

ALFRED R. PULYAN
P. O. D.
SOUTH KENT, CONN.

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Dear Dick,

THIS IS HE
SPEAKING

Occasionally on the stage an actor will doff his "mask" & disguise & make-up & appear as himself. It is sometimes a very different personality, in fact usually.

Thus in this letter I am not speaking as "one of the few" or somebody who claims to "know" about what you call "essence" and I call the "One Self". I leave that to one side.

I am just another human being in this letter and I trust you will find me agreeable & courteous.

UNKINDNESS

I think all of us humans should feel a deep sympathy for one another in this vale of tears. Thus any "caustic sarcasm" you may have found in any of my previous letters I deeply regret (from the point of view of this letter). Also the "vulgar choice of words" that you observed, and the possible "adolescent desire 'to shock'"; Also I regret any "nagging" you may have noticed. All such things are merely adding fresh disagreeableness to the ample supply that exists anyway.

LEAVING WITH
A DIRTY LOOK

The few cases that I have had where a person withdrew were all characterized by more or less acerbity & I think this is due to a misunderstanding. Let me illustrate.

THE TECHNIQUE

A young girl student of Zen was walking along Sixth Avenue, New York, when a "drunk" decided to give her a scare. He shouted out something as loud as he could, "1300!!!" The girl smiled as it reminded her of the Zen Master. The drunk said "Christ, she LIKES it!!!"

You remember the character in the Mikado, who was unable to find anybody to contradict him? Everybody was too darn nice!

The person who is "awakened" understands that the only way to such an attainment is AGAINST EGO. That means that the gōn, or whatever you call him, has to be constantly throwing barbs, harpoons --- being disagreeable, sarcastic, unreasonable, vulgar, adolescent, nagging, caustic & so forth. It is his job as it is the job of the architect to design buildings.