

12/12/72

Dear Mr. Ferrater Mora,

I have decided to leave graduate school – “withdraw from candidacy” is the official phrase, I think. I do not want to “leave” philosophy, though I sometimes wish it would leave me. Frankly, it has been only during the last three months that I have been able to study examination questions. The tests last year and the mad regime to which I held myself in preparation for them were physically and psychically devastating. Even Plato resounded in my mind like a babble of voices. Leaving graduate school for at least two or three years to take, hopefully, a job in publishing (either as artist or editor of some sort) would give my philosophical thoughts time to re-root (or, re-route). I will be writing to large publishing houses as well as to magazines such as Saturday Review and National Geographic, and also to some encyclopedia for a research job. Would you write a recommendation to go in my file at the “job-bureau” here?

I hope my candidacy will be accepted if I reapply in the future.

Thank you for your patience,

[signature]