

Readers Letters (Miscellaneous Additions)

Editor's Note: This file is more chaotic than most of the letter files, because this file is the place we put all the letters that were stuck in other folders and other unexpected locations. The first group of letters belong with L29, which is where the main body of letters from the 1930s can be found. These are particularly relevant as they chronicle PB's entrance and exit from the Ramana Ashram. L47.009 is neither by PB nor to him; it is from his student Anthony to PB's ex-wife Evangeline Glass. It was included at the request of the Damiani family and with the knowledge of Evangeline herself. As things panned out, Anthony was soon in contact with PB again – and even went off to see him in 1968 or thereabouts! Also Evangeline's daughter Melody ended up staying in Ithaca near the Damianis a few years after that.

PB had a tendency to make edits, write notes regarding his replies, or insert address information and meeting times on the letters themselves after receipt. We have noted PB's insertions and marginalia, but have not noted edits made by the original author, assuming that they were corrections made at the same time as the rest of the letter. To preserve both readability and the voice of the author, we have corrected spelling errors but have generally left grammar as is.

Less interesting letters have been summarized instead of fully transcribed. Please refer to the scanned PDFs for the full content, or to view all stationery headers, postmarks, unidentified markings, marginalia, etc. Proper names and dates have been written exactly as found in the original for each letter in this file; where we discovered multiple versions of a person's name, we have noted the full name either in the body of the text in {curly brackets} or in a footnote. Note that the depth of paragraph indentation was a style used to indicate the degree of familiarity or intimacy with the reader; no indentation used for business or cold ill-willed letters, while extreme indentation indicated informality or intimacy.

In many letters, there are words that are illegible or missing; in such cases we have included either our best guess or the word "illegible" inside {curly brackets}. In rare circumstances, we have added a word or phrase to a letter for readability, which are also noted with {curly brackets}; a footnote was added where we deemed it helpful. – Timothy Smith (TJS), 2020

L47.001

1 - 2

Letter to PB from V. Ganapathi Sastri¹

Tiruvannamalai

South India

28 May 1935

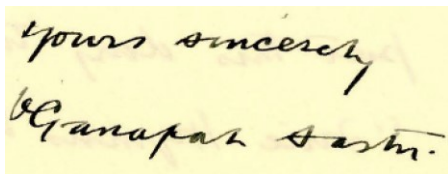
Evidently you are very busy in your quest among the pyramids and hence I have not heard from you in reply to my letters to you dates 24th and 26th February 35. I am sending separately by packet post this day to you, a copy of the "Five Hymns to

¹ This letter was handwritten.

Arunachala" translated into English from the original of Sri Ramana Maharshi for your kind perusal and use. Mr Grant Duff your friend has written a foreword to it.

All are doing well in the Ashram here including Sri Bhagavan. The Mahapuja affair on the 26th instant went off very well.

[Personally]² I have [derived]³ benefit from following the technique dealt with in your "Secret Path" and I have been telling it to others who are anxious to know all about it.⁴

A handwritten signature in cursive script on a yellowed piece of paper. The signature reads "Yours sincerely" followed by "V. Ganapathi Sastri." on the next line.

Yours sincerely
V. Ganapathi Sastri

L47.003

3 - 4

Letter to PB from V. Ganapathi Sastri⁵

Tiruvannamalai

{South India}⁶

26 February 1935

In continuation of my letter of the 24th instant, I write to you again as I feel extremely delighted in going through your new book "The Secret Path," the first reading of which I have just finished. You have indeed done a very meritorious service to the whole world and especially to the Western nations. I do firmly believe that your new book "The Secret Path" would be translated in all the languages of the civilized nations in the near future for the speedy bringing home the truth of the "Gospel of inspired action."

Just as Swami Vivekananda carried to all the corners of the world the message of Sri Rama Krishna Paramahansa during the 19th century, you - a really a blessed soul - have incarnated now to carry out the message of Sri Ramana Bhagavan⁷ [to all the people of this globe]⁸ in the 20th century where the ... [speed,]⁹ to show [mankind]¹⁰ ... of the

² Page 2. The top of the page is cut off, so text is missing before "Personally."

³ The top of the page is cut off, so text is most likely missing after "derived."

⁴ PB himself inserted underline by hand.

⁵ This letter was handwritten.

⁶ We inserted "South India" per context.

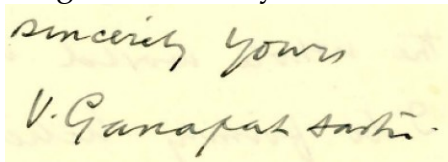
⁷ Referring to Ramana Maharshi.

⁸ V. Ganapathi Sastri inserted "to all the people of this globe" by hand.

⁹ Page 4. The top of the page is cut off, so text is missing before "speed."

