

1674 High St.
Sawood, Va.
March 20, 1961

Friend Pulyan,

Do I read correctly the last paragraph? - "We do not know what happens "after death". We meaning you. The general context of this short paragraph seems to indicate that you do not know what will happen when you die.

I would appreciate learning at this point if "awakening" has increased your knowledge about life after death if there is any.

Are you an existentialist? I knew one Phil Mayer, of Swarthmore Pa. With him it was a massive escape mechanism.

I would like to emphasize a point here. I will do anything (except that which is negated by my intuition) to achieve more being or even knowledge. But it must be done as an experiment since there is no way of any explorer knowing what he expects to discover. I know that words and concepts are merely vain effort to approach, but still we both try to use them.

With Brunton it is a vague concept, with the Perennial Philosophy it is apologetic possibility. Nothing indicated in either except that here is a theory that defies the skeptical more than one built on reason. But neither of them tells more than that there were a number of people who experienced something that defied proper description.

You make remarks occasionally that cause me to doubt your depth. When you tell me that you never had any trouble recognizing the genuine. No one knows anything until he knows everything. Or are you just reminding me that no one is genuine and you had no trouble recognizing this. I might say that I have less trouble recognizing those men or movements that are not genuine or consistent, and very much trouble trying to find something or someone genuine.

Have you ever satisfied yourself that people reincarnate? How can you be sure?

Sincerely,

Dick

At heart you are only a miracle-monger!
The truth is not in that side of things
- but nobody ever believes the warnings.

ALFRED R. PULYAN
Ph.D.
SOUTH KANT, CONN.

Mar 23, 1961.

Dear Dick,

There really IS a "way" you know & you are on it, but at an early stage.

Sorry you doubt my depth (!!). So many of my students have recognized right away that I was 100 proof, 24 carat, the real McCoy!! I was surprised because there is no proof, but it wasn't real surprise because I understand the phenomenon.

If you want to know how someone "feels" toward you ask yourself how you feel about them. Action & reaction, says Sir Isaac Newton, are equal & opposite (& so far this law has held)

Feelings are funny things. So is friendship & love - defying reason - and since this matter we are dealing with is akin to both friendship & love ("one thing" anyway) it also defies reason - but not feeling.

(Granted that one may be wrong once in a while - but after I have known a person a while there is no such possibility. For example Brunton, Suddieff, Cagliostro, Nostradamus, --- all remarkable men, but I have only met one of them, Brunton, & that only twice, not enough to judge because I was then a seeker, in a highly emotional state, and a student myself. What about D.T. Suzuki, Sri Aurobindo? I met Suzuki twice I am very suspicious here because they turned out such a big volume of words & theories. Zen Masters do not do that!

Who would I regard as "awakened"? I think Krishnamurti, whom I have met, and the Maharshi, who has a down-to-earth common sense & is reasonably brief & to the point.)

(Plus thousands of unknowns!)

POSSIBLE
EXPLANATION
WHY SOME
MEN APPEAR
SO WISE

Zen?

Maybe I should say that there is an "intellectual" sort of "awakening" which produces a similar understanding & lasts through life, which lacks SIMULTANEOUS direct contact and ability to experiment with (!!)

"Mystical experience" is unconscious or only partly conscious (& leaves ego untouched!). The need is to have this wonderful but evasive and non-evidential thing SPREAD OUT FOR EXAMINATION IN THE FULLY CONSCIOUS MIND - the one you use in your sceptical way (& believe me I am far more 'sceptical' than you will ever be - being a mathematician & ex-public-accountant)

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

April 10, 1961

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.

1. THANKLESS TASK

2.

Obviously it is a thankless task. He does not, I assume you, enjoy his role in life but, like a surgeon, he has a job to do. The results are beyond glory & beyond all imagination & any little temporary inconvenience is negligible or should be.

KICKING THE SURGEON

But it is surprising how the slightest touch on our ego (& now that includes mine too of course) makes us flare up, get resentful & so forth. We assume there is, AS IS USUAL IN THIS WORLD, no love behind the barbed insult but forget that IN THE CASE OF THE GURU (and MY GURU TOO!) there is all the love in the world.

We mix up quarrelling & nagging (so familiar in marital life & daily life) with the guru's technique.

