

Truro, Mass. Dec. 15 45

Dearest Gabriela,

It was a great joy for me to hear you had won the Nobel Prize! I at once sent you a cable (I was sick at that time). I hope you received it. It is so long since I have heard from you! So many letters have been lost that I can not be certain why it is. My recollection is, that I have not heard from you since I saw you in Rio! Not even a word from you after I had sent you my book, South American Journey! I do not know if you received it; I do not know if you liked it - or approved of the words in it about you. In fact, except for letters from Victoria Ocampo, I have had mostly silence from my friends in America Hispana. I have not even heard, in a long long time, from Vinicius de Moraes. Won't you write me soon, dear dear friend? All America Hispana must be rejoicing that this recognition of that world from Europe should have been so wisely, so purely, symbolised in the selection of yourself. Seldom has the Nobel Prize for literature gone to one who so wonderfully deserved it.

I am enclosing a statement from a new and admirable Jewish magazine "Commentary" when the editors asked me for names of writers who could make an important contribution to their series, I at once named you. Will you write an essay - on any aspect you choose of the problem of Man - an essay that can run to 5,000 words more or less? It will be a good service, and incidentally it will be adequately paid. Commentary is a magazine of real value; and the voice of America Hispana should be in it. Your essay, of course, need not have any reference to the Jews. If you will write to me or directly to the editors, saying you will accept, I shall be grateful.

As to me: I have, with the exception of several long lecture tours (in which, often, I spoke of you to audiences all over the United States and Canada) remained here in my country home in Truro, working and working on my long novel of New York. At present, I am revising it. In a few months, it will be done; and then, once more I will go out into the world -- either to Europe or perhaps to Mexico. Jean and I live here, in solitude, and in happiness -- insofar as one can be happy in an exploded and dissolving world. It is the one way to live in the United States - but I miss my contact with my friends and with the world.

How has your health been, dear Gabriela? Oh, so many questions!

Write to your old friend and mother, who sends you his devoted love, as always.

WaWa

PS To avoid the hard winter up here, we are spending January-February-March in New York. You can address me there:  
c/o Hotel Earle,  
Washington Square, N.W.  
New York

but the Truro, Mass.

address will always reach me. Or should..