

## Readers' Letters 22

*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 1939 and 1986.*

*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*

### L22.001

1 – 6

Letter from Arshavir Ter Hovanessian to PB followed by summary  
Raw-eating A New World Free from Diseases, Vices and Poisons  
September 30, 1967

*Extract: "Hence, the administration of drugs must be stopped forthwith and raw-eating must be declared as the only means of curing diseases all over the world."*

### L22.007

7 – 8

Spanish language card from M. Harrison  
c/ Judy's 35-14 Bell Blvd. Bayside NY 11361<sup>1</sup>  
Undated Letter

Dear P.B.

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<sup>1</sup> Address added by PB himself.

How are you? May you give me a favour to write me in your "inimitable way".

Every day you are my best friend.

Always,



## L22.009

9 - 10

Incomplete French language Postcard<sup>2</sup>

Undated letter

Invitation!!!

Welcome to the great Easter's presentation at the Mercure. For you, without compromise, great original specialties of the highest quality. An appreciated exclusivity Easter eggs, even more chocolate<sup>3</sup>...

## L22.011

11 - 12

Incomplete letter from P.

Undated letter

...\*P.<sup>4</sup>S. Thought you'd be interested: Every one of the doctors who have treated me throughout these various physical mis-adventures were quite astonished at my rapid recoveries and good spirits throughout each ordeal. Something quite unusual for an old gal my age! Little did they know my "secret trick"!



## L22.013

13 - 14

Note from unknown on back of J.G. Bennett phot

Undated letter

The cause of The crisis is very similar to yours - but the "cure" is different!

He is the man the {illegible} go to hear - he was a student of Ouspensky...<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Translated from French during transcription process.

<sup>3</sup> Subsequent lines are missing.

<sup>4</sup> Previous lines are missing.

<sup>5</sup> Subsequent words may be missing.

## L22.015

15 - 16

Letter in foreign languages  
Royal Legation of Saudi Arabia, London

*Extract: None. Letter needs to be translated*

## L22.017

17 - 18

Incomplete letter from unknown  
Undated letter

...On<sup>6</sup> the other hand I greatly hesitate to accept "demonstrating" in Brussels, where the {"shiccheria"} now have a yoga club...presumably because queen Elisabeth of Belgium (aged 85) {lands} on her head, or has had the same guru<sup>7</sup> as Yehudi Menuhin. As I live completely "in the now" something will turn up.<sup>8</sup>

Here I have a lawn and do my asanas at 3 a.m. then read and write letters.

Hutchinson had long ago asked for my biography, but an integral one would be impossible o "laughing chars" no longer a novelty!

Would something in letter form be advisable, or would {Gollancz} be the type of man to understand? I can only go backwards, as yogis do, are not money minded at all, have had a very good microphone voice before my teeth were out, and am not shy, considering this as a form of vanity?.

Being 79 I like "action" (now the fashion {in} colleges)...<sup>9</sup>

## L22.019

19 - 20

Incomplete letter from unknown  
Undated letter

...I<sup>10</sup> asked Nell for her reaction as I value greatly her opinion. She does not talk a great deal but thinks carefully and deeply. We rarely talk at length of your Path, although without question Nell carries out your suggestions on the Art of the Best Living; yet quite often I am delighted when quite out of the blue she brings out a practical sentence that is right on target and one that embraces a really deep aspect.

A woman's point of view can be invaluable. Only the other day she was talking privately to a married woman friend who was most concerned because of her husband's interest in These Things; an interest which made little appeal to her and

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<sup>6</sup> Previous page is missing. This page is noted as "2/" by author.

<sup>7</sup> Guru here likely refers to Yogacharia B.K.S. Iyengar.

<sup>8</sup> Underlining done by PB himself. "Topics" also written over this paragraph by PB himself.

<sup>9</sup> Subsequent lines may be missing.

<sup>10</sup> Previous lines may be missing.

so she was deeply resentful. She considered what was good enough for her should be quite good enough for her husband.

