

PULYAN

1374 High St
Benwood, W. Va.
August 17, 1960

Mr. Alfred R. Pulyan

I have your address from Mr. McIntyre of Santana California. I consider Mac to be very conservative about recommending anyone to subscribe to anyone or anything....so I feel that I may have much to gain from writing to you.

I like to tell people that I am a seeker after Truth, or The Truth. I have been pretending thus for several decades, being 43, but as yet I do not know what the Truth is so cannot even say that I know that for which I am seeking. I have explored many religions and cults, -and a couple secret organizations. Am still riding the horns of the ~~ya~~ dilemma that follows trying to weigh one against another.

Mac says that you pursue expansion of consciousness. Although I have come to look upon reason as the vanity of the intellect (mind) still when it comes to checking a movement to see if I want to put my entire life's energy into the quest, --I find myself using or trying to use reason to qualify it.

I will be glad to correspond with you if you think it no great ~~waste~~ waste of time for you, and will furnish any information about myself that you wish. Also request at this point that you brief me a bit on what you are about. Mac was not specific and since I know that he looked into many movements, I do not know too much except that he places you in a position that is of benefit to sincere students of the Truth.

I am enclosing an envelope to expedite reply.

Richard Rose

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

Aug 20, 1960

Dear Richard,

Mac is very kind, and your letter is very straightforward. As Mac may have told you I am not a believer in polite phrases but feel that to save time we should tell the truth as best as we can.

You are ^{no longer} young, and in a position that I found intolerable. Like you I was a "seeker" but it is obvious no words will satisfy you. Otherwise let us publish them in the newspapers! From this the vanity of using mind (intellect) in the search is obvious.

However as you say IT IS ALL WE HAVE, so at the same time as you recognize the vanity of the instrument you have to use it to consider what Alfred R. Pulyan is all about (for example).

It is all vague and tantalizing and not even to know what you are & what is to become of you.

Consider this from A.R.P.'s standpoint (if you can!). He tries to "work" only with likely cases. Even then success is not 100%. He gets months (even years) of misunderstanding & trouble from each one of these, and more gray hairs.

They are not to "blame", they are using a mind which is amazingly picknickety & easily slips into mere debating society argument (on every minutest point) so that the wood is lost in the trees... Not knowing the result aimed at they are not deeply dedicated (usually) and things go in one ear & out the other.

He cannot tell them that as far as he knows he is their only hope - and that an uncertain one - unless they wish to go somewhere for personal "work" (say to a Zen instructor or to Subud).

He knows something people call "God" & which governs his life - but not theirs. They can be blippant about it, he can not. One day they may say "This is obvious" but until then they cannot "believe" & every inch of the way is a hard fight.

He has to be "tough" with them to remove their obstacles, but they interpret it as quarrelling with them - as though he would waste weary time in that form of amusement!

This is written at 2.30 a.m. for example & the weight of the 3,000,000,000 people in the world seems at such an hour very oppressive. Further he knows that not one of them can be trusted, or treated as a real friend until after their "awakening". They are treacherous in fact at some point.

I wonder if Jesus had one friend.

The world seems stranger to me perhaps than even to you. Perhaps I could find only 1 out of several tens of thousands who would understand this.

Why not tell me as much as you can of your early upbringing and religion & those things you have since studied & your opinion about them -- indeed "open up" about your

real sentiments.

Cordially,

Alfred R. Pulyan,

1674 High St.
Benwood, W. Va.
August 24, 1960

Friend Pulyan,

I will try to give something of my personal history as you requested. Catholic parentage. Mother very devout. Convinced me at quite an early age that I was called for the priesthood. At the age of twelve began studies for same. Left the seminary at the age of seventeen...disappointed that the gentlemen there could not fulfill my expectations of them. The Catholic doctrine and hierarchy began to look objectionable to me. I started looking about for other paths to knowledge of higher things.

Looked into Spiritualism, and began studying psychology. Then attended college until twenty three. The war came at this time, and I became interested in yoga. Lived in Baltimor at the time and did little but work sleep eat and read. Yoga seemed to answer that which all conventional religions failed to answer. At the age of twenty five I drifted away from it, but stayed on the vegetarian diet. I went back at intervals of a couple months, and would practice it for as long as a year. Went into it from its appeal to my intuition.

