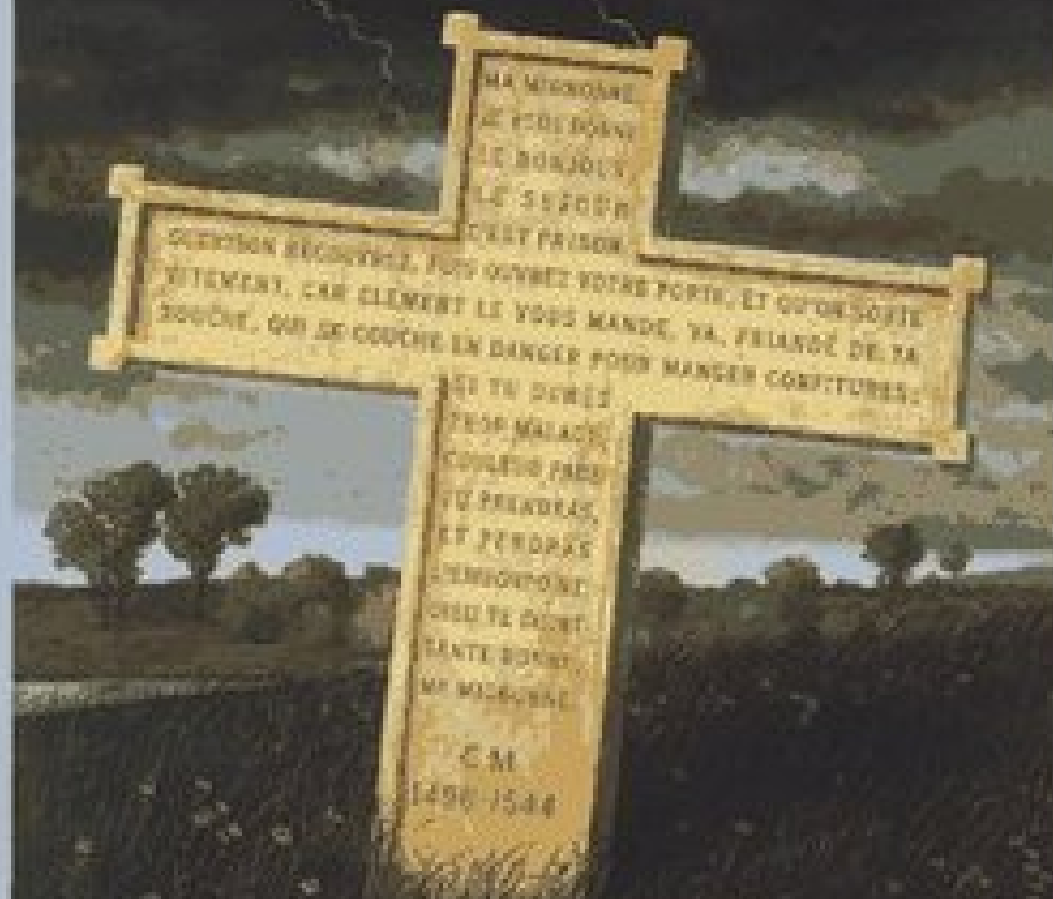


# Le Ton beau de Marot

*In Praise of the Music of Language*



Douglas R. Hofstadter

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# Le Ton Beau De Marot: In Praise of the Music of Language

Douglas R. Hofstadter

The complexity, grace, and subtlety of human intelligence is came upon as 30 students translate a French poem by means of Clement Marot. each one translation is discinct and pleasant in its personal right, and Hofstadter, a synthetic intelligence pioneer, indicates that language, like music, has layers of complexity that no computing device can ever mimic."

count number me between those that regard Gödel, Escher, Bach: An everlasting Golden Braid as a masterpiece. Le Ton beau, however, is Hofstadter long gone overboard. Wow, does the guy want an editor. This booklet is so exasperating: occasional drips of Le Ton Beau De Marot: In Praise of the Music of Language perception interspersed with ramblings, ephemera, and juvenile verse, all within the identify of exploring as many features of language translation difficulties as could have happened to the writer in the course of an artificially lengthy compositional process. That final is Hofstadter's armslength observation, now not my assumption. the writer starts his paintings with inappropriate poignancy by way of telling us that the new demise of his liked spouse was once what triggered this writing. it is an oddment of shared intimacy, because the publication Le Ton Beau De Marot: In Praise of the Music of Language can scarcely be thought of an homage to her her pursuits or accomplishments. If anything, the matter-of-fact commitment leaves the effect that Hofstadter used this ebook as an excuse to escape, sublimate, or suppress his grief for so long as possible. So he talks in his prologue approximately holing himself up in a bungalow for greater than a year, alienating himself from the corporate of others to ceaselessly rewrite and reorganize chapters and sections as new rules happen to him. some distance lower than impress, it conjures the tragic picture of a guy in denial primarily orphaning his school-age childrens at what should have been their second of maximum emotional vulnerability. it is a confession that casts a pall over the informal tone of the publication as a whole, let alone its sprawl. Your father has long past bye-bye, kids, you are going to simply need to salvage no matter what you will discover to devour within the fridge. To make issues worse, the work's substance isn't approximately beneficial of Le Ton Beau De Marot: In Praise of the Music of Language its backstory. Ton Beau's foundational highbrow conceit is the problem of effectively translating poetry and exploring what if whatever adequately potential during this context. So Hofstadter dissects Clement Marot's poetic bon-bon Ma Mignonne (reproduced in complete at the book's cover), taking it via a number of diversifications -- a few by means of others, yet so much via himself -- to illustrate the final word futility of any workout to generate an ideal replica of any poem in one other language... Hofstadter defines the suitable translation as a similar replica of the Le Ton Beau De Marot: In Praise of the Music of Language rhyme, meter, syntax, quanta of syllables, assonance, consonance, and semantic substance, with neither addition nor subtraction. Of course, any switch is tautologically incommensurate with identity; you don't want to learn the entire examples to understand this idea from now on than you want to learn his mostly vacuous line-by-line annotations/explanations of what he thinks each one translator has performed good or poorly. approximately 5 well-chosen samples might have sufficed to get his aspect across, and a superb editor may well good have come in useful here. regrettably this writer refuses to be edited, even going as far as to alert the reader with self-conscious delight that he insists on

