

Wells College
AURORA, NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

February 24, 1960

Dear Mr. Ferrater Mora,

If I'd written you earlier today, which I had expected to be able to do, I'd have sounded confident about this thesis. At the moment, it is hard for me to feel at all confident about it or anything about it. The reason is simple: an acquaintance asked me point-blank about three hours ago whether or not I ~~was~~^{am} returning to Wells next year. I was able to state fairly coolly that I am not, that I am not reappointed, but the question upset me far more than I could have supposed it would at this point. At this point I really am simply glad I'm leaving Wells, but that question for the moment makes me doubt a lot of realities.

Well, a reality is that I know a little more about this thing I'm supposed to be writing that I knew before. I know that it's really on the nature of the Cartesian man. I found that out last night when I sketched out a talk that I shall give ~~XXXX~~ to philosophy students at Tufts when I go there next week or the week after that for an interview. (Mr. Nahm will have told you, I'm sure, that they've invited me for an interview; obviously, they've invited several people and obviously I'm not the person they have chiefly in mind; so please do not count on my getting this job.) Will you please then consider as added to the paragraph that ends in the middle of page five with the words "philosophical method" these sentences: ~~XX~~ "And I shall suggest that his rationalism, in terms of whose imperatives his inclination to talk about free will finds it easiest though not its best explanation, is itself given what weak support his theodicy can give it and is itself stripped of flesh to become the bones of a method because of what the Cartesian man is. Or, better, because of what he is not." Add them, that is, if you find that those pages make sense to start with. I hope you do.

Thank you for the information you sent me earlier about the certificate business. I still do not really know what I am going to do in this chapter two. But I realize that it would be well for me to finish chapter one ~~XXXXXX~~ before I worry too much about the matter. I haven't written any more; I've just gotten materials physically organized for the rest of the thesis. More or less organized, anyway.

Sincerely,

J. W. -

The Cartesian man as
opposed
to the
Platonic
man