

Box #2:

Sept. 22, 1979

Dear Audre,

First I want to thank you for sending me The Slack Unicorn. I have read all of the poems, some of them several times. Many of them moved me very deeply—others seemed farther from my own experience. You have helped me to be aware of different dimensions of existence, and I thank you for this.

My long delay in responding to your letter by no means indicates that I have not been thinking about it—quite the contrary. I did think that by putting it aside for awhile I would get a better perspective than at first reaction. I wrote you a note to that effect which didn't get mailed since I didn't have your address. ~~Then there was a hope of trying to get to Vermont in August, but the summer was overwhelmingly eventful.~~

Clearly there is no simple response possible to the matters you raise in your letter. I wrote Gyn/Ecology out of the insights and materials most accessible to me at the time. When I dealt with myth I used commonly available sources to find what were the controlling symbols behind judeo-christian myth in order to trace a direct line to the myths which legitimize the technological horror show. But of course to point out this restriction in the first passage is not really to answer your letter. You have made your point very strongly and you most definitely do have a point. I could speculate on how Gyn/Ecology would have been affected had we corresponded about this before the manuscript went to press, but it doesn't seem creatively-conducive to look backward. There is only now and the hope of breaking the barriers between us—of constantly expanding the vision.

I wonder if you will have any time available when I come to New York for the Simone de Beauvoir conference? Since I have a lot to do here, I had thought of just flying down Friday morning and returning that night. Are you free Friday afternoon or evening? Or will you be in Boston any time soon? I called and left a message on your machine. My number is 617 244 0175. Hope to see you and talk with you soon.

*I hope you are feeling well, Audre  
May the strength of all the  
Godesses be with you—*

*Mary*