

DINO J. D'ANGELO

CABADONNA  
CASTEL DI SANORO  
AQUILA, ITALIA

ONE EIGHTY-FIVE VINE  
HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS 60035

May 1, 1984

Dear Gerhard:

Now that I have succumbed to your theory that in philanthropy, unlike modern architecture, less is not more; and having further accepted the bizarre theory propounded by you and Walter Blum that giving \$4,500,000 rather than \$1,000,000 is infinitely better for my soul...may I share a few observations with you:

First, by some Byzantine process Becky, the children and brother Oscar profess to understand the theory, and by such understanding have ratified the covenant.

As to my reaction, you have been aware that I believe that we all have debts to pay, and each pays them in his own way.

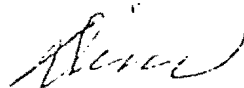
Debts to institutions that "shape" you or "save" you are harder to satisfy, since the obligation was neither negotiated nor freely accepted...it permits enforcement only by an act of conscience. Actually, these debts can never be repaid; the debtor can only hope to match the obligation. Perhaps this gift helps me achieve some parity.

Gerhard, you know that I consider myself a Western Man, who has likened the present age to the late dark ages when devoted monks in Irish monasteries and elsewhere squirreled away large portions of the western culture, preserving it for a future which perhaps by Grace they intuited would be a renaissance. Fortunately for the world, the intuition became a reality. In our day the threat is manifestly different, and the actions required are not in preservation, but devising methods to control the destructive power of the atom. I believe that with the discovery of nuclear reaction God passed ultimate responsibility to man, completing the process started in the Garden when man was given knowledge and responsibility. Man now has not the

desired immortality, but the power to create a void. We must somehow find a silken cord to control this beast, for we cannot, by force, destroy it. The people who will use our law library, and all other libraries and centers throughout the world, must devise the control. They must, in essence, spin the silken thread. If they fail, the world will never know, for what will remain is a silent universe and a weeping God.

Io spero--I ardently hope--that this gift by an Italian immigrant will not be obliterated to mute dust by the onslaught of the fire started by another Italian immigrant on this very same campus.

Con amore,



Dino J. D'Angelo

jdg

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By Messenger