Nell, when talking to me afterwards, said she told her friend that she (Nell) was deeply hurt some years ago when she realized that marriage was not the end or the be-all and was not all- sufficient to a man, but that on the contrary, something else was required. Yet now she finds this is not detrimental to a most happy and a satisfying marriage. This approach is one for which I have been working for quite a long time, where there is partnership based on a deep understanding and where there is strength through freedom. Paradoxically enough, the bonds of freedom are infinitely stronger and superior in every way than the bonds of attachment. If all marriages were as happy as our marriage is –then the world would be a much more pleasant and a far more secure place in which to live.

Nell's main reaction was that both Constance and Norman worried far too much. Al Nell said, your Path should have its many moments of deep joy and if it brings but worry then it is questionable if its pursuit is worthwhile. Obviously the easiest comment for an outsider to make is to suggest to another that worry be eliminated; and yet a determined effort has to be made first to understand the causes of worry and secondly to try to absorb them.

## L22.021

21 – 22

Incomplete letter from Gordon

Undated letter

...<sup>11</sup>(d.)<sup>12</sup> Whilst it is understandable and is to be expected in earlier phases to form ever-changing ideas of THAT, I found it paid me to refrain from such practice in higher stages. You are warned few find IT at any time as it is so subtle and so elusive (chiefly because people are looking in the wrong direction for IT) and therefore if you form ideas of THAT you tend to look for something to coincide with your ideas and so you may pass close by THAT but because of pre-conceived ideas of what THAT ought to be you remain in ignorance of such closeness. As P.B. says...the mind must be kept subtle and dogma-free. Intellect, imagination and emotion are all killers at certain stages. Many people, of course, may be quite satisfied with their imagination build-up, yet I suggest it but holds them in thrall.

H. At the present time I am forming habits which I believe will help me in future incarnations and I am also trying to take every advantage of P.B.'s help whilst it is available. I have all the time in the world in which to work (although I keep up a steady pressure) because I seek THAT which transcends time and therefore THAT unlimited by or in time. It is a most comforting feeling, I find, when you realize finally there is no reason for panic.

J. One attitude to progress that helped me was to realise how difficult it is indeed to assess accurately one's actual degree of progress. I have noticed in fields

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<sup>11</sup> Previous pages are missing. This page noted as "3" by author.

<sup>12</sup> Noted "Topic" in margin and "Keep" in upper right by PB himself.

other than this Path you see a person struggle and appear to make but little headway and so you are inclined to jump to the conclusion that such effort is a sheer waste of time. Then, all of a sudden, you notice that such a scene can change rapidly in favour of that person, bringing to your lips your favourite laundered expletive. I suggest it is possible for a person to think rapid progress is being made when actually the reverse applies. Therefore I never consider progress nowadays or give it mind-room. I consider my duty (and pleasure) is to undertake certain relative steps at certain {relative} stages and to let progress take care of itself. When I ceased to undertake the role of a nursemaid to neurasthenia (as progress is often a twin of worry) boy-oh-boy: was there relief...and how :: .

You asked for my observation upon the precedence of the Third Degree in relationship to the lightning flash. Here it is; to accept or to reject...P.B. gives the full text as the "Lightning flash of Insight" on Pages 245...262..and 265 of "The Wisdom". The first mention he makes of this phrase is in the description of his Meditation No.7..The Serpent's Path. This Meditation, as you know, forms one of the ultra-mystic exercises of the Yoga of Philosophic Discernment... or Philosophic Yoga and follows on from his two-part Second Degree. Therefore I consider metaphysics and philosophy lead up to Insight. Insight, as you know, is superior to intuition, you cannot fashion it but you can at least prepare the necessary conditions through which it can reach you. I consider Philosophy (taking P.B.'s definition of this word) to be one of such conditions. When such a high state of Insight reaches me then I consider my Quest will be very near its finish and earlier problems of philosophy will not need to be studied because everything will have been answered.



