



UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

2-16-94

re: "The Fear
of God"

Dear Norman, 10/6/94

I am sorry that my comments caused you distress and sleeplessness, but then something very good came of it — your excellent interpretation of your grandfather's, ^{his} final remarks. I believe that you really penetrated to his meaning.

What moved me about the remarks was his humanism — his religious humanism. I shared his humanistic concern about punishment (in the traditional sense) after death, but mine led to an irreligious conclusion whereas his never did.

I never doubted his great piety — how could anyone who knew him! — but I feared that some on the far right (perhaps just to hurt you) might besmirch ^{his piety} him. Hence I wondered whether you would want it published; but with your clarification perhaps it should be published. I am indeed very happy ~~that~~ with your clarification. I trust that you never questioned my esteem for his piety and wisdom — which was shared by my father and is still shared by my mother.

I have no recollection of ever having shown his remarks to anyone, though I did ask a ~~colleague~~ colleague about some word in the text when I was translating it.



I hope Rosie's condition will improve. I hope all is well with you and the family. I will ~~convey~~ convey your good wishes to Kathy, but, I am sad to say, I have separated from her.

I am on a Sabbatical leave this semester and have started to write a new book. This would be chutzpah, considering my age, were I interested in finishing the book; but I am mostly intrigued about it and enjoying the process.

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Affectionately,
Jerry