¹⁰ The top of the page is cut off, so text is missing after "mankind."

discovery in the secret depths of every human heart, the ever benign Divinity of God. I am sending this letter to you with Bhagavan's blessings

A handwritten signature in cursive script on a yellowed piece of paper. The signature reads "sincerely yours" followed by "V. Ganapathi Sastri".

sincerely yours
V. Ganapathi Sastri

L47.005

5 - 6

Letter to PB from Siddheswarananda¹¹
2 Rue Auguste Maquet
Paris XVIeme
1 February 1938

Dear Friend,

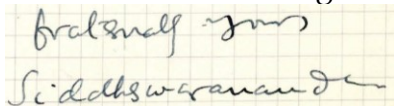
Very glad to receive your kind letter on last Saturday and your book today: I shall certainly be reading the book and I have already read through the introductory chapter. Even at {Kommengandi}¹² you had given me the manuscript for reading. The book has a very attractive set-up.

I am very glad to learn that you intend coming over here. The dates you have given me would suit me very well. I shall keep the whole of Saturday free for you and we can have a nice time. The Sautons desire me to invite you for lunch with us on Saturday (12th inst). Kindly drop me a line that this {is}¹³ correct and we shall be expecting you on Saturday morning.

I am all right in health now. The grippe has fatigued me to a certain extent, but I am picking up quickly.

Very glad to hear that {Ramiah}¹⁴ has broken his silence after 10 years.

With best wishes and greetings

A handwritten signature in cursive script on a piece of lined paper. The signature reads "fraternally yours" followed by "Siddheswarananda".

Fraternally yours
Siddheswarananda

¹¹ This letter was handwritten.

¹² Illegible; this is probably a town in Southern India. — TJS, 2020

¹³ We think this says "this" in which case "is" is needed. — TJS, 2020

¹⁴ Illegible — but this might be Ramiah (see the next letter). — TJS, 2020

Letter to PB from V. Ganapathi Sastri¹⁵
 69, Big Street, Tiruvannamalai
 North Arcot District,
 South India
 28 April 1938

Dear Mr Brunton

I have your letter of the 18th instant. It pains me to hear about your ill-health and your [consequent]¹⁶ apparently forced voyage to U.S.A. I hope and pray that you should recover your lost health as a result of your stay at "Sierra Madre Mountains" which I see – by looking at a School Atlas – is situated in Mexico south of California. I conveyed your greetings to Sri Bhagavan and he was visibly moved when I told him about your ill health and consequent departure from England. There is not the least doubt that his blessings would go a great way in the restoration of your normal health.

Yogi Ramiah has given a donation of R1000 towards the construction of the Vedic School within the Ashram¹⁷ limits. The [unwanted]¹⁸ big dining hall which the Sarvadhikari¹⁹ had planned to build at a cost of over 15000R is progressing.

{Seshuarir,}²⁰ the [once]²¹ prime minister to the S-²² is now an obsolete figure in the Ashram, having been dethroned as a consequence of his several acts of villainy.

The Ashram management has become a more or less a house affair, since the S- has brought his {only}²³ son²⁴ permanently here to manage the Ashram under his instructions. The son with his two children [and wife]²⁵ are living in a separate house [in the town]²⁶ secured for their use by Yogi Ramiah, during nights. Further Sri Bhagavan has been made to execute a will nominating the son of the S- and his sons etc to do the worship at Sri Bhagavan's mother's tomb and manage the Ashram.

The rooms of Mr Bose are nearing completion and it is very likely that Sister Sujata may remove to one of them. I have duly conveyed your greetings to her.

¹⁵ This letter was handwritten.

¹⁶ V. Ganapathi Sastri inserted "consequent" by hand.

¹⁷ "Asramam" in the original throughout this letter.

¹⁸ V. Ganapathi Sastri inserted "unwanted" by hand.

¹⁹ a.k.a. the manager – at this time, Ramana's problematic brother Niranjanananda. – TJS, 2020

²⁰ Illegible name; this is our best guess.

²¹ V. Ganapathi Sastri inserted "once" by hand.

²² Referring to the Sarvadhikari or manager (Ramana's brother).

²³ The page is creased and only "o-" is visible, but from the reverse page it looks more like "only" than "one."

²⁴ Page 8

²⁵ V. Ganapathi Sastri inserted "and wife" by hand.

²⁶ V. Ganapathi Sastri inserted "in the town" by hand.

The letter you had sent was duly posted here on the 25th instant.

Sri Bhagavan is perhaps the greatest of Jivanmuktas now living and [the few]²⁷ persons who can really understand His greatness, will never be affected by the happenings taking place in the management of Sri Ramana Ashram²⁸ at present.

I do believe that my vision of having a separate International Colony – close to the Ashram but financially quite independent of Sri Ramana Ashram, in the model of the present Belur Math at Calcutta, will begin to fructify [here,]²⁹ before I leave this mortal coil; to proclaim and continue the teaching {of}³⁰ Sri Ramana Maharshi.

L47.009

9 - 12

Letter to Evangeline Glass from Anthony Damiani³¹

Valois, N.Y. 14888

U.S.

20 April 1967

Evangeline Glass
Rietholzstrasse 60
Zollikerberg
Switzerland

Perhaps, my dear Noel... I am imposing on our friendship. Should you feel so please do not hesitate to ignore this message. I would must rather preserve the memory of a glorious friendship entire in the depths and silence of my heart without blemishing it – ... through a postscript.