**L22.023**

23 - 24

Incomplete letter from Norman {Duckworst}

Undated letter

...You<sup>13</sup> will remember that nearly three years ago at your suggestion I visited Gordon and following the meeting I wrote to you expressing strongly my adverse criticism and opinions of his philosophical experience. It was altogether wrong and presumptuous of me to oppose your previously written opinion of Gordon more especially since you had so kindly suggested the meeting for my own benefit. I offer my sincere apology for this lapse and humbly ask for your forgiveness in this matter.

I am afraid I am still inclined to my earlier expressed opinion that Gordon's attitude was an astonishing one to adopt and also that some resistance to it was justified in the hope that he would become more cautious and reflective and thereby, ultimately, more balanced. It seems at this time that either he was unable to grasp or loath to accept that a further and higher path necessarily opens out beyond mysticism and that it has to be travelled successfully before full knowledge and philosophical status can be attained and understandably, since he was feeling utter

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<sup>13</sup> Previous lines may be missing. Noted with "Topics" in the top left margin.

peace and cathedral-like calm, there was a tendency for him, initially, to adopt the role of teacher at our meeting. Rightly or wrongly this was an attitude which I dislike and could not accept.

Prior to the visit the necessity for “Long Path” training had baffled me. He arduous and lonely mental toil and frightening boredom seemed cruel and pointless. The interview with Gordon and the unbalanced attitude which he presented at the time completely banished these private observations. The necessity for the training – on myself at any rate – has become clear; its demands before the ultimate achievement of balance between knowledge and feelings understandable and, despite its exhausting nature, the treading of the path has become a sacred privilege, although this is not to say that I want more of its training than I require.

*Norman Brunton*

L22.025

25 – 26

Incomplete letter from Gordon  
Undated<sup>14</sup>

...forge<sup>15</sup> ahead for the first when I had an accident and fell from the top of a cinema, on which we were working, to the ground; a height of about 40 feet. I sustained a fractured spine and skull and it was not known for some time whether I would walk again. Nell had visions of pushing me about in a bath-chair for the rest of my natural. This accident really put me off the map for six months and business suffered in consequence. The next year, just as I started to move ahead once more, Hitler started his funny stuff and as a large part of my business was in neon lighting, it finished me off owing to the black-out.

I certainly felt very bitter about life whilst in hospital (I had not read Dr Brunton’s writing and I had not met him then). For weeks I had to lie flat on my back, minus pillow and minus movement, being literally sand-bagged about. Yet looking back, tough though it was at the time, I remember I learnt several valuable lessons that otherwise I might have missed.

It was during the period of falling from the Cinema that I had an experience of time which left me questioning it until I found the answer in Dr Brunton’s writings. Whilst falling, I really thought it was curtains and yet I worked out a number of problems during the falling period of the odd seconds that would have taken a several minutes of normal waking time; time stood still. Because all our earthly experiences are carried out in the dimensions of space-time-motion, this experience showed me most clearly how relative is time; it is the idea we form of it at a particular moment. That bitter experience of mine – where is it now, but as a memory? The passing years bring non-attachment. If you could put yourself in such objective relationship with similar non-attachment to the present moment, which is

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<sup>14</sup> “Topics” noted in bottom right by PB himself.

<sup>15</sup> Previous lines are missing.

still in time *as* an idea, as you do the past and even the future, both of which are in time, then you would find that whilst you are taking practical energetic action to try to hold you own at least, you do not drain yourself of vital energy which is so essential to conserve when dealing with tricky problems. It is perfectly possible to find the level of serene detachment which helps so greatly at times like these.

*-Egerton*

## L22.027

27 - 28

Incomplete letter from unknown

Undated letter

...again<sup>16</sup> and have tried to get books of C.F. von Weizsacker there. I have looked through his book "Zum weltbild der Physik" from which Rieker quotes in his book on meditation. In a Dutch periodical it says that von Weizsacker received the yearly prize for peace from the Borseverein des Deutschen Buchhandels, in 1963. He was born in 1912 and is now professor in philosophy at Hamburg. His father, Ernst Freinerr von Weizsäcker delivered a speech in which he mentioned the conditions for world peace:

1. World peace is necessary because the world of the future will be a scientific, technical world. The functioning of the world economy depends on world peace, 2. World peace is not the "Golden era", 3. World peace requires an uncommon great moral effort. Love of one's neighbour is sufficient. We must learn the right use of technics.

