

Cambridge, Mass. August 17, 1960

Dear Mr. Mora,

I hope that my meager address will be enough for this letter to reach by with, because I want you to know how I feel about something you have done.

First of all, I am a nobody, with no "axe to grind," a graduate student here at Harvard in the field of art and archeology. But I am deeply interested in synthetic historical thinking.

I want to tell you how much I admire and respect you for what you have done in Man At the Crossroads. I have now read it almost twice; it is an inspiration. It is a creation and a meaning in itself. I have learned so much from experiencing it, and yet I have so far to go before even beginning to explore its vistas, the connections you make between various ideas and various events. That is to say, reading it was and is an education that continues. More than that, it seems to me the only attempt that is at all successful both to order and to illumine, to open the possibilities ahead, that has so far been made in our time --- since the second world war. And in a truly profound way, by penetrating to a level of generality which is nevertheless useful and revealing because within the context of a great intellectual and spiritual vision of history. Which has become, for someone like myself, the only "intellectual problem" that exists; an attempt to give meaning and to show possibilities, as you have done, which is of far greater worth than how many thousands of poems, novels, etc., which no longer give us that lucidity tempered with an awareness of the effects of values as you have done. The only other time I have had this sense of such humane lucidity and vision is in reading some of the lectures from his later years of Jakob Burkhardt.

So I can only say thank you personally, and to repeat my admiration and respect, with the hope that someday when I am older and wiser I may be able to meet the author.

Sincerely,



Edward.F. Fry

18 Sparks St.  
Cambridge, Mass.

29-VIII-60.