Your³² sensitivity has made you aware that beyond my Saturnine mask, yes even the delicately wrought but incisive intellectuality I am dominated and possessed by feelings; [poised]³³ between this great wink of eternity and an 'inner' intensity that has frozen this ancient dualism into a style of being!... Tony.... Incandescent... volcanic.

But I'm reaching for those winged words that can transport the whole of a moment – to explain myself to you broadly, suggestively inwardly... to transform the fruit of intelligence into words pregnant with the flow of life... and bring it to PB.

²⁷ V. Ganapathi Sastri inserted "the few" by hand.

²⁸ "Sri Ramanasramam" in the original throughout this letter.

²⁹ V. Ganapathi Sastri inserted "here" by hand.

³⁰ We inserted "of" for clarity.

³¹ This letter was handwritten.

³² PB himself wrote "for N + D then discard" in the right margin by hand. N is very likely referring to Noel. – TJS, 2020

³³ Anthony Damiani deleted "But" from before "poised" by hand.

[I]³⁴ am recovering from a heart attack and a magical detachment has slowly crept into my mind... paralyzing my enthusiasm, returning the show to the atoms and molecules.

So³⁵ vast has this emptiness become that I can see it as support for creation itself. As a matter of fact for many years now since PB left the U.S. and went to Australia I have had to worship it as unfathomable. I sometimes believe that ever since that time the spiritual thread was cut. As devotee we were unreservedly exposed to our destiny! In other words PB had gone to the other shore, he had annihilated even annihilation... Yet he did nothing.

Still – would you ask him: May I return to meditation in spite of an attack? If he prefers I can write to him.... Yet I know how he loathes to give advice.

deepest affection to Beau and Melody.

Tony

L47.013

13 - 18

Letter to PB from Gertrude Gmelin³⁶

8919 Utting am Ammersee

13 July 1964

Dear³⁷ Mr. Brunton,

With the chapter On the True Nature of Time in your beautiful book “The Quest of the Overself” you led me to a piece of knowledge which I would like to share with you. I am just about finished with reading “The Wisdom of the Overself” and see that you prove the truth of mentalism psychologically. But you surely know that only a handful of people will allow themselves to be convinced by this.

However, there is a simple mathematical proof which will make the general validity of the mentalistic view clear to every school boy.

If you would be so kind as to take the trouble to follow my explanations, you will be pleased that the truth is so easy to grasp. It only – but absolutely – requires exact thinking:

In mathematics a straight line is a symbol for *one*-dimensionality. Of course, this cannot be expressed exactly by a drawn illustration, since a line which would *solely* consist of length would be invisible. It is absolutely essential to limit the visible line to but one single dimension in our thinking.

³⁴ Anthony Damiani deleted “For” from before “I” by hand.

³⁵ Page 10

³⁶ This letter was originally typed in German (pages 13-16) and translated to English (pages 17-18). We have included only the English version here.

³⁷ Page 17

Whatever point you might select on this one-dimensional line, you will be forced to realize that the value it possesses is zero (for 3 planes can be brought to intersect in it; since a two-dimensional plane does not possess height the intersection in question is zero-dimensional, which means it has no value whatsoever – or you may define the point by intersecting a *one*-dimensional line with a plane; here, too, the obtained value is but zero). Now, whether you examine one hundred such points on our line or even more, you will not be able to find anything else but zero points.

With the help of a primitive experiment it is possible to examine *each* point of any given length by intersecting it with a plane: take a piece of thread as a symbol for the length and a sheet of paper as a symbol for the plane; next pull the thread through a hole made in the piece of paper. If you think this process through exactly, you will know that you have determined an infinite number of zero points regardless of whether you have examined 10 cm or 20 cm or 2 m length of thread in this way. Now, the sum of zero + zero + zero is nothing but zero and so is zero + infinitely times zero.

Now, even if there were at least one real dimension of width or height, the calculated volume would also be zero, but of course the result of an examination of these two other dimensions is zero as well. Each point in supposed three-dimensional space is intersected by three dimensions at least and thereby it becomes a point whose value is zero. Time which can be graphically illustrated by a line does not fare better in our investigation! Thus the truth is absolute spacelessness and timelessness – there is not even room for a human body or its brain.

Should I have failed to convince you completely, dear Mr. Brunton, please be so kind and think this matter of the dimensions through from all angles, just as I did for four weeks before I turned to you to present you with a piece of knowledge meant for the (general)³⁸ public, a piece of knowledge in which there is no longer any room for any materialistic views but opens door and gate to mentalism.

Dear Mr. Brunton, I think you are the most suitable personality to use the knowledge of spacelessness as a basis for re-educating mankind with success. I now ask you to please write a book “for all.” Should you be willing to do so, I would like to request that you grant me the right to participate in choosing what questions to present.

Lastly, I apologize that I had to use my mother tongue. I hope this did not complicate your understanding of my explanations.

In hopes of receiving an affirmative reply from you I remain sincerely yours,
Gertrude³⁹ Gmelin

³⁸ Page 18

³⁹ Spelled “Gertraud” in German.