## L22.029

29 - 30

Incomplete letter from Louis {Agosteni<sup>17</sup>}

Undated letter

...Dr.<sup>18</sup> Brunton works for the welfare of humanity and you will therefore find that his best thoughts have already been expressed in his book. Whatever he may write in the future will always find its way at the right time to his large circle of readers who are scattered over the entire world.

You seem to have much in your favour in that you are interested in matters of the spirit at an early age and more particularly to have matured sufficiently to be able to choose the kind of teacher you want. Dr Brunton anticipated your request and his general suggestion for you is to try to detach yourself little by little from the faults and weaknesses of the ego. Correct them as situations arise to point them out.

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<sup>16</sup> Previous lines are missing.

<sup>17</sup> Sender added at bottom by PB himself.

<sup>18</sup> Previous lines are missing.

The strain of these efforts of self-correction must be counterbalanced by relaxing briefly yet frequently into the contended remembrance that your Overself is always there – serene, wise, strong and divine. In this way you will create good conditions for your further progress. You might read again the last and very encouraging chapter in Dr Brunton’s book, THE WISDOM OF THE OVERSELF, which is entitled “The Fruits of Philosophy”.

It is not the amount of reading which matters so much as making the understanding of what you read come to life within you.



19

## L22.031

31 – 32

Incomplete letter response on PB’s behalf

Undated letter

...the<sup>20</sup> added responsibility of marriage and particularly its philosophical implication should do much to dispel the gloom of your present thoughts which are not in keeping with one inclined to the spiritual path.

Life is a twin adventure of rational thinking and right acting with equal emphasis on both, and if you understand this deeply enough, you will want to pursue Dr Brunton’s explicit advice to people who stand on the threshold of marriage. Marriage, Dr Brunton has explained, is an opportunity for two souls to mature together for a dual-spiritual-material purpose, and when husband and wife comprehend that they must finally find unity in companion by worship of the Supreme Light their marriage will achieve its highest status.

Because of your interest in philosophy you are in excellent position to perform this duty for your household and you should welcome the privilege to discharge it. To neglect it is to invite karmic disturbance.

Dr Brunton has already given his vast audience enough precepts to live by and there must be few indeed who have...<sup>21</sup>

## L22.033

33 – 34

Christmas card from {Purnima<sup>22</sup>}

Card shows Rhododendrons in the Himalayas dated 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 1960

*Extract: None*

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<sup>19</sup> PB’s handwriting.

<sup>20</sup> Previous lines are missing.

<sup>21</sup> Subsequent lines are missing.

<sup>22</sup> Appears to be Purnima Sicar’s handwriting.



## L22.035

35 – 36

Incomplete letter reply from PB to Mr Dambergi  
January 31, 1941

Dear Mr. Dambergi,

Sorry to delay answering your letter but we have been transcribing the manuscript for Dr Brunton's new book which was not finished until Monday. Because of urgent conditions it was necessary to drop everything else for that work and no letters have been answered in the meantime. However, now that we are more free we should not encounter such delays in the future.

The most effective approach to your questions requires that they be treated collectively rather than individually. One's greatest usefulness will come as one develops to the fullest degree. What constitutes help is not always easy to determine. Sometimes the things which seem the most helpful do the most harm. It is this which has prompted the Sages to always counsel that one should find oneself and learn truth before turning too much to the lives of others. The nation's leaders and all of us are in the hands of Destiny who may be depended on to exercise the utmost concern and foresight for our welfare. Until we are in a position to fully apprehend the workings of Destiny, the best results are gained by concern with our own individual welfare and development.

As you have so well said this intangible beauty shines through everything but it is not enough that we should merge ourselves in it. We must in time, as you put it, become a lens through which it can be focused but this latter step must await our later development.

## L22.037

37 – 38

Incomplete letter  
Undated letter

...with<sup>23</sup> affectionate greetings. As Paul wrote: "the Path, dear Hesper, has its moments of anguish. You are being taken at your word".

