

15 February 1980  
Fabel Monday

Dear Ken,

It was very nice to talk to you. Your voice sounds happy, sunny, the voice of a man who is young and has very good reasons to be happy, indeed. So, congratulations again for “The needle” and “Triple.”

I am very glad to hear that you are reading your own book in French. You know what’d be a great help to me? If you would take the trouble to note where I erred and tell me. I know I made a few silly mistakes – Nourissier put his finger right on them – but with your help and my paying a little more care to my work that’ll be remedied.

Laffont wants the “Triple” translation to be completed by the end of March, which doesn’t leave too much room for dreaming. I’m supposed to send them the first 100 pages some time next week and so on and so on. They want – and I don’t blame them – to profit by the good welcome that “The Needle” got. But it forces me to ask you not to delay too much the “eclaircissements” I need.

So here goes for today:

- “Gawd, stone the crows!” – Must be some kind of sentence that doesn’t mean a thing precisely but a phrase like the Parisian titis creates now and then. No?

P. 9. The martyr’s memorial – A monument of a commemorative gathering?

P. 20. To second-guess. Pardon me but I am not clear about the exact meaning.

As well as (pg. 56) which bedeviled. Can’t catch what you want to carry exactly = qui sont la fiere des fonctionnaires?

P 22 baladi women. (Sorry I haven’t an Egyptian dictionary.)

P. 22: What’s the Shari al Salibah? An avenue? I want to keep Shari, naturally.

P. 24 Fanta: I guess I used to know what it is but I can’t remember.

P. 28 = M. I. T. = Mass. Institute of Technology? Right?

P. 34 – A: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death... (Where does it come from?)

P. 53 – Pita – bread. Found pita (agave) which doesn’t help. So what it is. And did you enjoy your trip to Cairo, by the way?

P. 57 – Jargon. Naturally, I know the French word. Could it be: langage-maison?

P. 60 – the pie show: Patisserie or charcuterie, or what.

Please, my dear Ken, forgive my failings. Anyway that’s all... for to-day.

Your proud translator and friend,  
R. Bré

We must get together when I am through with “Triple.”