

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
ALBUQUERQUE

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

May 2, 1966

Prof. Jose Ferrater Mora
Dept. of Philosophy
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Bryn Marw, Pennsylvania

Dear Professor Mora:

Today for the first time I have had an opportunity to read your BEING AND DEATH: AN OUTLINE OF INTEGRATIONIST PHILOSOPHY. The summary of your philosophy on pages 6-13 expresses ideas with which I am in thorough agreement. I am a bit puzzled by your statement: "The viewpoint I proposed is not based upon the position that relations are both internal and external,... Rather, it consists in denying that relations can ever be internal or external in toto." I interpret the latter statement to imply the former.

The most obvious difference is the choice of term for naming the general position. You speak of "organicism" as referring primarily to biological organisms in contrast with "materialism," which pertains to inanimate beings, and "personalism," which pertains to living, thinking persons. This is a common meaning of the term, although there are broader meanings and wider uses of this term, both now and earlier in history.

"Integrationism," for me, one side of a polar relation: Integration is processually toward greater unity (possibly, toward complete or perfect unity or integrity). Diversification is processually toward greater plurality (possibly toward complete or perfect plurality). By "Organicism" I mean a philosophy which, relative to this polarity, recognizes that existence and experience proceed both toward greater unity and also toward greater plurality, without either direction ever being the only direction or being followed in toto. That is, Organicism involves both integration and diversification, and that these processes not only complete with, but supplement, each other. I am sure that you hold these views too, but the problem of naming, unless one starts with a wholly new and meaningless name, continues to leave unresolvable problems.

I trust that you will refer me to more places where you have expounded your philosophy. I should like to make reference to them and, doubtless, to quote them.

Cordially yours,



Archie J. Bahm

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