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Notre Dame, Indiana 46556

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October 26, 1973

Professor Jose Ferrater Mora  
Department of Philosophy  
Bryn Mawr College  
Bryn Mawr, PA

Dear Professor Ferrater Mora:

You will no doubt be surprised to receive this letter from me. You may remember that we met very briefly in Madrid about seven years ago when I was spending a period of study there on a Fulbright grant. It was in the foyer of the Hotel Conde Duque. On that occasion we discussed philosophy in contemporary Spain.

I recall that meeting because however remotely that occasion provides the occasion for my talking the liberty of writing to you now. During that period I became acquainted with the work of Xavier Zubiri and especially his book Sobre la esencia which had appeared just before I arrived in Spain. I formed the purpose of preparing an English translation of this work. To this end I secured Professor Zubiri's consent and permission to undertake such a translation. His only proviso was that he would have the right, either personally or through someone he would appoint to check the translation. For this purpose he designated Father Ignacio Ellacuria, S.J. Father Ellacuria and I work in close collaboration and I produced an English language version which with Professor Zubiri's consent we thought could be submitted to a publisher.

Buchnell University Press expressed an interest in the project. The manuscript was submitted to them. Their readers reported that the translation should be revised, optimally in collaboration with a scholar such as yourself who is equally at home in English and Spanish and, of course, with the material. Realizing my own limitations and completely persuaded that the work should appear in English I am very ready to seek such collaboration and quite frankly the very first person to whom I felt I would want to turn is yourself.

However, I realize how presumptuous I must appear in approaching you thus boldly. However, I felt that this was the only way I could proceed with any expedition. If you would consent to review the translation I would appreciate it most deeply. However, I am also aware that to propose this is to make a very great imposition. I am especially sensible to the fact to do so without provision for suitable remuneration for your very valuable time would be completely out of question. I have no funds available; it was my thought, however, that should the project appeal to

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you and we could collaborate on a revision of my translation, a grant might be sought to reimburse you for your invaluable time and knowledge.

I realize that in proposing all this so directly and without prelude I might be proceeding most clumsily. If this seems the case I do apologize. But I had been led to do so simply by my overwhelming ambition that the work should appear and I proceeded thus directly because I was persuaded that you, too, shared this conviction.

I would deeply appreciate hearing from you and having your reaction to my proposal. Needless to say I hope it may be favorable. Also needless to say I shall be happy to cooperate in any work arrangement which would be most convenient for you.

With cordial expressions of personal esteem, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

*A Robert Caponigri*  
A. Robert Caponigri

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Prof. A. Robert Caponigri  
University of Notre Dame  
Department of Philosophy  
Notre Dame, Indiana 46556

Madrid, 6 de Marzo 1973

Querido Profesor:

Esperaba a contestarle el poder mandarle noticias sobre el Seminario-Zubiri. Y aunque vamos adelantando las cosas, todavía no tenemos a punto el primer anuncio oficial de los proyectos inmediatos.

Por eso quiero adelantarme a acusar recibo de su carta tan amable. Yo también guardo muy grato recuerdo de su gran capacidad frente al difícil texto de Zubiri y de su gran disposición para el trabajo conjunto. Lo único que siento es que mi estado semigriposo de aquellos días no me permitiera hacerle más grata su estancia en Madrid. Zubiri también muy bien impresionado de Usted. Por cierto que espero haya recibido ya los dos tomos del Homenaje; en ellos encontrará algunos trabajos sobre Zubiri, que espero le sirvan para su trabajo. Zubiri sigue dispuesto y muy a gusto para hacer una presentación a su traducción, en la que piensa poner al ~~xxx~~ día algunas ideas. Esto es algo muy especial, porque no lo hizo con la traducción alemana.

El próximo día 13 va a empezar un curso de cinco lecciones sobre el espacio. Aunque el tema es un tanto aéreo, estoy seguro de que será muy interesante su enfrentamiento con las más modernas concepciones científicas del espacio.

Espero el envío de la última revisión de la traducción.

Saludos a todos los suyos. Y Usted reciba uno especialísimo de su amigo,

  
Ignacio Ellacuría

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