

1674 High St.  
Benwood, W. Va.  
April 26, 1961

Friend Al,

Just got your card. Many thanks. Will Try. Did not have the flu. I have recurrent bronchitis. When it gets damp it recurs. However the main trouble was in the sigmoid flexure of the colon. Cystitis of the bladder and then along came the bronchitis back. I couldn't shake it. Thought I had cancer of the colon. This because of the pain, and the kindly advice of the doc to make certain financial arrangements.

Enough of that. I have mislaid your last letter, but I remember the most of it. I deplore friction, and would rather not communicate than continually beat one another's throats. I know that there is the temptation which you have extended, that big things may be gained.

I get rather confused. I know that nothing has ever been proven logically, or by reason. Yet we have to use some medium of communication....and while a "koan" may be a sublime vector indicating or ~~am~~ inspiring bigness....I am still stuck with the need to be rational or attempt to be.

The most of my irritation stems from not being able to pin you down. Yet I felt amenable to continuing what was apparently a madball correspondence if it produced anything. If we are not going to be logical or pretend to try to be, then it should not matter what I write.

I do not know you. And I know that nobody could expect me to under the conditions. You often refer to psychoanalytic value to the letters. Anybody sane by modern psychiatric standards would say we were both nuts if they read our mail. And a man would indeed be foolish to commit himself to someone he did not know.

Despite all this, (as you hint) I do not wish to pass up a chance to grow in the right direction. I sometimes get the feeling that you might well be in a position to do as much harm as good....if were so inclined. Then I think of the words of St. Teresa, St. John of the Cross and few others (who previously I thought to be drunk on mysticism) and then that maybe that is what you are driving at.

Another factor of difficulty: Up to now, I have made a search for the truth, by following the idea that it permeated all religions and that all I had to do was narrow down least common denominators of all of them. From this I arrived at a position only recently where I thought I was close. But then your