

315 W. 82nd Street  
August 2, 1964

Dear John,

It has now been some time since you returned to the land of the night-blooming jasmine. I wonder how your "meisterwerk" is progressing? Have you finished and presented it for re-examination to Miss Jollet? I take a rather selfish interest in the book, since, upon its completion and publication, I will have some contact, however slight, with fame and notoriety; one needs a touch of megalomania to get by.

I haven't forgotten your request for a copy of the black nationalist newspaper. They occasionally sold them on Broadway up in this neighborhood, but I haven't seen them since you left. The only place they regularly hawked them was on street corners in the Village and I haven't been there. I wouldn't doubt but that they are wary of distributing them on upper Broadway in my neighborhood for fear of getting a punch in the nose from some white man.

I should imagine the Southern papers are full of the race riots herewith lurid photographs. Actually, the only knowledge I have of it is from the same source as yours - the papers.

Yesterday afternoon, I strolled through Central Park with an acquaintance and then visited the Metropolitan Museum of art. I had never been there before. I especially liked the rooms appointed in the XVIIIth century French style. I think I have a taste for elegant opulence.

I've been ruminating upon your suggestion of a visit to New Orleans. Everyone says New Orleans is an interesting and unusual place; one isn't always invited to an interesting and unusual place. If the state of progress of your novel, your private life, and the prophecies of the Delphic oracle are amenable, I would like to tour New Orleans during my vacation. I am scheduled to take 2 weeks off, the weeks beginning August 10th & August 17th. You said the end of the Summer would be most agreeable to you. I believe I could change the dates around a bit without much difficulty. Although I will take two weeks of vacation, I would expect to spend only about a week down South, so you needn't be alarmed. You suggested ac-



commodations at the artistic Miss Arena's manse. If this didn't work out I could always put up at a hotel somewhere, as I would have to do if I vacationed somewhere else. Truly, if my coming would inconvenience you, let me know. I actually should have contacted you sooner, but time crept away on quiet feet & was gone before I realized it.

Hope everything is well with you.

Sincerely,

