

Die Verwirrungen des Zöglings Törleß

by Robert Musil

Please compare the following phrases from Paul Nahin's Preface to this passage of Musil's novel:

"[a gadget that] is impossible to build" (p. xxi)

"what wondrous science was at work here" (p. xxii)

"contra-polar power" (p. xxii)

"I remember my pulse rate elevated and I felt a momentary spell of faintness" (p. xxii)

"the idea of negative frequency was impressive to my mind" (p. xxiii)

Make three annotations in the private mode, each one should not exceed one paragraph. Please make sure that the box "visible to everyone" is always unchecked.

Während des Mathematikunterrichtes war Törleß plötzlich ein Einzelgänger gekommen.

Er hatte schon während der letzten Tage den Unterricht in der Schule

Interesse verfolgt gehabt, denn er dachte sich: »Wenn dies wirklich

das Leben sein soll, wie sie sagen, so muß sich doch auch etwas

finden, was ich suche.«

Gerade an die Mathematik hatte er dabei gedacht; noch von jener

By thinking that school lessons will prepare him for life, Törleß takes an example from his math class (the idea of negative frequency) to think about his life. When Nahin speaks of the "wondrous science [that] was at work here", I think that the wondrous aspect refers to the fact that Törleß actually "wonders" how science (like mathematics) can be appropriated to real life situations.

Sina Hoche