

Fernando Pessoa

Vico was indeed right when he declared *verum*...

Vico was indeed right when he declared *verum* and *factum* to be identical; we must make to know.

(Objection: I can understand an engine without having made it.

Reply (half-insufficient): But I cannot understand it as well as if I made it — the various strength of the various metals.

Just in the same way as nothing can be its own cause, so nothing can be conscious of itself, or conceive itself: I am conscious of thought, but I am not conscious that I am conscious. No, I reflect, I come to the conclusion that I am conscious — I am not conscious of consciousness.

1908?

Textos Filosóficos . Vol. I. Fernando Pessoa. (Estabelecidos e prefaciados por António de Pina Coelho.) Lisboa: Ática, 1968 (imp. 1993): 134.