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# From: "Paragraphs": Professors; The Art of the Woodcut; The Orthodoxy of Routine

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### PROFESSORS

Many talk about dedication, service to youth and knowledge, scholarship and independent inquiry. This sort of talk is quite simply a ruse. Professors are voluptuaries of the dull, and the real masters are those who conduct themselves so cleverly that no one ever discovers that their dullness is, in fact, a brilliantly feigned act.

### THE ART OF THE WOODCUT

There is a great deal to be learned about conduct from this art. First, a decisive thing is done to an unblemished surface, the tool makes a clear deep line, and because of its general similarity to a pencil line the amateur often thinks of the work as a drawing until the print is made. Then he learns that the whole flat untouched surface is what is really like a pencil, strange and blunt to be sure, and that, further, everything has come out backwards.

### THE ORTHODOXY OF ROUTINE

We are told the age lacks faith, that no permanent values exist, that the world is unstable, but many, let us call them the heroes of punctuality, who would follow a dogma if it existed, have circumvented the problem by making of their routines, protocols, schedules, and agendas a watertight doctrine which they always adhere to, as they say, religiously.