FIND ANOTHER WE OR DROP THE WHOLE MISERABLE BUSINESS

Now the poor guru doesn't want to keep up this stream of unreasonable invective but it is the only way if results are to be achieved (ego must be desensitized). So if the pupil screeches loudly enough the guru happily (*) gives up the whole horrible business & is only too glad (*) to get back on a mutually agreeable basis, where friends (as the world understands that word) can interchange pleasant discussions about ultimate problems.

(*) sadness ^{too} because another person has failed to see what was being aimed at, i.e. has "missed the mark")

TAKE UP OUR MIND

If you regard the whole business as being nonsensical and leading nowhere, & you are entitled to your point of view, then obviously the so-called guru is merely a disagreeable old bastard having a crude kind of fun with the poor student. From your point of view this is how I spend my life. Naturally from my point of view I think you have a caricature, because I can actually point to at least 70% of successes where the student was too grateful for any words & fully understood the means it was necessary to use to bring him or her to a realization.

BATTLE
AGAINST
THE DEBIL
EQO!

3

Even psychotherapy whose aim is more limited, & whose goal is not so far off, has to go contra ego or self to some extent. However here the time is paid for so it is possible by spreading out the annoyance over a long, long period to make the mental disturbance seem much less. We had farther to go & less time to do it in.

SHADOW-
BOXING

It is usual for an agreement to be reached so that although the guru & student are fencing, boxing or what have you, yet they agree that whatever injuries are received (not really very serious ones - only to the self-esteem!) they will remain friends & continue whatever happens. In this way Jacob wrestled with the Lord. Always their friendship is reaffirmed at the close of each letter.

WHAT I
"WANTED"

Naturally I wanted more than "a flow of correspondence" (especially when you refused to "argue" at times & wrote only a couple of sentences).

- (a) I did expect that you would appreciate my motives & the necessity of this unfortunate technique (monks have to be dragged in to face the Zen Master sometimes - when they cannot answer their "koans"). If the fencing or boxing turns into a grudge-fight then the cooler head will call a halt, even apologize if it is necessary & politely avoid further occasions with the same person.
- (b) I also expected that "friend" would gradually come to mean something so that together we could examine what you call our "diversity in the field of metaphysics" & together make a reasonable decision about it. I must however protest against the word "metaphysics" as what happened to many other students was not an understanding of "metaphysics", but a conscious experience quite unlike anything else, that happens all by itself when we cease to oppose the current of life.

DID ALL
YOU ARE
DOING
NOW.

4.

I will say that your present attitude is no different from that which I myself had to my own teacher or guru.

(I wish I could avoid Indian terms as I am not ~~so~~ concerned with Oriental metaphysics!)

I was sullen, revengeful, spiteful, angry, --- more so in fact than yourself --- even murderous & we all have a touch of that in us.

It seems now that to be so moved by insults to my precious "super ego" is the most absurd thing in the world.

But let a waiter say to you in a whisper "Not that fork sir, use the other one" & you "burn" slowly (even if it is a practical joke.) Self-esteem is awfully strong.

OUR NASTY
MIND

With a student like yourself, IT IS YOUR INTERESTS SOLELY THAT ARE CONSIDERED - (What do I gain by the time I spend on these letters? The pleasure of being "sarcastic"?? Hardly. That is Dead-Sea fruit & a vain "pleasure" when I have enough to trouble me in the natural course of life without seeking you out as a butt for mere rudeness!.) (Besides you don't have to take it you know.)

→ Thus: you can call me caustic & sarcastic (or far worse) but when you add "that I consider unnecessary" then I see that you are not clear as to what we are doing.

If I were all sweetness & light I somehow think it would not make much change in Richard! He can get that kind of glucose from a thousand easy sources (from the pulpit to the inspirational articles, books, pamphlets... etc.)

DO NOT
THINK THAT
"WAKENING"
MEANS
MUCH

I am not really a louse, but you have somehow to learn how to handle these "harpoons" & not to regard it as a marital squabble. The real trouble however which makes our work so difficult is that you have no actual belief that there is any such experience (as I so often refer to as "awakening") available to all.

1674 High St.
Penwood, N. Va.
April 15, 1961

Friend Pulyan,

I am reminded of Alohaase and Gaston. It is my turn now.

and yet I say, What is all this about. You are quite right when you say I do not know what an awakened person is, or what you mean by it. I asked you repeatedly for definitions, and your answers more or less seemed made to make me feel that verbalization was unnecessary 'else you would have printed it in the papers'.

