

Variations on a Theme by Jacques-Lucien Monod

“Personal self-satisfaction
is the death of the scientist.
Collective self-satisfaction
is the death of the research.
It is restlessness, anxiety
disaffection, agony of the mind
that nourish science.”*

Personal self-satisfaction
is the death of the activist.
Collective self-satisfaction
is the death of the revolution.
It is restlessness, anxiety,
dissatisfaction, agony of the mind
that nourish politics.

Personal self-satisfaction
is the death of the writer.
Collective self-satisfaction
is the death of poetry.
It is restlessness, anxiety,
dissatisfaction agony of the mind
that nourish us all.

Steve Bloom
January 2004

*Quoted in *Discover* magazine, May 2002