"accidentally, our work rushes ahead, we are very bliss..

## L22.039

39 – 40

Incomplete letter likely from PB to Mrs Mozundar and PB paras  
25 February 1955

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<sup>23</sup> Previous lines are missing.

Dear Mrs. Mozundar:

Of course I remember what you told me about the work you were doing in translating the two volumes of Ramayana. I'm sorry I could not answer you before as I have been traveling.

After considering the matter carefully, I think your best plan would be to send a preliminary letter to the following publishers to ask if they would be interested in reading the books for possible publication.

This procedure will save considerable delay and trouble. Then, when you get an answer, and only when you get an answer should you send the translations through to the Publisher himself, not to me.

E.P. Dutton & Co., 300 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., New York 10, N.Y.

Rider & Co., Hutchinson House, Stratford Place, London West 1.

Philosophical Library, Inc., 15 East 40 St., New York 16. N.Y.

Pantheon Books Inc., 333 Sixth Av. New York 14, N.Y.

Please explain in your preliminary letter just what place the Ramayana holds in Indian literature as one of its best known classics.

<sup>24</sup>( ) Swami Brahmananda: "What is the meaning of a mantram? It is the name of God. You have a name. If I call you, your form also comes to my mind. Call on the Lord in this same way. Repeat the mantram and at the same time meditate on the image of the Chosen Ideal. ....When you are alone, you may repeat the mantram audibly to yourself; otherwise repeat it mentally... It is charged with spiritual power."<sup>25</sup>

Select an phrase, sentence or even single word which makes most appeal to you and pertains to the goal, ideal or quality you wish to develop. It may be taken from a book (if inspired) or you may construct it yourself. Examples: I am Infinite Peace. Harmony - Harmony - Harmony. This Spiritual "Declaration" is to be repeated as often during the entire day as you remember to do so - silently and mentally when out or with others, whispered to yourself when alone and in your own room. This means that there may be dozens of repetitions in one day. It is particularly to be practiced when any provocation or temptation arises. After the first few weeks the habit should become automatic, when you may try to make it a silent one at all times.

You may if you prefer us as the theme for concentration the name of your Spiritual Leader: "Jesus - Jesus - Jesus" for example. This exercise must be done very slowly, the phrase must be long drawn out and, in early stages, the meaning pondered on. (XXVIII<sup>26</sup>)

## L22.041

41 - 42

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<sup>24</sup> Page 40. This is the back of the letter above however is typed PB paras and not part of the letters collection.

<sup>25</sup> This first para is typed on another page that has been cut and pasted on top of this page and is typed in red ink.

<sup>26</sup> Added by PB himself for categorization.

...you<sup>28</sup> can't think. My small white enigma of a cat and I look at each other often woman to woman and think "nicer" all the trouble in the world since the beginning of time.

..and is you who always-or someone who through you. You of course you are the other side of the complex-the only Simplicity which can move mountains.

## L22.043

43 - 44

Incomplete letter from unknown

Undated letter

...Turning<sup>29</sup> to the conditions prescribed: I shall, of course, comply with the requirement of confining the discussion to the matter in hand. It is perhaps desirable for me to emphasize now that I have no desire, in fact I am forbidden, to proselytize for Brunton or any school of thought. Neither he nor what he represents seeks adherents, money or support in any fashion above all no publicity or public following. It is true that Brunton has written books for public circulation but this is simply in the "line of duty", so to speak, and is not actually inconsistent with the policy just expressed.

This statement of position will make clear my next point - that I would not now be seeking an interview except for the...<sup>30</sup>

## L22.045

45 - 46

Directions for taking a homeopathic medicine

Describes how much to take when with a noted regarding philosophy at bottom.

*Extract: "I am still at work on the philosophic questions, although it can already be said that "panta rei", everything is in flux, was an idea of Heracleitos. To find the same idea in Indian or Chinese philosophy requires some research."*

## L22.047

47 - 48

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<sup>27</sup> Sender name noted by PB himself at the bottom of page.

