

Fernando Pessoa

## PLAN OF LIFE

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A general plan of life must involve, in the first place, the obtaining of a financial stability of some kind. I put the limit needed for the humble thing I call financial stability at about sixty dollars, forty being for the necessary, and twenty for the superfluous things of life. The way to obtain this is to add to the thirty-one dollars from the two offices (P & FF) [Xavier Pinto e S. e Augusto Franco?] twenty-nine other dollars, origin of which is to be determined. Rigorously, to just live, fifty dollars would do, for, taking thirty-five as a necessary basis, fifteen would cover the rest.

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The next essential thing is to fix on a residence where there would be enough room, both room-space and room-convenience, to lodge all my papers and books with due order; and all this without a very large possibility of moving in a short time. It seems that the easiest thing to do would be to hire a house myself — on some basis like eight, or at most nine, dollars — and live there at ease, having dinner carried there (and breakfast) each day, or something of the kind. — But would this be quite convenient?

Substitute, in respect to order of papers, my big box by smaller boxes, containing the papers in order of their importance. The big box and the other one at A. S. 's to contain the mere newspapers and reviews I keep.

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If a house is let, what furniture? Would it not be better to rearrange things with S.? so as to obtain this I require, we to move if needed for this end?

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Which way Fate desire it, that way it shall be.

1913?

Páginas Íntimas e de Auto-Interpretação. Fernando Pessoa. (Textos estabelecidos e prefaciados por Georg Rudolf Lind e Jacinto do Prado Coelho.) Lisboa: Ática, 1966: 23–25.