

8/9/71

Dear Jim (PH),

Thanks for the return of the two chapters of AO, r/c'd today. Appreciate the time you took to go over them and make suggestions. I wrote them as a sample to give a publisher. Editorial decision (two) highly favorable. Policy determination, above editorial, subject dead. Prior to this I had written two more, after that I'd returned to TIGER, and because of other developments I've no time to go into, I then decided to complete PM.

That has to be if not literatures, then my most interrupted book. Aside from the interruptions in the earlier parts there is no point in going into now, the first having been done 7/67, the second when I wouldn't stay N.O. for the Shaw trial and had to do it so I could prep Bud and Cyril, it been repeatedly interrupted in the present, by everything including workin weekend guests, who work less than they weekend, for all their impeccable intentions (it is beautiful and isolated here, and we do have a 40-foot swimming pool) and other things for which I have to lay it aside.

Because my wife, although recovering well from a fall more than two months ago, is not really up to doing this much intensive typing and has quite an accumulation to eliminate, I haven't read a word of it. I'm just turning it out as fast as I can. This is just after lunch. Just before I decided to break the penultimate chapter into two. So, I'd started the new penult. and have the last, which will have to be a long one (and may also be when I get into it) to do. Plus conclusions covering all three parts. They have to cut the hell out of the first.

So, I've just glanced at what you returned, note two different colors, presume they are yours and Paul's, filed it for when I can return it, which I expect will be when I've finished all of PM. It is, after all, court now. The court should have appointed counsel several weeks ago and has not. So, until then, I write. Then I'll have to work on that appeal. When write again, and don't do it until then, for there is no immediacy and I have a special file for what I've written and can just add it then, perhaps you can have a helpful opinion, based on what you know and what you may understand what my investigations have developed, on something that perplexes. My original plan was to have these the first two chapters. Then I feared that the second might make everything else seem anti-climactic. PH prefers the original. The last would in either case be the official "investigation". What do you think?

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Best,