Either words mean something or they do not. If they do not, then pay no attention to anything I say. If they do, then bend down a little from the absolute and let me know what you are talking about, and allow some sort of analysis on my part.

I do not know what you want. Yet you asked me in the previous letter to make a decision. and in my last letter I asked you what you meant. No answer.

You fall short before my intuition (asinine or feeble as it may be). I did not mean to appear brusque in my last letter, but I do not refrain from it either enough because I feel that if you can hand out blunt statements it is about time to be equally pointed when I think I see a point.

Above all the hazling I would like to bring out my overall attitude. I have a sincere desire to know or become the Truth. I do not care if it includes giving up my ego, and I realize that I may not know how to give it up. So that when you say things that make you seem to fall short of my expectations of what a teacher should know (even though I know nothing of teacher-appraisal) I have no deliberate desire or weighty reason to gripe, but I just allow it to seep out.

One of the reasons (I think) for this friction is a growing feeling from studying your letters that you (who are in oneness with all that is and that includes the natural world I presume) know very little and cover it up by attacking me. How what would be the purpose. You ask this yourself. You repeatedly protest that you are the great emancipator... and all for free. I will try to give you some examples. You catalogue certain items. 1. Would I work with Krishnamurti? Is that supposed to bowl me over? ----From my readings I came to the conclusion that K. was a skill created by Blavatsky and Besant who despite them yearned for the truth and left them to pursue it. However if I thought K would refuse to talk intelligently to me there probably would be little "work" done.

#2. Do I ask a friend's bona-fides? Not until I have experienced

gestures or language insincere or ambiguous. Even the pet dog would become alarmed at an inconsistent attitude.

In the next couple lines of that letter you flatly say that we have come to an impasse, and that to surville this impasse perhaps I am supposed to ~~jump~~ thru evanescent hoops.

Jump

So I get to thinking.....what is the original purpose of this nutty harangue.....I never really knew. Now he tells me that the harangue must cease.....thank heaven! He hints that the welfare of my essence (it could'nt be that, that would be too egotistical to presume that I was important enough to have one.) depends on the continuation. Of what.

The dog is chasing its tail. It had better stop says Pulyan who ordered the dog to do so. But think twice before you quit chasing your tail he says in the next letter. Now it does not matter to me one way or the other what happens. I have no knowledge of what I am supposed to be doing,---and care little about any termination. To really give up my ego (drive for personal survival labelled Truth) is to give up Pulyan then. The fish must take the fisherman off the hook.

Then follows the capital punch. You appeal to my regard for FRIENDship. You take off the mask. And tell me how I regard you when you do not know how I regard you. Or if you know you are not saying it which is not conducive to friendship. You noted that when I made a certain observation----"then I (you) see that you are not clear as to what we are doing." This is hypocritical. You knew that I never knew you much less what you were doing.

1374 High St.
Benwood, Va.
April, 19, 1961

Friend Al,

Received your letter. Ill when I wrote the last one. Worse now. Will write when I get the fever out of my head and can think more rationally.

Sincerely,

Dick

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

statements give almost an opposite claim. All my diggings amount to nothing....or you are pulling my leg.

Let me know if you really think my case is hopeless. If you really have something.....there may be others more receptive. Hope not. But I feel that I will fight you all the way until I get some sort of conviction that you are not so ambiguous as your letters read.

Sincerely,

Dick

April 29, 1961.

Dear Dick,

C

Would still feel inclined to "fill up" with Vit. C. Say 4 of the 500 USP units tablets as indicated & for a few days until the "lemonade" color of the urine shows the system is "full". Only A & D seem to have side-effects & those only in very abnormally high dosages, so the C can be taken safely - at least I found it so & a friend.

REASON!

Do not prean yourself too much on being "logical." Much else enters into your "reasoning" which at times resembles the absurdities a poor subject of post-hypnotic suggestion has to emit! Suppose he is told he will take his pants down (in company) at a certain gesture - & it is given. He must say "This may seem startling to you, but I feel the heat & although you may be shocked in appearance I know it is not real, & consequently I propose to remove my pants at this time - let us all show our independence of conventional behavior ---" & so forth ----

Logic is all very well for a time but at any real problem or obstacle emotionally affecting you out comes the "to hell with you, this is what I think, & I don't care what you say."

