

Here, however, I should emphasize two things. One, I have already referred to: that a strong ~~literature~~^{poetry} -- a strongly critical, even tragic ~~literature~~^{poetry} -- is the index of a general spiritual strength. The second is a notion I began with: that ~~literature~~^{poetry may be read} is not merely ²⁵ diagnostic, but also ²⁵ therapeutic. Tomorrow I shall try to explore the diagnostic implications of our ~~literature~~^{poetry} for this crucial moment in our history; and shall try to explain what I mean by the implicit power of healing.

~~In the simplest terms~~

To state the matter as simply as possible, it represents a will + a strength to face the facts of one's lot + the lot of the community + the ~~matter~~^{face} "self" of the community.

one's lot and one's