<sup>28</sup> Previous lines are missing.

<sup>29</sup> Previous lines are missing.

<sup>30</sup> Subsequent lines are missing.

Dorothy Webb<sup>32</sup>

I have just ready your book "Discover yourself", although I found it very interesting I did not find the all-important thing I was looking for that you had attempted to rid your mind permanently of the ego. You regard the ego as being as indispensable art of the human consciousness, but I have proved the truth of the contention of one psychologist that it is false self, the one great illusion we have to recognise and eliminate. Then this year I read a book entitled "World without frontiers" by Richard Weiss I found the answer to all my fruitless searching. I had for some years been able to enter the yoga state at will. I learned it by intuition and it was not all difficult so I must have practiced it in some former lives. As soon as I read of the method in this book I put it to the test. I entered into a deep intense state of concentration banishing thoughts. I then concentrated on this ego in the mind and I mentally said to it coldly and impartially "You are afraid I did not tell it to go, I faced it with the truth. I held this for perhaps a minute and then relaxed. Nothing happened Immediately so I got up and took a few steps, when suddenly a complete heavy inner body fell away from me and I felt indescribably light and detached like some ethereal being. Next I was aware that my mind was changing. I could almost see the picture of the perfect mechanism switching from dual control to a single unit. I had to gather all my courage then to keep my rings, but later I went to bed and slept soundly. The next day I saw a different world, and for the first time in my life I felt "at home" in it. That is, I felt I was in an invisible Company of love and goodwill. The Thing which had conditioned my sight and my thinking had gone forever. The immortal Friend within was not bound in the yoga state but revealed itself suddenly as a divine and beautiful river flowing strong through the heart. In the month since my mind has been more and more detached from my physical self and I have no doubt this feeling process will go on. I have from time to time had to suffer nerve pains in the head and neck.

Unknown friend, if this new discovery has not come to your notice, please reflection this and don't be deceived by its simplicity. I do not write to you across the world to tell you a fairy tale. I lost a very substantial body. What it was I do not know, but I know that those who have not slain their ego with the objective truth are still hampered by that body, they still live in a three dimensional world. If they identify themselves with the divine and try to ignore the ego they are raising or using their imagination to change the pattern of the mind by imposing another condition on it.

But when the ego goes up in a blaze of pure energy there is a new unconditioned mind. It has the simplicity and attractive quality of a child plus all the wisdom one has been able to gather during life. But there is all the repressed energy to be released and dispersed and we learn the marvellous manner in which the Life Force deals with this problem. We can trust to this kind thing which has always run

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<sup>31</sup> This name is typed at top of page and is assumed to be responsible for the content.

<sup>32</sup> Name is typed at top of page and is assumed to be responsible for the material

our bodies even under the handicap of a personal ego. There is no doubt in my mind that this step up in evolution has been the unconscious goal of all the mystical practices of the centuries. The mystics of the past thought they attained Truth and they were right. But as the mind of man evolves a new Truth reveals itself to his widening gaze. So that in this way we might say that Reality itself evolves.

Foucher: "Iconographie Buddhique" quotes a Mahayana Buddhist Method of getting inspiration for art-work; "The sculptor must meditate on the emptiness (Sunnyatva) or non-existence of all things for by the fire of the idea of the abyss, it is said there are destroyed beyond recovery the five factors of ego-consciousness."

LINK WITH D. WIEBE 33

## L22.049

49 – 50

Incomplete letter regarding PB's ideas  
1943<sup>34</sup>

I am sorry that you asked the question about Dr Brunton's two latest books, for he has done so much good work that I criticize with extreme reluctance. When in one of his earlier books, he stated that, "God is light," I knew that he had not received final instructions. For light is not everywhere, and at all times present. At the present time he is groping in the fog of Kantian Metaphysics and dialectics. More than sixty years ago, I had examined and rejected Kant's idea of space as expressed in his "Critique of Pure Reason." For space is pure spirit, it is the primordial substance of the universe.

