

Henry Miller

July 19<sup>th</sup> '63

Dear Rafael Squirin -

I saw your photo in the magazine "Americas" to day and I like it. I like your words too. And you are one of the few, I must say, who prefer the Rosy Crucifixion trilogy to the Tropics.

As for Magic + Mysticism - or Christ - there is another story. I lean toward you, not toward the mystics. And, I do believe there is such a thing as magic.

In fact, the universe itself is simply "magical" I feel. Of course, there are the white and the black magicians. If you want to know how deeply black Hitler and his gang were, you should have a look at "Le matin des 'magiciens'" par Pauwels + Bergier - translated recently, in England, as Dawn of Magic.

Now I must confess that though I have an unholly respect for Jesus, he does not attract me, as do the Buddha and Milarepa, the Tibetan. I think the last named is my true favorite, because he began by committing all the crimes in the calendar. And - he had a sense of humor, as did Ramakrishna. And, he was a fighter, like the beloved Swami Vivekananda, to me one of the truly heroic figures.

Henry Miller  
444 Ocean Drive  
Pacific Palisades, California

To tell you the truth, I am tired of writing about these subjects. I get more close mouthed as time goes on. I feel, like Vivekananda, that the truly great spiritual figures — mostly unknown — were silent men. I will never attain that wisdom, alas, but I revere it. I loathe preachers — and men who must explain every thing. Or who must persuade, convince or convert others to their way of thinking. I repeat what I have said many times, that the only real way to convince men or influence is by one's behavior.

Do you recall the saying of St. Francis, which <sup>Joseph</sup> Delteil uses in his wonderful book on St. Francis? (Perhaps he invented it, Delteil. If so, all the better!) "Don't try to change the world. Change worlds!"

Well, enough. The men you quote in your letter Berdyaev also quoted as being the ones who express the Christ spirit — through art. He too is a favorite of mine. I adore "eschatology".

My best always!  
Henry Miller

P.S. I smile about your temporary depression. It will pass. One should sink to the very bottom — then rise like a cork. How many times I have committed suicide!! It's very healthy — for the spirit.