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Dear Jew -

I have just finished reading Nietzsche west. Thinking that I find myself very close to the geographic scene of your work, I wanted to pen a few words while the powerful mood you evoked was fresh in my mind.

You must have identified yourself in fantasy with both the protagonists, and at the same time have drawn on your own therapeutic experience in the treatment of obsessions. It was even painful to me to have reawakened a plague that had been dormant for 30 years, and the self-taught issues of cosmic distance ("what fools we mortals be") and of eventual reification. And how well I did then, and do now, sense the uses of obsession as existential displacement, and, much the same things, how poignant longing is a reminder that one is alive; how pain is an amplifier of time (so relentlessly slipping away.) I recall having read Nietzsche, perhaps 50 years ago, but unable to accept his Dionysian frenzy. Did I nevertheless assimilate some of what I just describe? What I remember now is a reinforcement of my adolescent gyrophobia, echoed vividly in what you quote from him.

I will not attempt a literary critique - can I say more than that I cannot recall when a fiction has been so real to me. And I do not believe that has much to do with my closeness to you; I was not detained by any decoding of a roman à clef. That enables me to say that, as an emotional reactor I was let down by Breuer's masmeic dream, or rather that it was contained as a dream. Its disillusion seemed more true to life than his reconciliation with Mathilde; and in my mind I will reassert your story ^{so} that emerges as the fantasy.

What a copout, to let Bremer off the hook so easily -
to eat his cake of "escape" and hold it too!

To turn briefly to the historic Metzger, do you
have specific sources for the indicated lines on pages
178-9? In fact, having read him closely so recently,
would you care to contribute what you think might
be most appropriate for ODSG?

My congratulations for a work so wonderfully educating
and revelatory, and one that told me about intensity as
well as obsession.

Yours,
John

P.S. Thank you for referring me to
Lying on the Grass, and Remains.

ODSG

178-9.