

August 7th 1963

Dear Rafael Squirru -

I take to heart everything you say. Yes, indeed, I do know of Christ's silence before Pontius Pilate - and of the Buddha's most famous - silent - sermon - with flower in hand. These were active silences - most effective. Mime is of quite another order, I suppose, though influenced by the great exemplars.

You know I didn't think "Le matin des Magiciens" so bad. Depends on the reader. Contained some astounding facts and hints. Planete I know - but doesn't interest me.

Wonder though if you know the work of Laurens van der Post of South Africa? Particularly these two books - "The Lost World of the Kalahari" and "The Heart of the Hunter" (both pub. by Morrow Co., N.Y.) Not only beautiful writing, but deep understanding. No doubt you know him. I have only come upon his work lately - and am enchanted.

Now then, if I may so without giving offense, it seems somewhat ridiculous to me to be asked to speak for Jesus. of course he is misunderstood! But that is one of the reasons why he continues to exert such power and influence. He does reach those who are ready to accept his message. And if he couldn't wake the others up, can we lesser fry hope to do so? Do you see what I mean? Each one of us has to find the truth for himself and in his own way. (Platitude, yes, but so true.) And if we do affect others at all, I believe it is through example and not words. Coming from a writer this may sound strange. But then most writers never seem to learn this lesson.

I hope you agree.

You sound like an original thinker, despite the knowledge I know you possess.

One last word — "Easy does it!"
With warm good wishes!
Henry Miller