Actually we "SWEEP THINGS UNDER THE RUG" you know. In the last century there was a mechanics-materialistic attitude which seemed very solid & comforting, hard little particles, fixed laws; even "chance" obeyed laws, & evolution "showed" how life & later, consciousness evolved from, respectively, the mud and the monkey, at least it was assumed it was only a matter of time. There was another "gap" at the vertebrates too. Certainly no need for the God-hypothesis, or any form of teleology so hateful to research. But now space is finite but recurves in the fourth dimension, two electrons are "wavicles", wave-particles, and, when they meet, require six dimensions, also if one knows their velocity one cannot know their position - and vice versa. Anti-matter has arrived, negative being! The concept of consciousness or self has remained inscrutable & "cause", "time", "infinity" we sweep under the rug with horror in our adolescence.

The vagueness, obscurity, abstraction, & so forth we accuse the "awakened" persons of are really our own baby. Nice baby! /55

(this hoped.)

Such concepts are the opposite of clarity, reality, definiteness, & arise when we play at the edge of our playground.

In other words obfuscation is as natural to mind as clarity. But neither of these applies to the "awakened" person who is aware of that which is beyond both reason & imagination.

However reason grows from experience, not experience from reason.

D.T. Suzuki told the Japanese Emperor on April 23, 1946 that "we all, Buddhists as well as Christians, living as we do on the plane of the intellect, submit everything to intellectual test and domination, and reject as unworthy of consideration all that the intellect fails to understand."

The "scientific world" is pre-eminently the world of the intellect. However this is a world of postulates & abstractions & concepts - remote from reality, & constantly changing.

Electricity, matter, mass, time, space, (curved space!), force, etc. etc. are high-order abstractions derived from postulates which lead to other postulates & so back to experience (like pointer-readings, scintillations etc).

They are "sufficient" until proved wrong.

The "personal world" is quite different. This consists of things for which there is NO "reason", which cannot be described, which science cannot handle,

such as colors (quite indescribable & nothing like the postulated "vibrations in the ether"), sounds (nothing like air compression & rarefaction), emotions, feelings, affection, smell (nothing like the small particles thrown off by objects), touch (a diffused indescribable sense, if it is a sense), mind (psychology deals with everything BUT its subject-matter! e.g. behavior, reaction-times, etc... & never directly with the strange "nature" of the mental side of our organism.) There is a variable personal "time" which allows of no measurement also. There is "consciousness" & scientists quietly assume this, until a blow on the head, or a sleeping-pill removes the whole universe in a split second!

These two worlds are assumed by Bertrand Russell to have a one-one correspondence. But further than that no man goeth. (We do not even know we see the same colors & hear the same sounds - as for example A♭ or C♯)

"Reason" even if it were as cold as a calculating machine with no prejudices & errors punched on our memory-cards (and there are plenty!) is only half the equipment of an integrated person. In Buddhism, the show-piece of the simply-adolescent-intellectual, there is nevertheless both Mahaprajna, the Great Wisdom & Mahakaruna, the Great Compassion and these are not two but one & flow into one another.

(*) "The highest reality" - I quote a Buddhist, Suzuki, "is NOT A MERE ABSTRACTION, it is VERY MUCH ALIVE WITH SENSE AND INTELLIGENCE, and above all, with love purged of human infirmities and defilements"

Sounds like "religion" doesn't it. Bambinos with starched embroideries & laces, electric prayer wheels, consecrated wafers, bloody wine, priests, ministers, saints, devils, rabbis, men with clothes reversed & bits of their epidermis "sacredly" removed, black meteoric stones, rosaries, patient men with big red hearts on the outside, tambourines, drums, mighty Wurlitzers, - - -

But, as it happens, it is true. [I refer to the paragraph (*)] You cannot "pin down" an experience & I cannot properly describe it, & if I could, it would not do the vital thing - produce it in you. That needs special techniques, continual squawks from you & gray hairs for me.

I could not describe a blue flower to a blind man - he could feel its shape & texture, that is all. Would he feel annoyed at not "pinning me down"?

Who is it then?

