

12 July 58

Dear Josh -

Here is a quotation from my dissertation (which I am busy writing this summer):

"... A genius is a genius, a common man is a common man. No genius is a common man; no common man is a genius. A genius has no parents; a genius has no children. The Hegelian "synthesis" (as, for an example, of parents in their child) may be achieved in an intelligent <sup>(but sleepy)</sup> observer's mind, but it should not enter the exposition of theory. Neither modern cytogenetic theory nor the Bible, however, will support the assumption that Jesus was an Hegelian "synthesis" of Joseph and Mary: neither genes nor genius, no more than human bodies nor souls, mix.<sup>\*</sup> Similarly, a painter does not mix all the colors on his palette, unless he wishes to do a study in mud: the color green is not an Hegelian "synthesis" of the colors blue and yellow, except metaphorically, as modern color-printing methods will show: the eye is deceived by its inability to discriminate. Either these examples are poorly chosen, or else Hegel's account of thesis, antithesis and synthesis cannot be illustrated satisfactorily, in the concrete. Hegel's philosophy seems to me to be a system based upon hypocrisy. Relinquishing it, we also relinquish Darwinian evolution and Marxian politics...."

\* A variant, I suppose, of Leibniz's declaration that "monads are without windows."

Correct me if I am wrong about the genes and cytogenetic theory

All this is said apropos of Wyndham Lewis' restoration of Aristotle's law of the Excluded Middle to modern art and science in Time and Western Man.

Your article on Moon dust fascinated and surprised me no end. I told my students about it. How to deal with the Moon using Sterile Technique! Of course the projectile would have to be sterilized about 10 minutes before it lands — a thorny practical problem, I dare say.

But there seems to be something you have overlooked — How do we prevent the Earth from becoming contaminated by little one-celled Moon Creatures or viruses, when the projectile returns? It seems to me that you are worried more about us contaminating them than of them contaminating us!!! Perhaps you had better speak to the Russians about this.

I was delighted to hear from you — I was not sure where you were, or would have written sooner.

Are you still bubble-shaped? I am now quite pear-shaped myself — weigh 180.

Regards and cheers —

Jack