah, the patron of thunders and bolts strikes them. I will tell God Almighty about them.

Since the beginning of the modern age, after World War II, the society has treated scientific research like a hot potato: it didn't have any idea what to do with this research, it didn't know what to ask from it, where to put it. First of all, the society demanded scientific research to make money, by producing economic stuff through the basic-applied-technological chain, according to the doctrine of Vannegar Bush. This philosophy lasted for decades until it became blindingly obvious that the scientific research will never ever be a money-making enterprise. Quite the contrary, it proved to be money-consuming and the technological findings give the scientific research much trouble and a lot of work. The whole matter was completely upside down. After serious consideration of this issue, it was decided to demand scientific research to provide education and training. But it turned out that the researchers doing double duty as professors disqualified themselves pretty quickly, in just a few years of professorship, and were no longer capable of teaching the young generations absolutely anything. Big trouble again! The matter went awry once more! Cannot make head or tail of this scientific research! When they came a little to their senses they demanded scientific research to bring them fame. As a result, there was much talk about "intellectual leadership"; nowadays, ISI is in vogue and every surly mediocrity is trying to put on a smug patronizing air in the scientific research. Consequently, the impostors overran and all its distinctive features and marks were falsified; stupid soldiers are now trampling everywhere in the scientific research wearing counterfeit, stolen general uniforms; such a situation was occurring solely in Lenin's Bolshevik Army. These soldiers dare to judge me today.

The System finds feverishly all kinds of dirty tricks to reject me, but each time I wave the ace of spade (my genuine professional expertise and results) under their nose. This stirs them up, upsets them, arouses their envy, triggers their hatred and confuses their mind (the little one they have!). And this is precisely what I am looking for. I answer hereby both the System and a good former university colleague, currently director in the system.

Thank you, dear V., for the recent information you have sent me by p-isar ("p" from pico, or picolino, that small fiddler playing at big houses, who became boss).

In 1990 I set up a (non-commercial) publishing house, named "apoma", located at Magurele (back then I also set up the first private Romanian firm of research and consulting, "Apofysa" – I dissolved it in 1992, but that's another story! I was no. 34 in the Register of Commerce, when P and T were just no. 80!). Since 1995 I have regularly published 2 journals (Jornal of Theoretical Physics and Antiphysical Review) with my "apoma", for which I bought two ISSN and which are freely available online; these journals are now at issue no.170 and 180 respectively; tell me, what is the total number of issues per year for each of them and... for how many years? Since the aforementioned period I have also published my books with my publishing house (I do not have ISBNs, you need one for each book and since the books I write are more numerous than the money I have, it would have cost me much too much). I support the cost of the books (4-5 copies) and journals from my own pocket. Are all these things wrong? I have mentioned the ISSNs to demonstrate that my publishing house is operative and not to mistake them for the books!

Other authors are also welcomed to publish in my journals (and books) provided that they can pass not only my international and relatively confidential reviewers but, especially, pass me. A few have succeeded in this undertaking. Why do the members of our Scientific Board who are evaluating their colleagues not attempt this as well? Am I not saying it well? I am not a member of this

Scientific Board, some people did not want me there. I fully understand them, it is democracy, I would not have wanted them either (actually I didn't; nor would I have elected them in the Scientific Board!). Am I saying it well?

I do not think that as many as 1200 book pages that I wrote in the last 3 years (all of them original, most of them in English) can be so easily ignored by the System's evaluators. It is against nature and we set a bad example. Of course, my publishing house is not acknowledged by cncsis (a kind of council of the System) (neither did I ask it to be), but I do not acknowledge cncsis either, most of it anyway (let all of them together write 1200 original book pages in 3 years and then, maybe, up to a point, they will be on a par with me). I have received an invitation from ISI (under some circumstances) to allow them to monitor and rank my J. Theor. Phys. I turned them down. Did I do wrong?

I resume the proposal that I have recently made to you in writing: include a few additional criteria on your evaluation sheet. As I accept your criteria, shouldn't you also accept mine? Are we colleagues, or ...? Am I doing bad things for the System? Then why do you not listen to me on such small matters? Heaven knows that I never claim your attention when it comes to important ones. Am I saying it well?

I fully know that everything is perfunctory (as the song goes "Don't cry Johnny/ Crying is play-acting/ Jeanne isn't dead/ Jeanne is just transforming"), so let's throw pepper into ancs's eyes (kind of ministry of the system) and others' as well. However, if all is for the sake of appearances, what would it cost us to do what I say, after all I am not speaking seriously and it's not a big deal either. I do not want, Heaven forbids!, to interfere with your all too important business, but if we hang around anyway why should we not accept insignificant details also, such as those mentioned here? Am I saying it well?

I expect from the system to forbid me to publish my journals (to enter the institute, to go to the toilet etc., etc.). I am ready for everything. We shall have a new history. Ordinary people took pride in Feynman but sent Onsager away. I am in between (please, excuse my modesty!). But I am inured to this situation. I will carry it off, with joy and love for all of you. Am I not saying it well?