The "madball" is not I. I was educated as a mathematician at college, became a public accountant & worked on some of the biggest projects including UNRA, became an executive, office manager, assistant treasurer - - - I was always very sceptical & hard-headed. My mind "contains" yours actually, although you could reach the same position of course & we were trying to do this. We are not unlike a man & quite a young child.

St. Teresa et alia

I am not driving at "mysticism". It is as it happens a valid glimpse at the One Self mentioned above, BUT I am driving at this IN THE CONSCIOUS MIND, freely available for experiment & consideration, not as a glimpse but fully & for days & weeks, not lost in semi-conscious ecstasy but in calm appreciation of the greatest mystery life has to offer. Like seeing a joke suddenly or leaping to a conclusion - - -

T.

The truth does not permeate all religions except in such fantastic disguise that its own father wouldn't know it. Suppose truth is a rabbit. This rabbit is in a field - a large field. Round the field are very high walls - creeds & dogma! So - find your damn rabbit!! And remember the rabbit knows your thoughts & so as you resolve to go one way to catch it it knows & evades you!

do not
for the
ethics
& to
having
at on or
wakening,
do not!!

Or - another analogy.... all religions are degenerated versions of the things the founder said, (such as Jesus, Buddha, Lao Tse, etc etc), altered, added to, twisted & so forth, and COMPLETELY USELESS because every time the founder opened his blessed mouth he put his blessed foot in it, AND HE KNEW IT (THE BUDDHA SAID AS MUCH). If then the TRUE WORDS of the founder are NO DAMN GOOD what is the good of the DECAYED VERSION CALLED A RELIGION?

If you preserved my letters & tried to help someone with them it would be NO GOOD. They are for you particularly, tailor-made, a "custom" job, AND NO GOOD FOR OTHERS. That is why you have to shell out \$25 for 40 minutes for an analyst. Reading Freud or Jung won't cure you!! Don't come back with a wearisome spiel about psychoanalysis - I ONLY USE IT AS AN ILLUSTRATION OF A RELATIONSHIP OF ONE MASTER TO ONE PUPIL. "No man can serve two masters." And no master can serve 1000 pupils EXCEPT ONE BY ONE.

I was smarter than you. I SAW WHERE THE SHOE PINCHED. I saw that I had to do something that reason could not do because it could never understand ITSELF! There was a bear in the cave, I had to get him out & could only use tricks & persuasion until he decided to waddle out! I saw there was a DILEMMA. I saw that my egocentric position was in the way of a universal understanding but how could I resolve not to decide as I usually does - it was like lifting myself off the floor, or a knife cutting itself.

So I considered the matter warily.

Rx

However the prescription (what to do) is as old as the human race. Find a guru - & it wasn't easy. I tried Nityalananda, a splendid man & a swami in the Ramakrishna mission on New York's East Side. Also Yoshikawa a Buddhist priest at the temple not too far away from the previous Hindu, but this time a Japanese of course. Also a Taoist, "in the succession", certainly "awakened" and well received in the temples in Japan of Zen. He was a European. None of these did the trick because I was & am far more obstinate & pig-headed even than you (and that's saying a lot)

One day investigating a new psychotherapy I met a very self-possessed young lady, married, cheerful --- I spoke to her & then tried all my intellectual equipment (apart from scepticism you haven't exhibited much actual knowledge yet by the way) - the philosophers, scientists & so forth (like you I was stuffed to the gills with other people's ideas & as proud as a peacock, "we think", "we say", "we believe" - boy, was I a stinkeroo) ---

She handled these very easily. Compared to me she was deep water, deeper than my sonic apparatus could register. Could she be deeper than Vedanta, Shun-shu, Taoism, Zen?? I was incredulous, but it has worked out. One day I may continue this - if you are good.

LEARNING, "DIGGING", UNDERSTANDING

Anything I could "teach" you would be stupid because IT COULD BE PRINTED AND INDEED SHOULD HAVE BEEN PRINTED LONG AGO - for the whole world! That is ridiculous - NO WORDS WILL DO THE JOB IF TAKEN AS A DOCTRINE, THEORY OR SYSTEM.

I use words as a technique & consequently you MUST feel annoyed, frustrated, & all the rest of it. Rejoice when that is so because it shows ego is getting a job now & then. It cannot be pleasant.

