

Paulo DePaula

9009 Sudbury Road

Silver Spring, Maryland - 20901

A PERSONAL STATEMENT TO WRITER'S DIGEST

Nothing seems to me more confining than to have to describe myself in 1,000 words. I don't know whether I should start counting the words as I write them down, or whether I should merely enumerate the 1,000 experiences I have had and let it go at that, without expanding on any of them. At any rate, as my name is rather redundant - Paul De Paula - I shall do neither, but merely say what Paul can say about Paul.

The son of a Baptist minister in the predominantly Catholic country of Brazil I grew up in a rather sheltered environment where truth, Christianity and appearance were so intermingled that by the age of sixteen I rebelled and was able to get away from that sheltered atmosphere without shattering its walls: I was awarded a scholarship to attend an American College.

This experience, I believe, has been the strongest one in my life. I learned then that you do not necessarily have to destroy in order to build. Buildings may be repaired, a new façade may be erected, or - they may even be left altogether and a new one be built in another site. One thing, however, cannot be eradicated: the idea of building! This idea is, in truth, the cornerstone of the building.

Ideas, however, vary from time to time and if that is to be the cornerstone of a building, many buildings are started, many inferior types, buildings are built and discarded and a few solid ones are built, which may remain, even when its builder no longer remembers that he laid the cornerstone.

I believe I am one of these shifting builders. As far back as I can remember I have honestly engaged in innumerable activities and causes I felt could solidly be built on. These activities have rewarded me with both joy and pain and I have accepted both rewards with their equal emotional counterparts, expecting, perhaps another reward for all of this. - Could it perhaps be the heaven promised me in my childhood? I honestly do not know. All I know is that through the years I have come closer and closer to the belief that some sort of a reward should be granted us on earth, so that we may better enjoy what has been placed before us before we dwell in the fineries of heaven!

This last idea has led me to reply to your ad, hoping that, with your help, I can start a new building - one, unlike the others. This new building, built with words, will then be able to contain all the warmth, depression, love and hate that went into the others, however, this one will stand firm and erect through the years, for words cannot be destroyed nor repaired once they are said. They stay firmly impressed in the minds of those who see or hear them.

Paulo De Paula

Mr. Paulo De Paula

June 3, 1964

I have had several short stories published in Brazil, as well as two plays. All my published work to date has been in Portuguese.