I married at thirty three. At about that same time I decided that I was going to quit piddling around and attempt to really do something, instead of just reading about. I decided to try to be as scientific as possible in sorting out the men who claimed to know. I intended to earnestly seek out other sincere people to learn what they knew and to expand my contacts until I met someone who seemed likely to be able to teach me a trick or two not yet in my ken.

I figured that to do something (no matter how seemingly unrewarding) was better than to sit and wait for extinction. I decided that there could well be an application in mental pursuits to the "Law of Returns" that energy put in might be proportionate to results, or that if I threw enough mud at the ceiling, a percentage might stick. I travelled whenever I heard of a man who had unusual abilities. I bought books. I organized, or worked to organize groups of people locally for "school" or experimentation work. I corresponded with as many as I could. I even advertized....and that is how I met Mac.

I have examined most of the cults, some directly, and some by their literature. I find that money is the commodity, and that they generally pretend to transmit it into some bit of wisdom. I have as little respect for organized religion, although I feel that there may well be a purpose for it....that it may be ultimately part of the scheme of things, or that it may be the work of "Kai" to contribute to the continued blindness of man.

I quite agree with you it is hard to communicate with others

about abstract convictions. If a man has been fleeced by a cult, he may react negatively to you if you use the same tactics or seem to use the same tactics as they do.....even though the motives of the cult or pseudo-knower be realized by such dialectics while the other person is sincere. For instance I corresponded with a man who introduced me to a cult "Brotherhood" that put out papers of clever dialectics. They made statements which they defended with this system of dialectics, and reduced the aspirant to wordlessness by attacking everything he said. Now if such a process were to "Clear" or "Open" then it is little wonder that some aspirants who had went thru army training, or "brotherhood" dialectics, might turn and charge your fortress with all the mental vanity of a Don Quixote.

That I am yet clothed in vanity is quite possible. I must continue to use each faculty until I can learn to get along without it.

When you say that you "know" God I conclude you to be either ~~either~~ a great well-nigh incomprehensible man or else a liar since you do not appear deranged. If you are the great incomprehensible man then I can really see that it will some doing to find a medium of communication. If it is true that the finite mind cannot perceive (conceive) the Infinite, then my relative bicameral approach is in for some effort.

Let me ask you a question. Concerning the post-mortem chances for the more fortunate who manage to attain immortality....

1. Are there any in your opinion who become immortal.
2. Do you believe or know whether such immortality involves the death of the body or "translation" of same.

When you ask for sentiments, you ask for things sentimental, which smacks of the emotional which according to Ouspensky is even lower than the pseudo-intellectual. If man (undeveloped man) has many facets or "doers" or egos, then we here run the risk of creating new ego-faces. Yes and now I hide behind Ouspensky.

What do you prescribe?

Sincerely,

Richard Rose

you see... you say...
You met Mac. From him you met me. Don't meet this one.
up! Al.

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

Aug. 27, 1960.

Dear Dick,

You certainly don't sound like a fool and that is half the battle! As long as you realize that the "self" is like an eel dipped in oil. [WOUGH! WOUGH! There it goes...]

Your problem is the old koan: What shall I do when I meet a Zen Master? Shall I give him an imperent, bluff him, slug him? Well, if you do, he will either give you a little judo, if he is a black belt, or, if he is an old man & weak, will politely transfer you to another monastery! Occupational hazard!

①

Shall I call him a liar? He will smile & I shall get no further. Besides, after knowing him some time I shall see that he is sincere. So when the possibility is that he is self-deceived, in a state of illusion, mental congealation, misunderstanding of subjective experiences etc. etc. Who isn't?

②

After knowing him a little longer I find him keen, (sharp, definite, logical, certainly not psychotic). I begin to say: Well, God or no God, become some of that anyway!

③

But right now I have just met him. How shall I act? Shall I doubt & get half-hide it, placate him so that he won't run away? If there is A CHANCE that he really is that extraordinary thing, a Buddha, another Jesus, a Lao Tse, an Eckhart, etc. etc. then let us not lose this chance!

