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Mr.
HENRY MILLER

Dear Sir:

A few years ago I discovered some of your books (Tropic of Cancer, Black Spring, Big Sur, Obscenity and the Law of Reflection...) Lately I have been reading Books in my life. Upto the finding out of your books, I had been living covered by a blanket of shadows in my own country, a little nation subdued by the Spanish State: Catalonia. Deprived of the lowest grade of liberty, we, the catalan people, were being taught a language which was not our own, the Spanish language, a History which was not our own, and they forced us to accept a foreign way of life. We could not publish books, magazines or newspapers in catalan; the use of catalan was banned from the radio, cinema, etc. etc. A similar situation was imposed upon the basques and the galicians. Otherwise, the obscurantism that flew over the whole peninsula, left us without the right of reading the most important authors of our time. This situation has been going on for the last 30 years, but by now it has changed a little. We are permitted to publish books in catalan, a weekly review (Tele/Estel) and a monthly one (Serra d'Or) But catalan language is still banned from school, college, University, etc.

Lately they have authorized the publishing of some foreign authors that were up-to the present time in the "black list": Sartre, Kafka, Hemingway, Malraux, etc. And now is when you come in. Your book A Devil in Paradise has been published already in catalan, translated by one of our ~~greater~~ greater novelist and dramatists: Manuel de Pedrolo. Martin Esslin has studied part of his dramatic production in The theatre of the absurd. Actually I am translating Black Spring into catalan, and I thought you would be glad to know that of your books will be read by a slavered people in an old language, a language that produced a great literature in the Middles Ages (1272-1500), and, after a long period of decadence (1500-1833), it was developed to a high point during the "Renaixença" (Renaissance) (1833-1939). After the Spanish Civil War came the long night of a thick silence over the catalan language and culture. In spite of all the difficulties I told you about, actually we can again name a lot of young poets, historians, dramatists, story-tellers, novelists and scholars, by all which we can affirm our language and culture are saved.

I have seen you have written a book, Reunion in Barcelona, that has awoken my interest, because I was born in Barcelona (but I have been living in Buenos Aires for ten years now). Could you tell me where should I be able to find it or to ask for it?

As I am writing a prologue for my translation of Black Spring, because I wish to tell my people my own experiencies in the discovering of your books, I should like to unveil a mistery, a doubt, formed in my mind aboyt the genealogy of Anaïs Nin. Nin is a catalans surname. I have read somewhere (Miller by F.-J. Temple, I suppose) Anaïs Nin's father was a Spanish musician, Joaquín Nin, married to a danish singer, Rosa Culmell. I have found in my files, a Joaquim Nin, catalan, (1870-1950), who was a composer and pianist. And I found a Joaquim Nin-Culmell,

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born in Berlin in 1908, who is living in Barcelona now and has composed some catalan music. Could the former Joaquim Nin be Anaïs Nin's father? And could Joaquim Nin-Culmell be a son of that Joaquim Nin and, therefore, Anaïs' brother?

I think you must be receiving a lot of letters, but maybe you should be able to rob a few seconds to your "cosmological" time to write a few words to me. Can I do something for you? Maybe, send some books? I remain to your ordres. I would like very much to pursue this correspondence. With admiration and affect, I am yours

P.S. Forgive my English. I use to read a lot in English, but I scarcely write it.