You know & I know that there are innumerable books on 'our' subject - the One Self, the wisdom religion. It is no use to read them. So it would be useless to read me - as part of a system, doctrine, theory, or anything coherent.

Why do you persist in trying to compass by the intellect what is the one obvious thing that has never been so grasped? Our goal is beyond both thought & imagination. That does not (NOT) mean impossible. The color blue - IF YOU HAD NOT EXPERIENCED IT - is beyond both thought & imagination.

Even something "round the corner" is the same.

There is NO substitute for "experience".

This "experience" comes OF ITSELF when you are at a certain stage. I always know where you are on the path & at present you are near the beginning of course.

You have probably not even read my last letter & it was fairly lengthy. So is this.

I have not tried to be obscure, JUST THE REVERSE. But our subject is a technique for achieving something beyond reason and that is quite a problem.

If it wasn't you could get a paper book on it & 30 minutes would make you wise.

But that is not how our universe works.

Jesus said ~~the~~ the learned wouldn't understand him, simple people would.

Well that is true. But I am not simple & nor are you - & I went through merry Hades & so apparently will you.

Sorry bo.

Forend,

al.

P.S. Not too cantankerous now am I? al.

May 17, 1961.

Dear Dick,

No, it is very difficult to solve the cosmic problem oneself, because for the "self" to abandon (even for a fraction of a second which is all that is necessary) its own proud assumption of being the ultimate decider is, as I have so often said, almost impossible.

This is because to "decide" not to decide is a paradox, like lifting yourself up. Of course if you hold onto a horizontal bar you can lift yourself off the ground & in the same way you must use an awakened person to "help" (like the horizontal bar).

A person who will patiently "work" with you without complaining, without hope of reward or desire for it, for years if necessary, must have something & it is rather over-sceptical to doubt it. No doubt there are a lot of goofy people who ~~they~~ think they are Jesus or God, but you can surely tell them pretty quickly & they are NOT the type to reason with you patiently for years.

If you will allow me to say so your scepticism is beyond the ordinary allowance even for an "intellectual" & verges upon the ungracious & unkind. As a mathematician & former auditor my standards of proof are very, very high & exacting, but I do not "hold out" when a sufficient level of proof has been reached. In a bank audit or the audit of a commercial concern we were always watchful but did not fall into pathological doubt-fancies. When doubt ceases to be a servant & becomes your master & you wonder if there is an octopus hiding behind the .04 stamps on my letter then you are in a bad way.

Now unfortunately doubt in itself is not evil, but allied to resistance it can go against the flow of life & I can usually tell by looking at a person or after a

OVER
PLEASE

brief conversation, whether they are of this type & so dangerously vulnerable to tensions, lack of circulation & consequent bad troubles in the body. That is why such "constipated" & "withdrawn" obstinacy can crumple in a flood of tears at a religious healing meeting AND ACTUALLY PRODUCE RESULTS! (Whether the religion taught is nonsense or fact is not the point. It is the softening of attitude that is so vital. We try to be so rock-ribbed, we poor mortals!)

Fortunately even though life may get rough "all will be well, very well": I cannot logically prove this but it is a fact (if you will let your friend make a mere assertion of what is true by his own experience), & it is a fact according to a lot of other too, that there is a Something that seeks us individually & personally with a humility & open simplicity we lack. The poem "the Hound of Heaven" illustrates this (by Francis Thompson: "I fled Him, down the nights & down the days...")

It does not matter when you encounter such a person as myself, except that if you do not feel well it is much harder for you to "work".

In your case not being a medical man I do not know what thing will help one of your troubles & harm another perhaps. My own teacher when her mother had had bronchitis (had to have injections) gave her some high potency C vitamin tablets & told her to eat them freely!! [A 500mg tablet of Vit. C. is equivalent perhaps to a quart of orange juice as regards Vitamin C.]

For a condition like that I would get the 100 tablets of 500 mg Vit. C. from Hudson for \$1.35 (pp paid) or else if the acid was not desired then get the Plus Formula 279, Vit. C. powder, 50 grams .. \$1.95, "soluble in cold liquid, acid-free" from Plus Products (See pink slips). Maybe you would ask your doctor to see if it would do harm. If not, try it!! because I wouldn't be stopped merely by the fact that the use of massive doses of Vit. C. to reduce infections is experimental. (Of the 100 tablets or the 50 grams of powder I would use in my own case half during one week, then rest a week, then use the other half. This works out about 7 tablets a day or 3500 mg a day, or about 3 1/2 grams, a day.)