So let us cackle a bit, swear a bit, flatter the old bastard, kiss his venerable posterior, hide our doubts... The trouble is that the Z.M. knows that one too! Besides IF HE NEEDS THAT HE IS STRICTLY NO GOOD, STRICTLY FOR THE BIRDS. - Try somewhere else...

Of course you could be just a friend, and friends don't have any communication problem.

BE CLEAR AT THE OUTSET - WE ARE EQUAL:

- (a) You are a run-of-the-mill intelligent man - no less than me, no more, than me as regards capacity.
- (b) As regards "knowledge" we have both picked up scraps.
- (c) My mind is not more or less "infinite" than yours.
- (d) I am no "better" or "worse" than you. We are both mixtures.

(e) Our "communication" is normal. I cannot however describe the transcendental (beyond reason) aim of our work. I may try to do so now & then - if so laugh at me! It cannot be done.

(f) It is NOT something "added". You would not find me or my friends too exceptional - we get up, eat, work round the place, look at TV, discuss & all that you do. But we do know what underlies the whole caboodle! (And went through hell to get it.)

(g) Avoid highly "advertised" persons. The awakened ones are usually unknown & you may meet one at intervals without suspecting it in any way.

(h) We can have a transcendental thing right now - friendship & confidence. From that it is but a step. But such things cannot be forced. They must be spontaneous, natural, real - like the taste of a glass of water.

(i) Relative bicameral approach. Leave that to me & be yourself. And be truthful - remorselessly, so that will help me most. Don't cover up - if what we seek is the truth & the way of the Universe it can stand it I hope! Remember always I know the whole game & this is nothing new, not the first time by any means!

(j) Am I an "incomprehensible man"? My wife doesn't seem to appreciate my "greatness"! She finds me very ordinary - as indeed I am. Yet that is personality, only. Eitherwise I could well be one in a million because I found what I was looking for. (AND SO CAN YOU) and that is RARE - but to work by "mail" is EVEN RARER. I do not know of many cases. Where could you go? To your ridiculous "brotherhood"? Well - they have the right doctrine (Wisdom Religion) many of them BUT THEY DON'T TAKE YOU TO THE EXPERIENCE usually. They would scare away the paying clients.

(k) Is "attacking" the method? Yes & No. If you call "attack" the necessary exposure of EVERY ego trick, then it is sharp attack. I assure you it CANNOT BE PLEASANT

(3) (k) (cont) for either of us. If you are smart enough to see that friends can say anything whilst steadily maintaining their relationship then something can be done.

Every step is contra-ego & that is a synonym for disagreeable, isn't it?

(I got so mad with my teacher I got physically murderous). Ego doesn't relinquish his boss idea without mayhem, squawks, screams, evasions, smarming, - - - At times the student tries to discredit the master, at other times he withdraws...

There is a black leopard on the stairs. You meet him?

What will you do? You can pretend he isn't there,

you can withdraw (run away), you can fight furiously,

you can say "nice pussy", you can try tricks to

divert him, you can call for help, - - - many things

But he must eat you.

You will never be attacked, abuse, without reason - - -

In business it is understood that when you say

you are a low-down crook" you are being friendly

(if you smile!) & merely mean you are asking too

much, but I have to have the goods.

God comes easier if you tell him he has made a mess

of things. Try it! He is so grateful that AT LEAST

you acknowledge his existence that he comes through

with seventh-heaven treatment, ecstasies.

Verbs sap.

(l) Can you "defend"? Why not - IF IT IS NOT DEBATING SOCIETY or "SOPHIST" tactics. It must be genuine & strictly reasonable. Otherwise there is no hope at all for the FUZZY-MINDED!

(m) There is NO "emotion" in this. Love is "heightened awareness" (& not the variable emotion), & can be hard, but always it is outgoing, thanks not of itself, only of the other person. Our AIM is "heightened awareness" - in fact a Consciousness you have certainly never known & which is amazing...

④ (a) Regarding the question:

The body dies & is dissipated.

The mind is one with it at all times and is therefore also dissipated.

Nothing of you remains. There is no survival or reincarnation or "immortal soul", "conscious entity".

As far as that goes you are the exact equal of a drop of water & have the same possibility

Of an electron. Or a cabbage.

