

Readers' Letters 06 (Notable Persons)

Editor's Note: The Readers' Letters files consist of correspondence between PB and his students, followers, fellow philosophers, spiritual leaders, friends and family. Most of these letters were sent to PB by readers of his books. They are in no particular order, and there may be letters by the same person in other files as well. Most of the letters in this file were written between 1966 and 1977. There is an index of proper names at the end of this file, although it is not comprehensive for the entire file.

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 stationary 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.

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

L06.001

1 - 2

Envelope labeled "Royal personal letters Frederica"

Dated 28 - 2. 77 to Monsieur le Dr Paul Brunton, Au Jordil "A" 1807 Blonay, 1820
Montreux

Extract: "Royal personal letters Frederica"

L06.003

3 - 8

Incomplete letter from Queen Frederica¹

¹ Letters in this file from Queen Frederica have been heavily annotated by PB himself, all underlined or crossed content was done by PB. We have not included notes of all annotations in the footnotes; please refer to the scan of the original for full details.

...³ them that one cannot publicly use them, but that these inner reasons [against transplant operation of heart]⁴ are very real. To interfere with a dying souls struggle for Union with God as well as committing murder on someone who is not dead is a double-crime ~~in Father Arrupe's opinion~~. He said the problem was to find the moment a man was really⁵ dead. I gave him the example of the young Doctor in your hospital. You will remember he told me that his brother and his father would never perform such an operation as the heart donor is certainly not dead; and that he has a friend who was unconscious for two months, and during those two months his ~~headwaves~~ Brainwaves had⁶ been flat for two weeks, but that to-day this same person is a student at the university. Arrupe was very impressed with this. Anyhow he agreed on the subject of heart transplantation and that something should be done against it. -

Naturally we came into the subject of meditation as this was mentioned in⁷ my letter to him. He said that especially people who practise meditation have an inkling of what really happen at the moment of death and therefore they should not be interfered with. I asked him straight out if he had any experience of Union with God and that he should not answer if he did not want to. He told me his first experience came when he was a novice and that it was tremendous. He⁸ did not elaborate but we discussed the theoretical aspect of Union with God. He insisted that it must not only be an experience but become a living reality! The soul must find its self. (He does not spell it with capital letter) On my remark that the soul finds 'No-Thing⁹,' therefore not even its self, he said that this appears only to be so as it has to find itself again when it comes back anyhow. [One school in India asserts - ¹⁰] During meditation we have glimpses of Union with God; only in death it can be complete.

I asked what his opinion...¹¹

L06.009

9 - 12

Incomplete letter from Queen Frederica¹²

² "Keep" and "Article B" noted at top of page.

³ Letter begins on page 3.

⁴ Added by PB himself.

⁵ Page 4, noted as "4."

⁶ Page 5, noted as "5" and a circled "K."

⁷ Page 6, noted as "6."

⁸ Page 7, noted as "7"

⁹ Page 8, noted as "8"

¹⁰ Added by PB himself.

¹¹ Subsequent lines are missing.

Undated¹³

...¹⁴ ~~some time in end of this month I received your papers~~¹⁵ on the brain. It did not impress me at all. Reading the effects the radio pulse had on the monkey, it shows that it increases or subdues ready made tendencies, drink and drugs can do the same perhaps to a lesser degree! If¹⁶ you increase the drugs or the radio waves in order to keep up the effect continuously, the person will surely die. It also seems to me that the electrodes are not imbedded in the center of the brain which is the bearer of consciousness. If they were, the person would die! I will send the papers to my friend in Spain and

...¹⁷ I do not think for one moment that they can produce Tara kalpa or Nirvi kalpa.. They can produce sleep and unconsciousness. The other two remain a question of spiritual maturity impossible to get by material means.

L06.013

13 - 28

Letter from Princess Irene of Greece and Denmark

May 14th 1976

Dear Dr Brunton,

Just a few words preliminary to a more profound letter. I just wanted to tell you how much I appreciated the trouble you took to come to Geneva in that cold, nasty weather. As I was coming on behalf of so many people my conscience was less bad than what it should have been, to cause you to make such an effort when¹⁸ it is we who should make the effort. It was so wonderful to be with you and place before you all the problems, news and hopes to which you listen always with such understanding and patience. And one is not even able to reciprocate! But grateful feelings to you, especially in front of His Holiness is what I can do wholeheartedly.

