4519 West Fifteenth Ave.,
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November 9, 1962

Dear Mr. Leeman :

First of all, just a word about the question you raise regarding the insertion of a paragraph dealing with the arguments "pro and con for marriage." Yes, perhaps it would round out the discussion and bring it into sharper focus if this were done.

About the proof reading: I am now going over the MSS a second time. Sometimes the translation of a Latin phrase has been suggested and occasionally the omission of English words the meaning of which would probably elude the general reader. The red dot technique has been followed to indicate changes, spelling etc. I will try to get the MSS on its way in a day or two.

Now I am really going to stick my neck out -- at your own kind invitation, I beg to observe! In my humble opinion, one brief yet major addition to the present text would greatly enhance the value of the book as a whole. This material comes under the heading "Cure of Melancholy -- against Sorrow for the Death of Friends or, otherwise, vain Fear." I found this in my own little copy of the Anatomy (page 176) which I am sending to you along with this letter. This passage moved me very deeply but quite apart from any emotional response, I felt that it shed a new light on Burton the man, as distinct from Democritus wearing his mask. His calm acceptance of the noble and austereGreek point of view seemed to be almost complete and, apart from a pious phrase or two, he made no mention of "the sure and certain hope" that is at the core of the Christian faith. Of course, this dichotomy is more or less manifest throughout the entire work but here it finds expression with more poignancy and less detachment than elsewhere. And yet in these few lines we find what the French call "the cry from the heart." Why not let Democritus drop his mask for once?

Your own approach to the Anatomy is evidently so different from the clumsy handling inflicted on it by other commentators that I am sure you share my own conviction: "Camerado, this is no book, who touches this, touches a man."

Well, there it is, for what it may be worth! Except that I should like to tell you what a consolation it has been to have so congenial a task to turn to during this continuing period of anxiety.