Sorrow? Not at all, this is the wonderful truth

& is the purpose of our work.

The Zen Master asks: "What happens to you when the great Universe disappears in fire?"

(b) If you have had some inklings of experiences, even the transient ones, if you are discriminative & can balance almost imponderables (i.e. if you are cautious & smart with true self-interest, like a serpent) then there is a chance, but Jesus said: FEW.

Remember however facts are facts & "knowing" them makes no difference, EXCEPT AS your peace of mind that will happen to both of us is the same whatever we say or do!

→ I do not fool myself. We shall see if you lose yourself in mere back-and-forth stuff, or if you take your chance. God knows - & that is no platitude.

With fingers crossed, but always,

Friend,

Al.

P.S. Don't mix things. Keep my letters confidential to yourself - especially as regards Mac.

Naturally you are ~~quite~~ similar in many ways but this is a one-one thing & won't work in consultation! In other words to "avoid" awakening is quite easy, 3,000,000,000 do that. To attain it is something else. "Messiah-jumpers" just don't.

1674 High St.
Benwood, W. Va.
Sept 1, 1930

Friend Pulya,

Much of what you say strikes me favorably. ^{Many} Much of your inferences seem designed to evaluate my reaction to you.

What would you have me say?

I agree that real friendship may well consist of a relationship where neither is too easily offended. I feel sure that I will not be ungrateful to a process that enhances, but know also that I cannot predict what I might do if I met a black leopard on the stairs.

It may be difficult to be totally honest.....I have corresponded with so many who required (or so I thought) that carefulness of handling. You have to ease into their acquaintanceship if you do not wish to offend, because some are offended if you have an opposite opinion.

In my correspondence with one "authority", I was informed that it is not of much value to attack the edges of a concept. "It is necessary, before judging, to know all that the teacher knows and more before judging."

What do you mean, "We are equal". Is everyone?

I cannot predict. I must know a lot more about you before I form my opinions. I presume you have some system whereby you hope for me to know more about knowing. Am in a sort of weary funk just now from trying to analyze the many theories and concepts.

I am curious to know what the point is, i.e., what is to be gained, if body and mind both disappear. Is your process the development of another faculty. If it just the knowledge of our own nothingness, then what is to be gained by knowing something of nothingness?

What are your plans for the future?

Incidentally, I know the detriment of trying to convey anything (which may well have to be conveyed intuitively) by mail. If you wish I can visit you. I am for going to heart of things as quickly as possible.

Will appreciate information about the aims of your system, - (and the mechanism).

Sincerely,

Richard Pulya

Sept 6, 1960

Dear Dick,
COMMUNICATION This won't do you know! (By the way how old are you?)
What won't do? Well, this horsing about as to what I am, what I
can do & so on & so on! "your plans", "your system", & so on !!!
If only we could get down to the absolute friendship I asked, then
all this by-play might be avoided. That does mean plain
speaking & not "easing into an acquaintanceship".
If you call me a lousy son-of-a-bitch, an authoritarian snob,
a hopeless paranoiac then that is fine, excellent - but
the dribbling, hopeless, piddling dialectic you favor me
with is far more objectionable. You may call it polite
& think you are behaving yourself admirably, but it
is of no use in our task. I have got something -
all that man can get on this earth most probably - and my
job & your job is to transfer it from me to you. O.K.
Here is Alfred Robert Polyan - guinea-pig. How are we to
extract it from him? It is otherwise called "the transmission".

DIALECTICS? Now in order to get you out of this weary, dreary
back-and-forth naturally I try to find your reaction & to
get you to express it, I also relate my experiences with others,
& so forth - all so as to throw enough stuff so that
you will get an inkling of the position.

I do not of course betray confidences or names
but I do speak "generally" as here.

- ① For example today I got a letter from a man who
says he began to "prize the darkness" about a year
ago & says truth is in Zen, Buddhism, Theosophy, Rosicrucianism,
Qabalalah etc. & wants to teach me. He says I doubt my
own capabilities & no doubt I will never meet "a truly awakened one".

Question - can I do anything here? (we never really know).

