

jhs

Gethsemani  
Trappist, Ky.

Sept 28, 1955

My Dear Biemel-

First, about the quotation from St John of the Cross. I have your edition, by P Lucien Marie. It seems to me that this text is not found in your edition at all. I do not quite know which of the two redactions of the Spiritual Canticle he is using, but the text should come in connection with what he calls the XXI<sup>e</sup> couplet, or with the end of the twentieth. It is a comment on the lines "Je n'ai plus d'autre oeuvre que celle d'aimer... Que si donc au pre public, / De ce jour nul ne me voit etc...."

If you look for the text in some other redaction, look for the commentary on these words. In the second redaction, they would be in the 28th or 29th stanza ("couplet").

In short, if this were in your edition, ~~it~~ it ought to be somewhere around p 824, 825. But I do not find it. I conclude that it is not there.

Second: No Man is an Island has been bought by Editions du Seuil. My agent thought they should have it as the book is a sequel to Seeds of Contemplation which they previously published. The book I have sent to La Pierre qui Vire, for your collection La Croix de Saint Pierre, is I think a much better one than No Man is an Island. It has no fixed title as yet, but Dom Claude and I are thinking of calling it "La Vie Silencieuse". You will see it. Marie Tadie has translated half of it, and I hope she will translate the rest soon, but there seem to be difficulties between her and La Pierre qui Vire. I hope they can be settled. One thing is certain, if Desclee de Brouwer is the publisher, she will be paid by them and not by La Pierre qui Vire. Yes?

Third: what other material can I send you? The Tower of Babel, a verse play (short) is at present being published in a magazine here. I'll send you a copy, maybe you would like it for Les Mains Libres. (May I see an issue of that?) I incidentally, please give my kind regards to Stanislas Funet, who sent me his Mikaël which I greatly enjoyed. I shall pray for him especially on the Feast of St Michael tomorrow. I hoped to write to him personally but my correspondence is ~~unlimited~~ limited here, as he must certainly understand.

If Martha Mary and Lazarus does well, there are two other things of the same type that we might do. One is an essay which appeared in Dieu Vivant 23-- "Le Sermon de l'Avent dans la spiritualite de S. Bernard". You can see it ~~there~~ there, in French. I have no extra copy. It might be published with a translation of St Bernard's advent sermons. For this translation, we might consult Dom Leclercq of Clervaux (Luxembourg) who may perhaps have edited the new definitive Latin text of the sermons, and the translation could be taken from this new text. Then I also have an essay on the Christmas Sermons of Bl. Gueric, which will appear soon in the magazine of the Order. I will send you an offprint. We might do this in the same way-- with a translation of the Sermons. I do not promise that either of these will be a popular success!

About the brochure on the Psalms-- since I offered it to the Sisters ~~me~~ to do with as they liked, and since they know that some Benedictines here in the U.S. received it on the same terms, I cannot very well take it out of their hands. I had not known they intended to run the whole thing themselves, and I feel, as you do, that they are making a mistake in the long run. But that is ~~their~~ their privilege.

There is one more thing-- for Bruce and Co. I have written a short biography of an American Trappist, Father Dennis. It will probably be published with his letters. I recommend it with reserves. You can contact Bruce, but publication has

not yet got under way. They do not have my manuscript but they probably have the letters. I imagine the book will appear next summer.

Apart from that the best I can do for you is suggest that the Tower of Babel be used as the base for a selection of poems, a volume which might have some value for the French reader-- or might not. At any rate, no publisher seems to be in a great hurry to bring out my verse in France. I do not think you publish verse, however.

I shall look forward to anything you send me by Von Balthasar. I am deeply grateful for your kindness in sending me another copy of L'angoisse. I have not yet received it, but I am sure it must have arrived by now. These things sometime take time to get through to their destination. Did you publish Von Balthasar's book on Bernanos? I am very interested in seeing it. I would also be interested in Berdiaev's "Sens de la Creation", Binswanger "Le Reve et l'existence", and the Letters of Pierre Teilhard. "Pere De Leffe's book on China also looks very good, but I hesitate to ask too much. If there is one or the other of these that you can spare, I should be most grateful. (O, and I also notice Timmermans- Triptyque de Noel. He is delightful. I once tried to read him in Flemish but didn't get very far.)

I do not know if I told you, but I thought Goldbrunner's little book was excellent, and also Nelte's true and false religion.

I hope this long letter leaves no question unanswered. And I look forward to hear of the ~~gax~~ unhurried but sure progress of Martha, Mary and Lazarus. It is certainly not a book that needs to be rushed.

With every best wish, as usual---

Devotedly yours in Christ,