

246A N. Maple Dr.
Beverly Hills, Calif. 90210
14th Dec. 1968

Dear Professor Corrigan:

Some time ago someone wrote me saying that the best review of DARK AS THE GRAVE that they had seen was in Shenandoah. I knew this magazine from Dr. Douglas Day who'd written an article in it about Malcolm a few years ago. So I promptly wrote, offering to buy a copy of Summer, 1968 if they had any left. Yesterday, a complimentary copy arrived and I must say I was surprised to discover the essay in question is by you. So I'm writing at once.

Your review is indeed among the most perceptive, serious, intellectually and imaginatively realised I've read. I've read it about five times since yesterday and it's better each time. You seem to really know what he was trying to do, and appreciate just how far he managed to do it in this first draft. He once said that all his first drafts read like a high school boy with a low I.Q. and some of them, and parts of them, did. Which is why Dr. Day and I had to edit the book as we did. Also Malcolm once said his publishers should pay me a salary because I edited everything he wrote before he presented it, and worked with him constantly over the years.

"...in an age when such suffering is too often misprized by the artist or sublimated out of existence in allegiance to some comic god..." This seems to me particularly perceptive and intelligent, along with many other passages of yours equally as true and good. For another instance you are absolutely right about what Malcolm thought when you say: "... something of value which was once a part of literature (at least the mystical, visionary variety) but has long since been lost in the very life modern man has concocted for himself." That could be Malc himself speaking.

I could go on but I think I've said enough to let you know how I feel about this more than excellent review. I can only find difficulty in reconciling it with the other you sent me.

Best wishes

Margerie Lowry

Margerie Lowry

426A N. Maple Dr.
Nevly Hills, Calif. 90210
3rd May, 1969

Dear Professor Corrigan:

You must think me ungrateful and stupid beside that I have not answered your note with your beautiful article before. Let me say right now how much it impressed me. Or rather, the articles. Your understanding and intuition is amazing and your expression of it clear and intense.

The only reason I haven't written before is that I've been in a real boggle. My sister down with HongKong Flu and the friend who lives with me in hospital with a breakdown. I rush back and forth between the two of them trying to help and take them things they want, etc. Naturally my correspondence has fallen off. Also, just to help things along, I recently had a conversation with Raymond Hakim, who with his brother Robert, are to produce the VOLCANO as a film. I am to be consultant on it and now expect to leave this month or next and meanwhile I'm on a two weeks standby. So you can see that I'm busy.

Some ~~injunamaggon~~ time ago someone told me about your excellent article in SHENANDOAH Summer, 1968 and I wrote them to try and buy a copy, they sent me a complimentary copy and I liked your article very much. If I didn't write to you at the time it certainly was an oversight on my part - I thought I had. Do you suppose if I wrote to SHENANDOAH again, and the DALHOUSIE REVIEW I could get the magazine in which these articles appeared? I would like to have them in a more permanent basis for my collection.

Thank you again for your praise and understanding, and please keep in touch with me from time to time. Oh yes, when I return from Europe I shall edit OCTOBER FERRY TO GABRIOLA by myself. I will be quite a task but I've decided I would rather work alone.

Ever sincerely

Margerie Lowry

Margerie Lowry

P.S. Watch for a book about Malcolm & the Cabbala
by Dr. Perle Epstein - out, 1 June, next month