

Beaver Brook Road  
Old Lyme, Conn.

May 6, 1955

Dear Professor Ferrater Mora:

Thank you for your answers to my recent questions - which have, as I had hoped, proved to be the last.

I have revised the "sabio" paragraph (p. 15), in accordance with your <sup>s</sup>uggestions. In addition, I had to drop the reference to the usual translation of it being "inept," which does not seem to apply to "wiseman." Here it is, as it now stands:

I have often asked myself what Socrates would ~~have~~ done today in the horror of a concentration camp. True to himself, he would not have rebelled. This is characteristic of the man who still believes in the efficacy of society. Nor would he have asked for help. He would have descended into himself, slowly and serenely; he would have sought in reason - in his reason, for he would have found no other - strength enough to resist the horrors by which he was surrounded. In so doing, he would have <sup>distinguished</sup> ~~separated~~ himself from the rest of the world; he would have gained a tragic greatness. He would have become an example of the type that was known in Greece as the sophos, the "sage" or "wiseman." Socrates was not the first example of this species in the history of the West, but he was the first who expressed it with incomparable maturity. He expressed it, moreover, with all the paradox of its condition. For the wiseman is not wise because he knows things; on the contrary, he knows things because he is wise. To be wise means to be open to knowledge. Here we see again that the significance of the thoughts that the wiseman thinks - although in itself immutable

or "objective" - does not come into existence until wisdom has emerged as a human type. What the ~~2~~ wiseman discovers was probably already "there." But, for man, "being there" is not enough, unless he first <sup>makes</sup> ~~finds~~ the thing be in himself. It is an unavoidable platitude to say that man is, conditionally, the beginning of the human.

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If this result is not satisfactory, please make any comments or suggestions that you may wish.

Yours sincerely,

Willard R. Trask

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10-V-55.