

Fernando Pessoa

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Nabos was rude and liked to be rude; it would worry a psychologist to discover the psychic reason of this desire. It seems strange that any human being should delight in being unpleasant. . . (. . .) He had few patients, because, as he himself said, a man must be too patient to have him for medical assistant. . . Yet it may be questioned whether he kept the few he had with his amiable eccentricity of saying to them after examining them, with a solemn and convinced air: The worst that can befall you is to die. There are some trite things that are too trite I will say, after his own manner. Again I remember the unpleasant feeling he gave me once when (I did not yet know him well) he looked at me intently for some seconds and then said in a sure voice : You are either consumptive, or (I felt cold and fearful), or. . . or. . . or not. He looked at me amazed, relieved, half-amused, yet half — (. . .) face without the shadow of a smile. He loved to give — I afterwards found — these kind of fright. But I have not yet said how it was that I met him and what were the circumstances of that meeting.

s. d.

Pessoa por Conhecer — Textos para um Novo Mapa . Teresa Rita Lopes. Lisboa: Estampa, 1990: 123.