

you see... you say...
You met Mac. From him you met me. Don't meet this one.
up! Al.

ALFRED R. PULYAN
R. F. D.
SOUTH KENT, CONN.

Aug. 27, 1960.

Dear Dick,

You certainly don't sound like a fool and that is half the battle! As long as you realize that the "self" is like an eel dipped in oil. [WOUGH! WOUGH! There it goes...]

① Your problem is the old koan: What shall I do when I meet a Zen Master? Shall I give him an imperent, bluff him, slug him? Well, if you do, he will either give you a little judo, if he is a black belt, or, if he is an old man & weak, will politely transfer you to another monastery! Occupational hazard!

② Shall I call him a liar? He will smile & I shall get no further. Besides, after knowing him some time I shall see that he is sincere. So when the possibility is that he is self-deceived, in a state of illusion, mental congealation, misunderstanding of subjective experiences etc. etc. "Who isn't?"

After knowing him a little longer I find him keen, (sharp, definite, logical, certainly not psychotic). I begin to say: "Well, God or no God, become some of that anyway!"

③ But right now I have just met him. How shall I act? Shall I doubt & yet half-hide it, placate him so that he won't run away? If there is A CHANCE that he really is that extraordinary thing, a Buddha, another Jesus, a Lao Tse, an Eckhart, etc. etc. then let us not lose this chance!

So let us cackle a bit, snigger a bit, flatter the old bastard, kiss his venerable posterior, hide our doubts... The trouble is that the Z.M. knows that one too! Besides IF HE NEEDS THAT HE IS STRICTLY NO GOOD, STRICTLY FOR THE BIRDS. - Grog somewhere else...

Of course you could be just a friend, and friends don't have any communication problem.

BE CLEAR AT THE OUTSET - WE ARE EQUAL:

- (a) You are a run-of-the-mill intelligent man - no less than me, no more, than me as regards capacity.
- (b) As regards "knowledge" we have both picked up scraps.
- (c) My mind is not more or less "infinite" than yours.
- (d) I am no "better" or "worse" than you. We are both mixtures.