

A PARTICULAR TRUTH—1941

Peg Duthie

Two physicists walked into a forest,
then returned with neither of them smiling.
What Heisenberg learned, imparted—more, less
than he'd hoped or meant? Later, restyling
his thoughts—the things he thought he'd said to Bohr—
Heisenberg loved Germany and science.
Hitler, not so much, but better the war
be won by his country. *No alliance
with Russia is worth the cost it'll exact—*
perhaps he said this to Bohr? We don't know.
Was Heisenberg's crime merely lack of tact
or was it something more that shook Bohr so?
Two men, once friends, once close, walked through a wood,
all too uncertain where the other stood.

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