

4519 West Fifteenth Ave.,

Vancouver, 8 B.C.

October 18, 1962

Dear Mr. Leeman :

First I must explain why there has been so long a delay in thank-you for sending me a copy of the precious MSS. Just at the time it arrived, I got word that my only brother, who lives in California, is suffering from an illness from which there is no hope of recovery. I know you will understand my grief and anxiety but I also want to assure you that the reading of the MSS is proving to be a source of great comfort. Your book is showing me where to look for compassion and even for healing. Better than any other author I have known, Democritus understood the human condition. ^{He} ~~It~~ will do the same for many other readers, thanks to you.

Now a word or two about the MSS. First of all, I read the whole thing straight through. In fact, I couldn't lay it down. Then I re-read your earlier letters in which you indicated your aims and mentioned a few problems. Then I said to myself: From the beginning, this book flowed. Now it flows more surely and smoothly than ever. Which means, of course, that by some magic Burton's glorious King James English has been subtly transformed for clarity when necessary, but has been let alone when there was no need to change. I can't imagine how you have managed to do this but I darkly ~~suspect~~ suspect that early classical education had something to do with it.

In the MSS as it now stands, there appears to be very little that a general reader (such as EJ) would like to see altered. However, selection of content, sequence of chapters, relationship and balance of the various divisions are now being milled over. I know that time must be of the essence. How long can you give me? In the meantime, I am making a beginning and am setting down a few ideas for what they may be worth.

Wm