

(copy of "edited" handwritten note to Mary)

1/1/85

Dear Mary,

The fact that I begin the New Year of 1985 with this note to you shows how seriously I worry over the fact that you who wrote so little all your time in N.Y.; didn't take the floor 12/30 at expanded REB. One thing can help you become a N.Y.er, which means a Manhattanite (from 8th thru 80s)(the price becomes almost irrelevant) is to take advantage that (a) money is not, is not, "vulgar materialism"; (b) can be made a Universal; and can, at one and the same time, be what my perspectives of Marxist-Humanism pointed to in the Big Move. Turn to the Life chapter in Part III of the Doctrine of the Notion and see how to launch the American Cululture Center's (New York I mean) reception for the new book; and the 6th class lecture; and the Archive's "interpretation" in March by myself. WL and the Dialectic of Revolution can even get Anne to help you land such an apartment somewhere between 8th and 80th Sts. (I don't know whether my handwriting is legible and doesn't run a bunch of sentences together, so I'll have this typed and dictate the rest. Indeed let me begin with a specific paragraph on page 403 or 796 of Miller translation.)

New Life, further considered in its Idea, is absolute universal in and for itself; that objectivity which it contains is wholly penetrated by the Notion--it has its substance in the Notion alone. That which is distinguished as part, or in accordance with some other external reflection, has the whole Notion within itself: the Notion is the omnipresent Seele, which is simple self-relation, and remains one in that multiplicity which belongs to objective Being. Thus multiplicity, as self-external objectivity, (my emphasis, r.d.) has an indifferent persistence, a persistence which, (in space and time (if it were possible here already to mention these), is a juxtaposition of separate and independent entities. But in Life, externality at the same time is the simple determinateness of its Notion; and thus the Seele in its omnipresence is poured into this multiplicity and at the same time remains just the simple self-unity of the concrete Notion."

Self-relation = falling to itself

One word I prefer in the Miller translation. (it appears just before the phrase I underlined being with multiplicity) The word is "self-relation". I prefer it because to me it is a "translation" of the new beginning I have always stressed when I said: Have a conversation with yourself. There is no substitute for this. Talking with oneself is imperative both because what can't rationalize since the self knows the truth, and no "Other" can substitute for a philosophy of revolution as one concretizes perspectives for oneself. All the perspectives I work out use to show the comrades the organization expression. That is what I did on 12-30-84. When I use the expression the six dialectics of revolution as the concrete way to look at the Introduction to the new book instead of thinking that what I would tell you is the mere content of the "essays" the book consists of. At that point (whatever the date happens to be) the local interests what it is to do to carry this year. In the case of New York it does remain the cultural center of the United States, whether or not the WL accepts it. It remains the responsibility of Marxist-Humanists. I do not doubt for a second that you will not only be a great Marxist-Humanist in general, but also a Manhattanite and the conversation with yourself will be the proof that the Absolute Method is the road to the Absolute Idea which is Marxist-Humanism, and not to any private enclave.

Handwritten notes in top left margin:
New City
Extensive
1/1/85

Handwritten notes in left margin:
Jutta
Sasha
Tina

Handwritten notes at bottom:
Responsibility with others as comrades or prisoners
Love or Phil 11/12/84 or 1/1/85
be it relation
Sasha
Sasha