

250 Douglass Street
San Francisco, California
September 24, 1965

Dear Mr. Ferrater,

Three questions for you, and then I shall answer your questions?

The first is: do you know of any work (or paper or whatever) on Aristotle's ethics or politics that emphasizes and elaborates the kinship of Aristotelian thought to the Platonic? It seems to me that several years ago a considerable stir was made by a book published by an Englishwoman on such a theme. But I may be quite wrong. Of course, I have in mind aristocratic ideals in both Plato and Aristotle. A student asked me for some aid in getting started on a paper he'd like to write about their kinship, and I found it difficult to do anything but refer him to some of the general commentaries on Aristotle. Incidentally, leaving aside ethics and politics, is there any book or essay that you know of that makes much of their kinship generally? That challenges the Plato-versus--Aristotle notion, in other words? I have just read your Aristotle article through and find that you yourself stress differences between the two--as I think is quite proper. But the student who spoke to me has a legitimate objective, it seems to me.

Second question: do you have a list of addresses for all the members of the American Philosophical Association? I don't because I'm not yet a member. If you do, could you look up the address of Beatrice Rome (Mrs. Sidney Rome, as I recollect)? She is the interesting person with whom I talked in Boston last year, the one who has written the big new book on Malebranche, and the one who, with her husband, runs the Systems Development Corporation somewhere out here in California. I had her address, but I lost it. She invited me to send her a copy of my thesis to read, and I should like to do that if she still would like to have it.

Third question: has the new edition of your Diccionario been published? If not, when is it due to come out? I'd like this College to order it. I could refer many a student to it.

Now for your questions to me. I have met classes for a week; and I am inwardly giving myself a C+ (maybe a B-) for the first week's work. It was not wonderful; it could have been much worse. The first meetings were extremely stiff; of course they are bound to be. But they seemed a little less so to me today. I have an enormous number of students. I have four classes, and each class has between 30 and 40 students in it. Average: 35. That even includes the Plato class. But I really don't want to complain about that. I have a whole host of undergraduate majors and graduate students, too, in that course, and it will almost surely be the most interesting one to teach. I like teaching men and women both; and I feel comfortable doing it ("comfortable" to some degree; as I say, the first week has been stiff). I am fascinated by the interesting faces in the classes. ~~Men, men, white students, Negro students--~~ some of them look so alert and reflective.

(The Plato class size)

How I am faring? Well, reasonably well. My apartment continues to be a perfect one for me: it's altogether quiet, it's near all kind of stores, it's near the trolley I take to the College, and it's in a quiet but still rather cosmopolitan neighborhood. I'll never get tired of the lovely views of the city I have from my windows. As for people. I don't

Write to me soon. I miss you.
Who has published being and being? I'd like a copy.

like the Department Secretary (a young woman), but so what? I despise
despise my office-mate, a ~~young~~ brash, very boastful young man. He started
off a Calvinist (went to a Calvinist college here on the West Coast), and
in my opinion he still is possessed of the Calvinist spirit. He despises
the students himself (he has informed me that he lectures to ~~max~~ them
assuming that they have the intelligence of "bright nine-year-olds"), and
he apparently gives ^{no} freedom in their writing of their papers and so on.
He preaches to me; he preaches to the students; I suspect he preaches to
his wife. Anyway, I can't stand him. Having decided that, I am trying to
avoid him as much as possible. I think that I can manage to avoid him
most of the time. Other people in the Department generally strike me as
pleasant and bright (I suspect that the College itself really doesn't
amount to anything, but it is apparent that within the College the Philosophy
Department is about the best). I think the logician has views about logic
and affairs of the world that are remote from mine; but he is an exceedingly
nice young man and I am fond of him. A young fellow in an office next door
to me teaches the history of philosophy here and my couple of talks with
him have been interesting; he is very quiet-spoken and, I think, full
of fire inside. The Acting Department Chairman I like extremely. He is
the person in whose home I stayed for the first three or four days I was in
San Francisco, and he seems thoroughly civilized to me. I know nothing
of his philosophical views (except that he calls himself a "sort of analyst"),
but he is most agreeable, relaxed, and so on. Of course, maybe I'll see
another side of him later; but I do like him now.

I like the Dean of Humanities, another person in philosophy; or at
least I should say that I don't dislike him. But he is the "Coordinator"
of the Humanities 30 course I teach (a required course with the Iliad,
some Plato, and some from the Bible in it), and I have begun to realize
that most of the people who do teach the course are out of their minds
(they are mostly in the "Humanities" Department). I am supposed to go,
every two weeks, to a meeting with all these people and, I fear, talk
over our "teaching experiences" or something as inane. The young man
in the history of philosophy has told me that he didn't go, even last
year when he was teaching Humanities too; he couldn't abide the idea of
getting involved in argument with people of a teachers-college mentality
and aggressiveness. I may follow his example, although I don't want to
alienate the Dean. I'll see.

Well, all this sounds as though I see lots of people all the time.
Actually, I don't. And though my work is so heavy that I don't know how
I could see many people much, I admit that I am lonely. Yet perhaps as
the Department invites outside speakers in (they have the speakers for a
meeting with undergraduate majors, and then the Department members and the
speaker go off for dinner at some good San Francisco restaurant), I shall
have more contact with people. Maybe I'll even have more than I want! I
suppose it's hard to find oneself satisfied with one's social arrangements.
I still have confused dreams about taking a Ph. D. I don't yet--it
seems that this is so--really understand that I've taken one. It was too
long a process, wasn't it? And yet I couldn't have written the thesis I
did write earlier. And I'm glad I wrote it, incidentally, a graduate student
here mentioned that the students here last spring were told of my coming,
and were told that I had been invited to come primarily on the basis of
what they had been able to learn of the quality of my writing. So you see?

it seems to
have that
reputation

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Who has published Being and Death? I'd like a copy.
Write to me soon. I miss you.

Adrienne, June