Well. To debase or debauch the wonder I know so well is
impossible, yet I cannot say straight out to him: "I am one
of these truly awakened ones", although I can imagine ways in

which I could have more of what I have. I have met quite a number of "truly awakened" ones, but never so advanced as my own teacher who lives near me & is as unknown as any of us here. The Buddha, Santama missed much of the physical side for example & even Zen does not stress it (although the Zen Masters I have met had splendidly flexible bodies & quick reflexes). Any evidence of "pride" or "superiority" of course damns the person at once - the Master's "authority" is lent to him by the student FOR A PURPOSE, it is delegated, it is not welcome to the Master who earnestly hopes for the day the monk will dig him in the ribs & they will converse arm in arm about other things. It is a surgeon's job, but more thankless.

Now as to this case. Mention of particularly "occult" societies is a warning signal. I have not met a person "awakened" by some of these, although numbers of people DO get a sort of mental awakening wherein they see the "oneness" of things. It is good - but it is the cake without the icing, they do not know the One as you & I could know one another.

Nothing less will do!! Note my exact words. There are those of De Genna in 1540 & of Jesus in AD 30+ or indeed of any "truly awakened" person. Some correspondents say they are spending their lives in a search for "St. Germain"!!!!

OK. They will sooner find ... (but invent your own simile.)
Others say they are ~~are~~ Adepts of the Fifth Ray & Masters of the Spheres. (And so compensate for a depressing life!)

So I ask him who his teacher was, but have little hope here.

(2) A maiden lady believing everything can be done through deliberate ESP. Says she knows cases where people do it ~~for~~ in business for a good living. Says mystical glimpses give people no right to be authorities. Etc.-etc.

The word "authority" is based on the idea of learning things as in astronomy, engineering, etc. etc. -- & the "mystical glimpse" is a tricky way of referring to satori which is SOMETHING QUITE OTHERWISE. The "glimpse" is feeling, satori is knowledge & more ... ESP is a "do-it-yourself" technique & in any case is ego's way of bloating himself as big as an ox to try & be something. No hope of "getting there" by heightened perceptions or ESP - it must be by awareness OF awareness, not awareness of thoughts & things. It is characteristic evasion & under pressure she will try every trick in the book & a flood of dialectics. She wants a boy friend!

Note - this is one of the "occupational hazards" of the therapist (if you can call our work a therapy, which it includes & resembles)

③ A letter from somebody called Richard Rose.

Seems a nice enough fellow, cagy, anxious on the one hand not to frighten me away & on the other pretty blah, blah.

Tells me "I must know a lot more about you". ~~But~~ (Momentary feeling is "go and f- yourself. What do you expect for '04?" & then I say, "Down Fido! after all he is entitled to be a sceptic. You were one yourself, Alfred & how!"

Wants to know what happens if body & mind disappear?

Answer - you will be dead, my bucko, as you will discover one day! Why do they say such stupid things? Oh well, maybe he had better come & see me one day - not for "work" - but to see that body & mind are still around!! (Make an appointment first - & not yet write)

Mail work is as good as personal work - probably better.

Evidently Richard Rose is a bit on the occult & magical side - what the hell do they expect - levitation? The real magic which is a complete reversal of everything never occurs to these numskulls.

As for "we are equal" this may be false in one way. People vary in "accessibility". Some attain in 30 minutes, others take years of backbreaking & heartbreaking "work". But Richard wants to go to the "heart of things". He is probably going - nowhere.

"Your system" he keeps saying! "Your system"!! I sell nothing, & everything is spontaneous. In Zen it is not the koan but another & more personal factor that does the trick. Meditation is a device to keep the boys out of mischief for awhile. (P.S. It doesn't succeed nowadays. They get out & have big feasts & go after the chicks with the slanted eyes.)

It is his whole life, his whole health & happiness & the God-forsaken idiot is going to throw it away by ungenerous, priddling, unfriendly, ... communications. I could be sad if it wasn't happening all the time. Evidently doesn't trust his friend Mac (if he is a friend) & is of a ~~po~~ grudging, constipated mentality incapable of much fine feeling or "greatness".

