

Batus, My dear friend:

I am sending you the promised text. I am far from ~~being~~ satisfied with it, but I preferred to take the clearest and the simplest way, since I imagine that Paz and others will already have taken on the task of considering the problem in all its depth and the wealth it embraces. I wanted to emphatically point out our "Société's" heritage in the Middle Ages, because I consider it vital that people know that the individual has always had a true desire to "unbosom" himself to his neighbour, and not through systems and technical inventions, which have not brought us ONE SINGLE STEP nearer to true communication. Two sonnets by Lope de Vega, ten lines of Shakespeare, and more from Goethe's Faust bring us much further and are capable of much more than all the Fax machines, Minitels and such like nonsense, which may TRANSMIT words, but never perceptions, and still less certainties.

If this text does not meet your expectancies, then let me know and I shall follow any directions you give me. You can trust me as far as that goes, since my passport was not issued in Nepal.

I send you my enduring embrace, and if we do not meet before then, I will see you in Vienna. I think of you with friendship

Alvaro Mutis  
(signature)