

Monday, August 8,

Dear Friends,

Have you given up on us?
I wouldn't blame you entirely
if you had. But let me
tell you it's all Fernando's
fault. Here we were in
Los Angeles back in February—
John had just brought up
Projector and film to show
Shirley Mc Lane and friends,
when we get this phone call
from Fernando saying "You
must accompany me on
a 3-week trip. I want to
do research for my next book
on Dreams and the Dead."
So we meet him in Guadala-
lara at the Camino Real
and lo + behold he shows
up with his girl friend!
A very charming woman
who is also a painter. We
traveled around the coast

of Nayarit with both of them for about a week, then she left and we took Fernando to the Sierra. There he interviewed shamen about where the dead go and how the shaman find them which all fit in with the research I had been doing in LA. at UCLA about AZTLÁN, the original home of the Aztecs. Nuño de Guzman arrived in Aztlán on September 19, 1530 but before he had time to do in all the inhabitants as he had done all along his route, a terrible hurricane and subsequent flood destroyed the whole area - The survivors, few in number, fled to the neighboring Sierras. Guzman lost a lot of men but went on to Acaponeta + Chiametla, Culiacan, etc - Well, the Hueicholes when they die also return to Aztlán

where most of their gods were born. All of this fascinated F. but at the same time we all got embroiled in doing a report on the current problems for the Director of the Indian Institute who then asked us to go back to implement new programs. And when we went back to the Sierra the Indians asked us to accompany them (the Peyoteros) on a pilgrimage to the sea to sacrifice a bull - That was absolutely wild - Blood on the sand and cast into the waters along with candles, arrows and miniature wool paintings. When we finally got back to Guadalajara where we had left our broken down auto, John collapsed with some kind of terrible throat infection - He couldn't talk

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for 2 weeks.

Back in Mexico, Fernando's girlfriend says "I have the perfect backer for your film." A millionaire who has made his money in a very mundane way - Supermarket chains - but who is very interested in cultural things and who produced "Sentinels of Silence" the Oscar-winning documentary about Mexican pyramids narrated by Orson Welles. It turns out this man is financing the Templo Mayor Project (Now open to the public) and other Projects related to the Historic Center of Mexico City. Needless to say we are planning to have a screening for him as soon as he comes back from Europe in about 10 days.

So now you know where we have been and what's been going on. We think about you all so often, if you get ringing in your ears, that's us!

Fernando insisted we stay at his house for a couple of weeks and we met a lot of interesting people - Ex-presidents and artists. José Luis Cuevas is really funny.

Is the great work finished? Must be nearly so - What's happening up in Ft. Worth? We are planning to come up to the States around the end of August. Where will you be? Let's plan on getting together then.

Much love from
Collette + John

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