¹² Letters in this file from Queen Frederica have been heavily annotated by PB himself, all underlined or crossed content was done by PB. We have not included notes of all annotations in the footnotes; please refer to the scan of the original for full details.

¹³ "Article A," "Keep,"

and "Dictate Asmann" (referring to PBs dictating machine) all noted at top of page by PB himself.

¹⁴ Incomplete letter; page 9, noted as "3"

¹⁵ "Re Prof Delgado (USA) electrical experiments on Brain to control & change mind or character" added by PB himself.

¹⁶ Page 10, noted as "4"

¹⁷ Page 11, noted as "5." Fifth page of letter cropped at the top and bottom

¹⁸ Page 15, noted as "-2-"

We saw Him twice. The first time His first question was how was Sophie! She was thrilled to¹⁹ hear this. Professor spoke to her and also gives her strength. Both His Holiness and Professor seem well thank God.

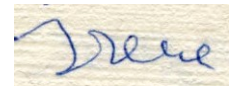
Those beastly rumours have been most disturbing and by sheer Higher Grace I persuaded a pushy Australian press-girl that if she must write to write an article explaining the unsensational truth and to²⁰ leave us alone. She did both but whether the Daily Mail she wrote for will publish is another matter. I told Professor that if it gets any worse and Tino's denials don't help or are not enough I am prepared to manifest myself more definitely. I am also taking initiative in private to a couple of friends to explain and protest. More of this later.

Mama found me the most adorable little²¹ cottage belonging to a vegetarian hotel. She has loaded me with provisions and has been very sweet. The negativity, except for a nasty beginning is practically gone and there is on my side utter contentment of the kind I had given up hoping for! This little house is ideal in every way. Well air conditioned, in fact you too would²² be most comfortable in a place like this even in Indian mid-summer! I am to pay no more than five hundred dollars a month, (what it amounts to for a week almost in Claridges!) I can manage comfortably if nothing cheaper is found as convenient.

All this grace is the result of interest and concern from the Three of you who have been so tender and encouraging during the difficult past. I²³ hope you know it - in fact I am sure you do that I regard myself as a grateful servant of all Three who are manifestations of That which is the real Home of everyone.

Time not being unlimited, I must stop for the moment but my loving devotion continues beyond limits with intensity. Please accept²⁴ the content of these thoughts - content which cannot be fully expressed.

Your gratified



P.S. excuse the messy ballpoint there is at this point no time to do anything about it so sorry.

L06.029

29 - 54

Incomplete letter from Queen Frederica²⁵

¹⁹ Page 17, noted as "-3-"

²⁰ Page 19, noted as "-4-"

²¹ Page 21, noted as "-5-"

²² Page 23, noted as "-6-"

²³ Page 25, noted as "-7-"

²⁴ Page 27, noted as "-8-"

Madras
Dec 5.66²⁶

Dear Dr Brunton,

As there is little time in which to write this letter I shall stick to essentials and avoid details. After 9 hours drive on a hot and wet road we met your friend the {Shankaracharya} of {illegible} [Shankara Acharya of KamaKoti Peetam (INT) 1966]²⁷.

We settled down on the floor²⁸ opposite him in an open courtyard of a 6th century temple. We were sitting under the colonnade. He is a frail {illegible} with huge luminous eyes. I felt the very strong atmosphere immediately. This gentle feeling around my head, which is always so tremendously intensified when you are near is now this time also intensified. The mountain behind²⁹ the temple, the people in the courtyard, as well as us, seemed like a dream! The body was not felt anymore. There was seeing without the seer. In this atmosphere I made my questions. It was obvious, here was a man of great spirituality. He asked how long³⁰ I meditated and when there was the first experience. I told him it was 10 years ago with you, in America. We spoke about you and our association with you, about Palo and his death, about the many experiences I had had and how they have passed away now. I told him how³¹ I was longing to live only within the Realization, since I have to go on living, as then the world would not matter anymore and one might become useful again. I asked once again about Nirvi Kalpa and sahaja. He only listened and did not answer. He asked a few questions and³² just looked with his huge eyes quietly at us. Mahadevin translated, it was pleasant to have him with us. I told the Sage that while being able to control my thoughts during ordinary consciousness, this was not yet possible during dreams. He looked at me for a long time then he said "Your dreams do not influence³³ your ordinary consciousness; they do not hinder your spiritual progress. It is your everyday consciousness that will effect your dreams more and more, do not worry at all. - We left after one hour. The next day we³⁴ saw him again for 2 ½ hours. In the night I woke up. I was conscious of a tremendous uplifting power. I felt like floating, like being ethereal.