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complete regulate of his work, to the purpose Le Ton Beau De Marot: In Praise of the Music of Language of offering untouchable, pre-typeset manuscripts together with all decisions of fonts, kerning, and font size. As a lot Le Ton Beau De Marot: In Praise of the Music of Language an act of obsessive-compulsive habit as hubris, Hofstadter still manages to marble a little thought-provoking meat in the middle of this mountain of fat. one of the rules Hofstadter tosses out are:- On languages as autonomous buildings such that disparate languages Le Ton Beau De Marot: In Praise of the Music of Language even these from neighboring areas don't shape a topologically-pure continuum (p. 345). "An expressive constitution created in French won't simply consistently rework like a bit of rubber being stretched or bent into the an identical constitution in German. really ... the fragments has to be positioned again jointly in appreciably various ways... each analogous to the alternative of an merchandise from a restaurant menu so large that you possibly can by no means test all of it...." All translations as a result require unsleeping selection and selection.- Le Ton Beau De Marot: In Praise of the Music of Language The problem of translating language-dependent literature, contemplating the futility of constructing a word-for-word translation of a Stanislaw Lem tale a couple of computer that destroys all issues starting with the letter 'n' together with technological know-how (na'uk in Polish), there being no English observe with an analogous that means starting with 'n' (p. 56). - the truth that connotations evolve over time, contemplating the gender of hypothetical humans referenced as "you guys" (pp. 20-23). Does a translator render a textual content in its unique or present temporal context and to which context within the aim language?- the matter of layered meanings, a particularly vexing factor for would-be translators of poetry (pp. 81-82). What to do with puns, grammatical errors, syntactical ambiguities, and different wordplay?- The which means of that means itself as whatever ineffable "where even the tiniest epsilon... isn't really similar to zero" (p. 519). right here it really is worthy quoting Hofstadter at size to indicate up his hobbyhorses. [T]he quest to increase an artificially clever entity is a marvelous, mystical quest, within which we're introduced head to head with the inner most enigmas bearing on our personal nature. what's language? what's music? What are concepts? What are words? what's thinking? what's insight? How does analogy work? what's memory? How will we learn? How can we forget? How are error associated with invention? what's perception? what's consciousness? what's creativity? what's inventive beauty? How can we reflect different minds inside of our own? What are empathy and compassion? How does a soul pop out of inanimate matter? what's a self? What does the note "I" represent? Hofstadter poses those inquiries to shield the validity of exploring and constructing AI within the context of a critique of a philosopher's idea test with out as soon as contemplating the purposes of data conception that experience made such explorations possible. the writer touches upon the reductio advert absurdam of chatbots and thesaurus-powered mechanical translators, yet by no means thinks to say the works and effectively utilized theories of Claude Shannon or Ed Thorp. John Searle is the thinker whose writings Hofstadter is going to impressive lengths to vilify, and in doing so bargains a neat takedown of the "Chinese Room" (a field within which a non-Chinese Le Ton Beau De Marot: In Praise of the Music of Language speaker manages to render ideal English translations just by following detailed, written instructions). Whence the intelligence during this design? after all it lies within the unique authorship of the impeccable directions and the facility to faithfully stick to Le Ton Beau De Marot: In Praise of the Music of Language them, appreciating that doing so in an affordable time truly calls for impractically substantial reference fabrics and the superhuman velocity to navigate them. Okay, yet why reproduce Searle's essay in "Anglo-Saxon" (for Hofstadter, this is often English stripped of any notice containing the letter "E") to make the

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argument? Sure, it is a neat stunt -- I enjoyed Gilbert Adair's masterful translation of Georges Perec's *I. a. Disparition* (see *A Void*) -- however it does not increase his critique. really it provides yet another instance right here of an differently remarkable philosopher who has it seems that misplaced his mind.

## **Le Ton Beau De Marot In Praise Of The Music Of Language**

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