

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

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Dear Dick,

"Conversational fodder" is apparently the best we can hope for yet. Actually a paucity of language such as yours does not reflect a difficulty of finding something to say, but rather shows a very high degree of selectivity among your no-doubt very numerous thoughts. You hand out to me the fewest possible scraps conveying the fewest possible indications as to you yourself. If I were a psychoanalyst (I certainly am not) getting \$25 or \$30 per hour for your revelations I feel you might eventually feel that more cooperation would mean more money's worth. Yet no doubt many patients lie on the much ~~less~~ publicized couch and keep mum for session after session, and to hell with economy!

If two people getting married asked "what shall we talk about?" I should notify any lawyer friend I had who handles divorce work to keep an eye on them!

STAGE Normally the procedure toward "awakening" goes something like this.

1 Battered by the storms of life or driven by an interior compulsion or even some "experience" a person becomes dissatisfied with his or her current religion, (or the lack of it), and drifts and studies such things as Unity, Theosophy, Christian Science, maybe even Rosicrucianism, Zen, etc. Possibly they will read Huxley's ~~Book~~ "Perennial Philosophy" & dip into Far Eastern texts now so easily available. They may get the idea that there is a thing called liberation or awakening or satori or realization, although it seems extremely vague and their passion for miracles & marvels gets mixed up with it.

2 Sooner or later the "master" or "guru" idea comes up since the student gets nowhere by himself or herself usually. To "pick" a master or guru, cold turkey, is not at all easy because there are not enough available for picking & choosing. However there are the correspondence courses, the Essene Society, the Brotherhood of the light, etc etc (I make up names although I may have guessed ^{over} them)