²⁵ Letters in this file from Queen Frederica have been heavily annotated by PB himself, all underlined or crossed content was done by PB. We have not included notes of all annotations in the footnotes; please refer to the scan of the original for full details.

²⁶ "Second letter" and

"for Asman" noted at top of page.

²⁷ Added by PB himself by hand. "INT 1966" suggests PB interviewed either Frederica about their meeting, or interviewed Shankara.

²⁸ Page 30, noted as "5" by Frederica and crossed out and replaced with "2" by PB.

²⁹ Page 31, noted as "3"

³⁰ Page 32, noted as "4"

³¹ Page 33, noted as "5"

³² Page 34, noted as "6"

³³ Page 35, noted as "7"

³⁴ Page 36, noted as "8"

I know it was a special kind of an experience. So going to sleep was³⁵ rather difficult afterwards. Irene had a similar kind of experience. But I leave it to her to tell you. In the morning I said to Mahadevin. Well, this was quite a terrific electric atmosphere at night." He just smiled³⁶. When we reached the temple we again settled down opposite him. [Next day] For a long time we sat in utter silence. [Then I told him about my experience] Mahadevin said something to him. He did not react in any visible form. He just smiled. Then I asked Mahadevin to tell him about our experience at night. He said "I just told him so!" Every now and then he³⁷ withdrew completely. Sometimes with his eyes shut, sometimes with his eyes open. The ethereal feeling was always there. Suddenly he turned to me and [He] said: "Nirvi Kalpa is for yogis. It is not essential for Selfrealization. The state which you reach in meditation (I³⁸ [had] described to him the perfect peace which I experience [in meditation], the no-self, no-world, and no-thought state, but that there is possibility of [hearing] sound[s], without this interfering with the state {illegible}) "This state will widen and become natural to you." Then he asked me to put my hand upright to³⁹ my nose with the nostrils right and left to the palm. He told me "watch out on which side you feel the air striking the hand when exhaling." After I told him I feel it on the left side of my hand meaning it feels from⁴⁰ the left nostril he asked me to do it again. To my surprise it now came from the right nostril. He informed us that while changing the breath there is a fraction of time when it comes through both nostrils. This is the time the mind is still. You must practice to lengthen this⁴¹ time by concentrating to use both nostrils for exhaling and inhaling. It [This breathwatching method, used in everyday life,] will make the meditation state natural, and bring on Sahaja. Sahaja is important, not so much Nirvi Kalpa." (You told me this again and again.) The⁴² method of the breathwatching during everyday life is very interesting and seems quite effective. He said about you: "Tell [Paul Brunton] him I remember him as if it was the day he came to see me; with my Blessings." [use it para on P18⁴³.]

For Tino he gave this message: If punishment is ever to⁴⁴ be given by you or ever comes to you, give it without passion, make it without passion. [If punishment has to be given, give it without passion ~~if duty compels one duty compels him~~ or ever comes to one, and it has to be made, then fight without passion⁴⁵] If it has to be made, always without passion."

³⁵ Page 37, noted as "9"

³⁶ Page 38, noted as "10"

³⁷ Page 39, noted as "11"

³⁸ Page 40, noted as "12"

³⁹ Page 41, noted as "13"

⁴⁰ Page 42, noted as "14"

⁴¹ Page 43, noted as "15"

⁴² Page 44, noted as "16"

⁴³ Added and circled by PB himself, with an arrow.

⁴⁴ Page 45, noted as "17"

⁴⁵ Rewritten above by PB himself, with other additions.

