


# THE WRITER'S TECHNIQUE IN THIRTEEN THESES

(after, and with, Walter Benjamin\*)

- 1 Anyone intending to embark on a major work should be lenient with himself and, having completed a stint, deny himself nothing that will not prejudice the next.
- 2 Keep your cellphone out of sight. Use paper cards. Improve your environment. Be patient.
- 3 The voice comes out on its own, as the Japanese technique 'flung ink' suggests; what we see is nothing but the things themselves.  

- 4 Avoid haphazard writing materials. A pedantic adherence to certain papers, pens, inks is beneficial. No luxury, but an abundance of these utensils is indispensable.
- 5 Let no thought pass incognito, and keep your notebook as strictly as the authorities keep their register of aliens.
- 6 Find your clock. Find your hour. When is good to write right? You want an example? I start everyday with an espresso and words to write. Time matters, as I have a house to manage and several bodies to consider.
- 7 LISTEN TO YOUR BRAIN: 32db EARPLUGS
- 8 CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE THAT INSPIRES FLOW AND EXPANSION
- 9 *Nulla dies sine linea* ['No day without a line'] — but there may well be weeks.
- 10 

```
<PhD>
<script.
var upgrade = 24 months;
paper . review (
    'literature'
)
.requires (
    'critical . thinking'
)
function LiteratureReview () {
    return paper.critical.thinking
}
function getPhD(upgrade, viva) {
    return LieratireReview;
}
if (writing = true) {
    play . upgrade () ;
}
else (writing = false) {
    play . viva () ;
}
else (writing = false) {w
stop.upgrade ();
}
if (get PhD = true) {
    you = doctor
}
</script>
</PhD> <! -created in December 10th, 2015, PhD re:making
Series -->
```
- 11 "delay writing down an idea,..."  
WRONG WRONG WRONG WRONG WRONG WRONG WRONG  
NEVER DELAY WRITING DOWN AN IDEA.  
I'VE DONE IT BEFORE AND IT STILL HURTS ....
- 12 Do not write the conclusion of a work in your familiar study. You would not find the necessary courage there.
- 13 Stages of composition: idea — style — writing. The value of the fair copy is that in producing it you confine attention to calligraphy. The idea kills inspiration, style fetters the idea, writing pays off style.

\* Walter Benjamin. *Illuminations*. London: Fontana, 1973. [Hartley Library, shelf ref. **PN 514.B3**]