Some seed fell on good ground, some on stony soil, some by the wayside --

What will happen? Doubtful. He could "get there" but he is still going around "judging" & "deciding". Since the essence of our work is to abandon this final line of defence of the ego where can the change occur? What do I (ARP) matter?

If I were Orval Roberts, Walt Disney or a bum hopping freight it is all the same. Our aim is NOT the "accidentals." We shall see.

→ I was a lulu all right - far more of a smart aleck than you, in deed poisonous. Yet my friend did the job. Slory, hallelujah! I really didn't deserve it. So why should I get proud? But it is an effort!

(4)

A "Scientologist". He has a "spirit" that has lived for 74 trillion years & has 2 trillion to go (on the "average" - what average?). During this time he "plays games" & after that he gracefully flops into Infinite Mind. (unless it sidesteps with a shudder). His "thetan" or spirit or "self" can detach itself from the body & live without it (or at least that is his "ideal" - he has not quite reached it yet). Nor can he yet read books in distant libraries (not enough ESP?). He is "self-determined", completely so. In fact he is invulnerable & inaccessible - unless life teaches him a sad lesson. I have known Scientologists however who were more accessible (one wrote: "now I see myself, silly, fatuous ...") but it is rare.

All these things are modes of ego.

MOMENT
OF
DECISION!

Now as regard yourself & your letter.

You want a process that "enhances". What does that mean - gives you joy & pleasure. This will NOT!

What do you want to know about me before you start "work"? How can you know? There is no "aim" & no "system".

From my side however I am undertaking a long & difficult job which will add to my gray hairs. I am taking a bright child almost, still green behind the ears, and trying to show something of deep - what shall I say of the highest feelings? - "culture" maybe, but all words are wrong of course. Anyway the current cynicism & world weariness is no use here. You must somehow pitch yourself pretty high before this comes to you. You may deceive or cajole me, but not God.

I shall expect you to answer promptly & to do as you are told, also to cut out other similar work entirely & not to read any books on this general subject (unless I happen to suggest one). Also send me a stamped addressed envelope.

It will be unpleasant, frustrating, disagreeable, annoying ... (So is growing up anyway). Afterwards you will be a human being & understand many things.

The alternative is something (an average life) which will seem normal to you no doubt, but which from my present point of view is unthinkable. Nevertheless we can part in the most friendly manner & nothing has been lost. Al:

BIPOLAR MIND

"Personality" which derives its characteristic "flavor" from memory content (both mental & physical "memories" or "habits") — AND WHICH IS THEREFORE LARGELY "ACCIDENTAL" — is not the part of you we have to work with, nor the part of me that works with you.

However we have to use words & we have to pass through the mind of course. Now the mind like everything in this world of ours is strictly bi-polar, dual. An obvious doublet is good-bad. [There are thousands upon thousands since the mind splits everything. It is the way of reasoning, the YES-NO method, light-dark, few-many, up-down, long-short, being-non-being, something-nothing, wise-foolish - - - -] Thus it is idle to hope to "improve" personality since the side we show implies the side we suppress. However we can decide not to put any more disgusting junk into our memory-box, there is sufficient already.

Consciousness or awareness is pure but mixed up with (normally) some thought or perception (yoga tries to free it, but it is actually the ego trying to free the ego & it leads maybe to a "feeling" experience but not to "knowledge")

We must accept our dual nature, like the vine winding round the tree.

HOOKS

If the student gets "caught" in personality (nothing unusual in a world where it is happening all day long — every word is weighed to see if it is a "slight" or an ego-bruise) then he will start (or try to start) an old-fashioned interminable argument ("you were being needlessly rude", "I didn't mean it the way you think", "I want to be helped up not knocked down", "You are a fine one to talk of ego, you have an interesting amount yourself", "I want to learn something, not to have everything questioned", "Can't we get together somehow?" "Communication is breaking down") — almost comubrial (but not so snide!).

Actually this is all very silly & is avoided even in business circles where "everything goes", if it is said with a smile, e.g. "you old crook"! Ego is very sensitive to words (e.g. if the waiter says "not that fork, sir".

But when ego is really threatened — then take cover — the place will be a shambles.

No wonder so few attain to "life". (And so many use push-button or external methods like magic, occultism, etc etc where one deceives oneself as long, as possible in wild fanciful