

is inexplicable and unimportant.

Here I must dissent. Considering some of the individuals idolized in recent times, I take some comfort for the future of humanity from the fact that a man like Einstein even in mythical garb has become an enduring symbol of human aspirations.

As a consequence, in the first place so many press around me that I have to live like a prisoner who can never dare to venture forth because it kicks up a stir and brings unforeseeable complications. In addition there is the bad conscience that I cannot read or hardly answer the numberless manuscripts and letters and requests that incessantly pour down on me, an inability that only grows with the years.

At this time, there had been a lot of publicity in connection with his latest attempt at a unified field theory, which was to be his last. The press, as usual, sensationalized his effort: "Seventy-year old sage unlocks secrets of the universe" might have been the headline.

Just don't believe what the irresponsible newspaper writers say. After years and years of ceaseless efforts I have rounded off the relativity theory. But on account of enormous mathematical difficulties, I am not myself in a position to judge if the completion of the theory has hit the correct mark. The contemporary generation of my colleagues does not believe in it, so that I stand rather isolated in my viewpoint on fundamentals, without being certain that I have taken the right path. Anyway, the arguments are good and the remainder of my days is well employed, even if my powers bear no relation to the magnitude of the task...I enjoy my later days, preserve my good humor and do not take myself nor others seriously.

He closes with some advice:

Be glad of your calm days and do not let yourself be deceived by the appearance of external circumstances. Take pleasure that only a few care about you and believe me, it has its good side. Better to be an understanding spectator than an electrically illuminated actor.

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