I asked him if it was true that married people can't reach Selfrealization. He laughed and said: of⁴⁶ course, they can reach it, everybody who strives can reach it." - About you he said: [TR topic] When I sent Brunton to Maharshi he experienced great happiness, then this was dimmed; now he is established [(in Sahaja)]."

He gave a message also to Sophie saying that the more she serves her family the more she serves her spirit.

The⁴⁷ details we will discuss when we see you again. It was more than worthwhile to meet this great spirit. God knows why we deserve to know you and this man. It can only be accepted as a free gift by us, free of humility. Irene and I are delighted⁴⁸ to see how Mahadevin makes it a point of always including your name in all conversations. Even at the Maharshi's Ashram he said quite loudly: "This is the place Brunton sat when he first met the Maharshi." Apparently he, Mahadevin was present. It⁴⁹ was very moving to see where you and Maharshi talked. I felt again the tremendously strong atmosphere and power. I met the man who was the then Chief of Police when Maharshi died. He⁵⁰ told me that Maharshi called him long time before and told him the exact hour and day of his death. He did this because he knew there would be trouble in the Ashram and asked him to watch out and ~~protect~~ [prevent] it. He⁵¹ told him the spot he wanted to be buried. The day he died the C. of Police was in the Ashram. The devotees told him he could leave as Maharshi was better and had taken some juice. But the C. of P. looked⁵² at his watch and said in 10 minutes Maharshi is dead. Then he saw the comet and shortly afterwards he heard of his death. He told me and Mahadevin confirmed it that [that] a few minutes before, Maharshi put⁵³ himself into his meditation position. Only by touching him did they realize that he was dead. - At night when the brother was asleep the C. of P. had his workmen dig the⁵⁴ grave where Maharshi had told him. The next morning the brother was furious as he wanted him [M] to be buried next to the mother, making him second to the mother.

Time is running out {illegible...⁵⁵}

L06.055

55 - 72

Incomplete letter from Queen Frederica
Undated

⁴⁶ Page 46, noted as "18"

⁴⁷ Page 47, noted as "19"

⁴⁸ Page 48, noted as "20"

⁴⁹ Page 49, noted as "21"

⁵⁰ Page 50, noted as "22"

⁵¹ Page 51, noted as "23"

⁵² Page 52, noted as "24"

⁵³ Page 53, noted as "25"

⁵⁴ Page 54, noted as "26"

⁵⁵ Subsequent lines are missing.

...⁵⁶ in⁵⁷ Palos death and all the details. He said: he had a very good passing away and is now part of the All (MNCTi) as he called it. We told him you were present. His reaction, although it was not translated to me, seemed very happily surprised as if he said "Well, then naturally." Although [INT⁵⁸ with Shankara of Sringeri-Cochin 1966] fully informed by you, I inquired about his views on Nirvi Kalpa." [Re nirvikalpa Samadhi] After my description which included the hearing of distant noise such as traffic or noises of nature, he was very definite in his answer saying that N.K. is reached even if there is the appearance of hearing as long as it is not disturbing to⁵⁹ the state reached. The reason that some people hear and others do not hear in N.K. is a personal reaction. Both are in N.K. I insisted on the point remembering Mahadevin's explanation to me, who said that N.K. is not reached as long as one hears, even impersonally.

I⁶⁰ did not mention Mahadevin's name but said I read it. He emphatically insisted that N.K. is reached the moment there is change of consciousness, no-self, no-thought no-world. Hearing or not hearing, at that stage, are unimportant details. -

Remembering again Mahadevin and Weizecker's conversation, I asked if it is true that married people⁶¹ (householders) cannot reach enlightenment; even before it was translated he said: "No, No, that is not so. All can reach enlightenment those that are married and those that are not." He was again quite emphatic and without hesitation.

I told him that it was difficult⁶² for me to control my dream-life and that I would like to get complete control over it. He answered me that no stupid dreams affect my spiritual development and he suggested sattvic food.

It is wonderful to know that all we have learned from you finds its echo here.

We went to see Anananda Mayee, the Woman Saint.

...⁶³[Ananda Mayel] She is really very saintly. She has the sweetest expression and is just radiating love. She looked for a very long time without blinking straight into my eyes as if she wanted to convey pure love. An Austrian lady translated for us. She had been a devotee of Krishnamurti and is now since⁶⁴ 30 years with the Woman Saint. I also asked her about N.K. [NIRVIkalpa Samadhi]. Her answer was that N.K. is complete No-THING. That if there is some hearing left, N.K. is not reached. She says SAVA KALPA is also Oneness. But when you have reached N.K. there is no return to

⁵⁶ Previous four pages missing.

