

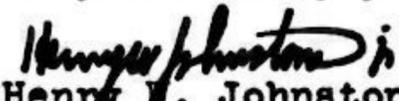
Department of Philosophy  
The Pennsylvania State University  
University Park, Penna.  
11 May, 1960

Dear Professor Ferrater Mora:

Many thanks for your lucid and stimulating book, which I have just finished reading. I am especially struck by your interpretation of the Cynics and Stoics. Now that I see what their problem was, I am willing, for the first time, to believe that they were real people. I also find your account of power in the ancient world especially illuminating. I like your division of modern history into three crises. In connection with the crisis of "all", I wonder if the very word "all" does not itself suggest an orientation. My own view is that man is inherently provincial, and that in his provincialism lies his creativity and power. Thus the social group seems to me to have a more important role than you ascribe to it. I believe that the maintenance of the autonomy of limited groups is a necessary ingredient of any genuine solution of the contemporary problem. Perhaps, then, the essence of the crisis of "all" is just that the "all", in obliterating groups, threatens paralysis. Perhaps the root of the problem is a radical centrifugality. What I am trying to suggest is certainly not incompatible with your account; the difference is probably only one of emphasis.

We all thoroughly enjoyed your visit here recently.

Very sincerely yours,

  
Henry V. Johnstone, Jr.