

# A Journey Round My Skull

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in 1790 xavier de maistre was 27 years old and a soldier in the army of the sardinian kingdom which covered swathes of modern day northern italy and southern france he was placed under house arrest in turin for fighting an illegal duel it was during the 42 days of his confinement here that he wrote the manuscript that would become *voyage autour de ma chambre* inspired by the works of laurence Sterne with their digressive and colloquial style de maistre decided to make the most of his sentence by recording an exploration of the room as a travel journal de maistre's book imbues the tour of his chamber with great mythology and grand scale as he wanders the few steps that it takes to circumnavigate the space his mind spins off into the ether it parodies the travel journals of the eighteenth century such as *a voyage around the world* by louis de bougainville 1771 and could be read today as an early take on the modern vogue for psychogeography each tiny thing that he encounters sends de maistre into rhapsodies and mundane journeys become magnificent voyages

finding himself locked in his room for six weeks a young officer uses his imagination to travel around his room using the various objects it contains as inspiration for a delightful parody of contemporary travel writing and exercise in sternean picaresque and humorously demonstrating what one can explore without having to travel to exotic locations contains a foreword by alain de botton

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excerpt from a journey round my room our interest in the voyage is heightened by our knowledge that it was actually written during de maistre's forty two days arrest at turin

referred to in the third chapter he sent the manuscript which he regarded as a mere playful effort of his imagination for his brother s perusal joseph was pleased with the book and xavier who had an almost filial affection for his brother was soon afterwards agree ably surprised by receivmg in place of his manuscript the voyage in print about the publisher forgotten books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books find more at forgottenbooks com this book is a reproduction of an important historical work forgotten books uses state of the art technology to digitally reconstruct the work preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy in rare cases an imperfection in the original such as a blemish or missing page may be replicated in our edition we do however repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works

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