

December 12, 1960

TO THE NEW

Dear Friends:

I thought it would be a good idea, especially since Eleanor is so wonderful to me, to let you in to witness my random thoughts as I summarize the "Phenomenology of Mind". The enclosed is naturally very rough, and unless you yourself have grappled with Hegel, quite difficult. Nevertheless, when you consider that there has been no full summation of the Phenomenology, much less one that would provide stepping-stones for those whose concrete knowledge is that either of the class struggle or Marx' thinking about it. All we have had a choice of are either very brief encyclopedic statements, abstract in the sense that not only is the summation abstract, but so is the thought of the summarizer, which doesn't help one to understand Hegel. The only one I know who has even attempted to make history alive in its relationship to Hegel is Marcuse, but if you will now look at his "Reason and Revolution" and compare that chapter on the Phenomenology with the nine pages here enclosed, you will see how very many stages he skips.

The reason of sharing these random thoughts with you is not, however, confined to Hegel. Important, quint-essential as his thoughts are for us today, they can be no more than premise for what we are to do. Therefore, any references I make to our period is not meant as imputing to Hegel such an analysis, but as challenging ourselves to make it. I will, therefore, follow these summations up with actual writing of the present period and the specific problems with which the new book will concern itself. Meanwhile, don't be afraid if you get a headache; when you get over the headache you will then reach the new ~~era~~ dimension which is necessary for reaching the new world.

Yours,

*Joe*

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