

Penwood, N. Va.  
Mar 10, 1961

Friend Willy,

Concerning the volume of conversation.... I do not know what  
it is this thing is about and you do. Consequently you are  
the one with the foot on brake or accelerator. You have  
convinced me that my own knowledge is insufficient (you and  
many years of experience.) and if I have no intellectual tri-  
bits to offer, what is the use of verbiage? But you need it  
you tell me to implement something that you cannot explain to  
me.

I am not fascinated with the need to say 25 or 30 anything  
to a psychiatrist. My studies along those lines indicate that  
they are laboring under and belaboring the public with some  
very erroneous ideas. By organization they have managed to  
cement themselves into a sinecure, and like most professional  
men they cow the layman with a solemn look of authoritative  
which is their chief stock in trade. Percentage-wise among  
my contacts the head-shrinkers have the greatest representation  
among nuttys. Poetic justice perhaps for the  
poet. The only reason I mention this is because of your fra-  
quent reference to your vices as a psychiatrist. A psychiatrist  
used as a yardstick for sanity, that is, is done by the most  
people, and calls it "the Normal". Using this yardstick he  
is instrumental in sending men to the gallows, because the  
solemn hypocrisy of the lawyer-racket recognizes another good  
con man. In my opinion (be it humble or asinine) the average  
uses word-symbols as any physician used latin in his prescrip-  
tion....to conceal his own ignorance and confuse the victim.

I would like to comment on the three stages toward a yak. I  
I have become dissatisfied and sensed that someone must have  
more direct knowledge. Hurley does not inspire me. He seems  
afraid to say something that that might interfere with the  
sale of his back.

sure the idea of a teacher goes up. I have eagerly sought  
people out who were only considered to be intellectuals, to  
share ideas or to lever out new coordinations with the spark  
of their conversation. And they are teachers to a certain  
extent. But I do not run madly from one cult to another.  
I have looked into them, but when they want me to pledge  
ten or twenty years of my time to buying their mumbo-jumbo,  
I become interested in another direction.

When we use the word guru there is a slightly different  
implication....either more dangerous and portentous since  
the word is exotic, or more full of meaning since the Hindu