Also, I feel that Yogurt would possibly be helpful & contains of this are easily available at .19 & .26 which will last two times at least. They can be flavored with fruit syrups, popular in this weather.

2) as been
with 1948.
has with,
for know.

[Plus Products have a fine Tormle Yeast which provides a good balance of the B vitamins, an almost complete protein (it is 50% protein anyway) & lots of minerals. I do not want to divert your mind however from the suggestions on page 2 which you could check. Nor do I know if you are dieting & if so how.]

"Awakening" is perhaps a sad knowledge - like growing up! But I asked my teacher if she would "go back" & she said "No!" Now I myself can answer my own question! My answer is "I would not think of it. No!" I remember in New York getting a telephone installed for her & her husband. I felt "this is the end! Tomorrow there will be thousands of people lining the street & sitting on the sidewalk & steps - all wanting to see her & get enlightenment".

Surprise! There wasn't one. Only me & a few private students of hers.

Now are there more than a handful who write to me now. Yet this is worth more than all the wealth of the world because the wealth of all the world will not buy it.

When I was young I day-dreamed of course & thought I would like to be not famous, but wise! The "power behind the throne", another Richelieu!! Knowing more than professors, scientists, religious leaders, philosophers, everybody!! Now I do know more than most & the pride is no longer there, that is dust and ashes, burnt out. There is much sympathy left & I do what I can & sometimes I get beautiful letters of gratitude; rarely from 'famous' people, although I know two or three authors & lawyers, a minister or two, housewives, psychotherapists, night-watchman, bum, Buddhist, Jew, Christian, Agnostic - - - but none in the topmost ranks like Jung & so forth. Jesus said they were too smart for their own good. I was too. What an insufferable, snooty, sneery, smart-aleck I was. (Hope I have improved at least a little!) I knew it all. My mind was free from prejudice, open, capable of judging. - IN A PIG'S EYE!!!
A good thing we don't know our own motives & weaknesses.

+

Our intellect is based on a miscellaneous grab-bag of assorted memory-junk & prejudices arrived at largely by accident (what we read, heard, saw --). We are not even properly programmed for our job like an IBM machine!

Yet these chance memories give the flavor to our "I" that we call "personality". [We "remember" things we do not properly understand or respond to, apart from certain useful facts.]

Thus the much-vaunted "I" is a collection of half-understood chance perceptions!

And this bemused captain controls the vessel we call our 'body'. He is only "conscious" a few minutes at a time during the day! Rulers of the earth! Voyagers to the stars!

(with a trail of empty beer-cans &, mentally, a cargo of aberrations, for α -Centauri!)

I wish we were kinder to the animals.

I wish we were kinder to one another. There is nobody on earth, even Kundera, who will not feel one day his or her utter loneliness, utter insulation from any other human being. To avoid knowing this we engage in commerce (must work to eat you say? YES, but I have known millionaires go on working!) & fill our time with distractions.

The "work" I do helps toward breaking down this separation we human-beings feel. It is not necessary, it is only the impulse to defend ourselves, — we are terribly afraid of "coming out" just as ourselves & being stepped on!

This is a false fear. A lot of people, some professional speakers & entertainers, are quite "open" (cf. Will Rogers), & I do not mean backslappers.

This "I" of ours has a better side of course. Its basis — apart from memories — is the strange "self" conception. This is a direct reflection of the One Self & it is this we can see in one another.

Friend,
na

Benwood, W. Va.
May 13, 1961

Hello friend,

It has been a long time. I found the previous letter right after I sent off the last letter.

I find little argument with your last letter, and less energy or desire to argue.

I would like to ask one question. How would a person know a master when he encountered one. There is no way of knowing is there? Is not the desire to hunt a master merely an escape attempt to solve the problem one's self? from the

I am very weak and will not write much. It would not make much sense anyway. Do not think me rude if you do not hear from me. My physical condition is deteriorating. Am plagued with the fear of not being able to support the family, if I should neither improve beyond my present condition nor terminate. As soon as I am sure I will have to take a few steps to insure them....as the children are small.

I got the feeling that if you really are a means that the timing is off perhaps. I should have encountered you long before.

Sincerely,


