

ABBAY OF GETHSEMANI TRAPPIST KENTUCKY 40073

Oct. 18, 1966

Dear Richard Tobin:

Thanks for your letter. I don't quite know how to go about the proposition. When Thich Nhat Hanh was here I had something very definite to go on. But your suggestion is extremely general. Also I can't comment on specific news events as I cannot follow the day by day news.

One idea I had the other day-- I already suggested it to Harpers but they may not want it: there is a wonderful short piece of Camus, a speech of the Plague (personified) to his "subjects" (victims). He used it in a play about the Plague (not the novel). It runs about 1000 words. I thought of translating it and just adding a short commentary of my own, or rather prefacing it with such a commentary, tying it in with our current situation.

Or perhaps I could write a concise appreciation of the Camusian position ("Neither victim nor executioner") which Nhat Hanh and I share. It is the difficult middle way which seems so inefficient to pragmatists.

Thanks for your suggestion, in any case.

Cordially,

*Thomas Merton*