

over your own. In plain English the marvel is to be found in what we are already familiar with, writing a letter or drinking a glass of water - in the so-called "commonplace".

Naturally I want your photograph - is that such a terrible request? Did I send you mine? If not I will at once do so. Is there some special reason, as was the case with a lady student of mine who was terribly disfigured in an accident?

Friendship is desirable in a study of this type because the delicate discrimination required is not attainable in an atmosphere of cynical distrust, picayune carping and falsetto accusations. Even a psychical researcher gets further if he approaches this often murky subject in a pleasant manner. But leave this matter for the moment.

The experiences you mention come unmasked & unexpected. They leave ego the same as before, almost.

The understanding we are dealing with demands an [⊛]abnegation of ego, even if only once, yet completely. This is for us humans usually a real problem. For me it was nearly impossible... The friend who is assisting you (as a sort of catalyst) does not have a pleasant job because ego starts a furious battle by any & every method, tricky, snide, violent, withdrawing & so forth. (The same is true in psychotherapy but it is diluted so that ego doesn't get so inflamed. It is "diluted" because the "attack" on ego is slow, long drawn-out, gradual, gentle - and highly profitable!)

[⊛ You will find this exemplified in the remarks of every page through the ages - & I will instance Heraclitus, Sautama, Lao Tse --- all around 500 B.C. when there was such an abrupt change from the (evolved) animistic & sacrificial cults, as dealt with by Frazer & other anthropologists.]

You will never while you live find any other way, since intellect alone cannot do the job & only revolves in its own squirrel-cage.

You will never find a teacher-friend who will let you fix the conditions of "work" because then you are using your ego to work on ego & that is self-defeating.

This is how it is. I cannot change it. It is an "odd" universe you & I are born in & will die in. Friend, Al.