⁵⁷ Page 55, noted as "5"

⁵⁸ Page 56, noted as "6"

⁵⁹ Page 57, noted as "7"

⁶⁰ Page 58, noted as "8"

⁶¹ Page 59, noted as "9"

⁶² Page 60, noted as "10"

⁶³ Page 61, letter skips from page 10 to 13: pages 11 and 12 are missing.

⁶⁴ Page 62, noted as "14"

ordinary consciousness! This was⁶⁵ in slight contradiction to what Shankara told us. We had a two hour conversation with her I also asked her of how to control ones dreams. She said to concentrate upon one's throat! (I noticed that by trying it one goes straight into meditation.)

Yesterday we saw Shankara again. The⁶⁶ other days he had received us in an empty room connected with a small house belonging to the Vicespeaker of Parliament. (a Devotee.) He was seated on a very low platform that was covered with a tiger skin and some blankets. We sat on a silk carpet next to him. (Irene was goggle-eyed!!)

This time he was out when we arrived. We⁶⁷ waited a few minutes. He arrived and did not later go to his special room, but settled down on a cushion in the dining room. We sat on a silk carpet next to him. This carpet we used before and seemed to be a special courtesy to us; as everybody else sat on the floor proper. [Shankara⁶⁸ of SRINGERI Cochin INT] I once more asked about N.K. [nirvikalpa samadhi] (I see you smile!)

Well I had to, after my talk with the Woman Saint. He repeated his explanation of the other time adding that those who give themselves to continuous meditation such as monks or nuns usually have the no-sound N.K. - The first day we offered fruit on a silver⁶⁹ platter. He gave us an apple when we left. Yesterday he gave us a little amulet representing the original Shankara and to Irene he gave the goddess of learning. He held both amulettes for quite some time in his hand before giving them to us. I gave him a small⁷⁰ gold cup which he seemed to like, as he held it during all the audience in his hand. -

When we talked to the Woman Saint about you, she said: "ah yes, Paul Brunton, I remember him very well; tell him how happy I am to see you and that he wanted you and me to⁷¹ meet. After all you have not come to meet me but to meet your own self."

Irene will write to you about her own conversations and impressions. She is absolutely delighted specially with the Woman Saint.

She was quite interesting just few women together, The Saint, the⁷² translator, Irene, and myself. The translator was not too good unfortunately, as the Saint said far more than was repeated to us. It is bothersome to need a translator.

There are so many details that are interesting to us such as the excitement of the devotees who rush in or out of Shankaras

...⁷³ not⁷⁴ fit in. The Indians understood. We met a very interesting Syrian Ambassador at Mrs Gandhi's. He is known as a great poet in the Arab world. He

⁶⁵ Page 63, noted as "15"

⁶⁶ Page 64, noted as "16"

⁶⁷ Page 65, noted as "17"

⁶⁸ Page 66, noted as "18"

⁶⁹ Page 67, noted as "19"

⁷⁰ Page 68, noted as "20"

⁷¹ Page 69, noted as "21"

⁷² Page 70, noted as "22"

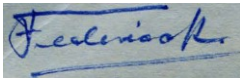
⁷³ Letter skips from page 22 to either page 28 or 29.

wants to give us a dinner on our return and invite the brother of the Maharaja of Patiala who is a {illegible} and devotes himself to {illegible} music.

Several times your name⁷⁵ has come during conversations [in New Delhi govt circles] also at the Prime Minister's house. It was always favourable. Irene and I remain strong faced!

Now I must stop this long letter. It will take you days to read. I am terribly sorry for my writing. I do not seem to be able to improve it. It is great to feel surrounded by your thoughts. It helps to make this visit a success.

With all my best wishes and grateful
love

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Federico", written on a light-colored background with a horizontal line above and below the text.

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⁷⁴ Page 71 in PDF. Both this page and the next are noted as "29" by author.

⁷⁵ Page 72, also noted as "29" by author.

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