

March 7, 1968

Professor Michael Polanyi
22 Upland Park Road
Oxford
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Dear Professor Polanyi:

I am very grateful for your last letter. It is very kind of you to write.

I have already sent a copy of my paper to Harre, as you suggested, though I thought that he will not be much interested in it. Unless, of course, you have recently shaken him out of his naive faith in the verification of models as a characteristic move in science.

I was rather unhappy about having displeased you in my brief characterization of your philosophy in my last paper. May I say by way of apology that I could not have gone into this satisfactorily. I am now preparing the final draft of a manuscript on the philosophy of religion, singling Duhem, Buber, and yourself for critical examination as the major influences on the scientific religious avant-garde here. It seems to me that in one respect you differ from the existentialists - in that you limit the range of commitment to those commitments practiced by existing traditions; but beyond that, I think, you do allow arbitrariness of commitment in the same manner - at least in your Logic of Liberty. This is the view I attribute to you (as well as to Buber) in my present paper; if you disagree with me on this I should be most grateful for a correction in time to implement it in the proofs. I hope you do not mind my troubling you with this request.

I hope to be in Paris and Vienna for the conferences this summer and I shall be delighted to meet you there in case you participate in either.

Best Wishes,

Joseph Agassi
Professor of Philosophy

JA:DS