

## The Question of Reality.

Science gives us the best tools for examining nature but as Kant has shown, and it has never been contradicted, this cannot be total reality if only because our sensory apparatus limits us. However Kant felt there was no way of knowing what lay outside our reality of space and time. My contention is not only that poetry ( hereafter this term will stand for art, religion and music) provides new realities beyond nature but their meaning relates to Kant's noumenal unknowable. Furthermore and to be unafraid of incurring displeasure Brodsky in discussing Ahmatova shows that our reality is the means for transportation to a metaphysical destination. The first contention is adroitly put in an aphorism found in an edition of Novy Mir " art is to reality what wine is to grapes". How simple and how true! From the natural reality (grapes) is created endless new realities never found in nature (wine). So with art. But these realities are not accessible to scientific analysis or where they are it is trivial, for science is concerned with proof, but these realities are pointing to metaphysical truths. That is why we feel them so powerfully and why the ordinary citizen can often partake in them. The second contention is even more attractive for it has struck me that where one sees greater ordeals the individual turns to a poetic image for survival. This image is then as it were returned to us, if we have the wit to see it, beyond any fatuity called consolation by its critics.

Yes there is the objective reality of science but it must recognise the subjective realities of art. They are both heirarchical and undemocratic but paradoxically only flourish in freedom. This then this great value is the metaphysical truth which allows one " the full possession of ones own life". Which brings me neatly to my next essay, our freedom is a divine value.

Novy Mir unknown author.  
A. Platonov