If the System's evaluators ignore me, shall I ignore them too? They are the ones who should provide me with an explanation as to why I keep using my personal address - known since 1984 - instead of saying the System affiliation. Am I not saying it well? Shall we push the things towards an internal civil war? All of you against me? Really...Come on...! Do you venture and dare?

I offer you collaboration. Comradeship and friendship. Collegiality. Shall I understand that the System does not respond to my offer? Am I saying it well?

I am fully aware that I am different from the rest of the people, but do we have rules for different people? Isn't it better to lump people together (with all my comrades in the System, as I would like; mind you: comrades not colleagues! All of you!), to morally distinguish the worthy ones, and, of course, without giving them any salary supplement whatsoever but a cheap satisfaction? A big kiss in the General Meeting will do! (God forbids!). Am I not saying it well? Please, do help me to feel just once a member of my System. In line with others, with grief. Am I not saying it well?

Will the sky falls down, will the heavens shake if you include a special criterion in your evaluation sheet and say: "Yes, here are  $n$ th thousand points for Mr. A! Good for him! Anyway, you will be saying further, this is of absolutely no importance (the flies are many too, but small!), we keep paying him the same salary as the others (of his class?)". (Particularly that in the years to come I will no longer have these points. Did you know that?). Am I not saying it well? I know how

hard it may be for you to do this, but without such an exercise of honesty we cannot see ourselves well. Nor one another!

Do I have a salary (an income) of 2-3-4-5-6-7-8-10-...thousand Euros as many others in the System? What about you? Do you have such a salary? Do not you think that it's time to instil a desire for emulation in the System? If you work and produce books, journals (hold seminars!) etc., well, then we can go ahead with the research, Directors will praise you at the Working People Meeting "take example from...(I was almost saying from A). By the way, who shall we take example from? Do you not think that we should concern ourselves a little with moral issues? Am I not saying it well?

I know, you will call on the Scientific Council, the criteria, the laws, etc. I neither know nor care about all these. There is no law whatsoever preventing you from praising honestly a worthy man, a colleague. Am I right?

Because we pander anyway to people getting prizes from subversive and reactionary agents (well, there still are, like the Japanese soldier lost in the jungle, a few crackpots!); because we stay in all our fours in front of those who are in the pay of murky underworld individuals selling on the international black market the Dacian bracelets (by the way, do you know about this? Do you know the implications that lie beneath?); because we forbid our people to participate in the International Conferences held in Romania; because we hide from and are ashamed of the good people around us (whom we diligently surround with the "conspiracy of silence", the well-known tactic); because we promote proven thieves (yes, yes, absolutely and unquestionably proven! Don't you know this either?) of ISI scores with a maximum h (this h is a kind of nose, the longer the nose the worthier he who has it!); because we award prizes to all sorts of lute players, fiddlers and other useless loafers for the sole reason that they are young and come from good families, and Moscow etc.,etc. Isn't it so?

Well done! May we live long! But we will not live well if we go on like this!

This whole message is a figure of speech in my own particular style. Do not take it amiss! I observe the Decree no.400 (against the alcohol) but I take for granted only what I see with my own eyes and hear with my own ears.

All the best and I'll be seeing you ! May we hear good news! Am I not saying it well? M.

(Although he is extremely busy, maybe you find an opportunity for acquainting Mr. Director with this text of mine. I am certain he will enjoy reading it during one of his brief moments of relaxation). And, of course, do not take seriously any of these words. I had a spare half hour and I got a great pleasure from writing it. It was like a poetry exercise. Live the System! May the Party, we and all our cronies be increasingly prosperous! A thousand years of peace!

Excuse me for sharing with you my little moment of humiliation and weakness! Such moments are rare but frequent. I know you will appreciate it. I remember the '96s, the '97s when we did so many things together - we still do - not to mention the '70s! And, since I do not trust your position of Second Secretary (in charge with propaganda; or have you climbed to First Secretary responsible in control of the professional activities?) I put also in the carbon copy (CC) the Director General's address, God forgive me for doing this! I hope he will pardon me for taking his time. What do you think, will he do that? With the same friendship and joy, M.

Following this letter, the System waved under my nose a GD (Government Decision) which would allegedly forbid people like me. I enter the game and look through the document. Much to my surprise I have found a criterion named "results..." , where my rejected work fit in. Respectfully, full of laughter and humbleness, I inform the System on this criterion. Cornered, the System babbles "first this thing then that... er...hmm" but "bang, here's the missive" and the System

acquiesces to let me about 300 points. I cannot but roar with laughter till my stomach hurts. Then it makes me sick: if I had insisted a little more the System would have given me 1400 points! I have recalled an old Turkish word beginning with “sik” and ending in “tir” (viz. the f-word plus”off”)

(Translated from the Romanian apr173 by I. Negoitza)