This is the "En-Soph" of the Hebrew Kabbalist, "the Boundless," the All "Wise," "The Ancient of Days." Out of this substance, by a series of emanations, has come everything that is "and without Him, was not made anything that was made." "In whom we live and move and have our being." As Krishna says, "Out of a small portion of Myself I created the whole Universe." Now this has been done by a stepping down process, similar to that by which electricity steps down into light and heat. Pure spirit descends, a great octave in vibration, and becomes Minds; in the same manner Mind descends and becomes life; life descends and becomes force; and force in turn descends, and becomes matter, as we know matter. The modern physicists have reduced matter to force, but they have not yet, reduced force to life, life to mind, or mind to spirit. Now Dr Brunton has not told us what is beyond Yoga, but I will tell you that beyond Yoga are the fruits of Yoga, among which are illumination, and cosmic consciousness. All that he seems to have discovered, is a principle that he calls Mentalism. Now this principle may be of service to a "Hindu Snake Charmer" – but will never succeed in charming humanity into an acceptance of the good law of justice, righteousness, and peace. Now Mentalism in the hands of the "Snake Charmer" is nothing more or less, but hypnotism and this rough magic, I do abjure, and deeper than did ever plummet sound, the depths I'd drown Kant's

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<sup>33</sup> Added by PB himself.

<sup>34</sup> Date and "Blackbook" noted at top of page by PB himself.

book. If I had any right to advise Dr Brunton, I should tell him to again repair his hermitage and meditate for two years on the nature of space.<sup>35</sup> I believe that before that time expired, either some real teacher would be attracted to him, or else he would succeed in beating out his own music. After which it would be in his power to become such a force for good as this century has not yet seen.

HW Beane (pupil of Judge)<sup>36</sup>

## L22.051

51 - 52

Card from Louis<sup>37</sup>

Undated

Ever since our meeting I have felt more peaceful and an aliveness I did not expect ever again - I was so heavy - The mountains are more beautiful, the air clear and the people have a brilliance of eye one finds among {illegible} climbers and Aviators - Aspen seems truly a lovely and so far unspoiled spot -

The leave Saturday Muriel for Beverly Hills and I will go on to {illegible}-

You have my devotion

always

Louise

## L22.053

53 - 54

Transcript or summary of a story told by Senor Manillo

Undated

In 1935 a Spanish girl age 14 developed a memory of her previous existence in a certain Spanish village. The memory was so sharp and vivid that she could supply full descriptions of the scenes and full details about the persons appearing in it. She was most insistent about its reality. The story got spread around and was printed in the newspaper till finally the Catholic Church had to order an investigation. This was done and the correctness of her {illegible} was verified by the investigators. The church immediately suppressed the whole story and nothing more has been heard since about it.

Told by Senor Manillo to P B .

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<sup>35</sup> Underlined and noted in the margin with two exclamation points by PB himself.

<sup>36</sup> Attribution added by PB himself. Subsequent lines may be missing. Noted "link this with {D Well} by PB himself to right of attribution.

<sup>37</sup> Noted with letter B in bottom right corner. Author's last name may begin with this letter as is consistent with the letter processing notation used by PB.

## L22.055

55 – 64

Letter and inspirational writing by Moir M Garrett

This is clearly typed and easy to read on the scan; previous lines may be missing.

*Extract: "When you meet someone whose words have never diminished in their power to help you, how can you express your appreciation and joy."*

## L22.065

65 – 66

Incomplete letter seemingly by PB<sup>38</sup>

Undated

1. The first problem you raise, that of the nature of the reincarnating entity, is an ancient and difficult one. I doubt whether I could add anything to the description given in *The Wisdom of the Overself* that would satisfy your feeling of the need of a psychical body to survive death. Such a body does exist from the viewpoint of the surviving consciousness until the time when memory lapses and blissful deep sleep intervenes, but now can it be described in terms which we must necessarily use in reference to physical bodies when the psychical body is so dissimilar in substance although not in form? It is an "energy body" rather than a "material body."

2. I agree with you that the cosmology given out by HPB does seem to harmonize with the evidence to be found in Nature and revelation. The cell of microbe cosmic life has its own individuality at all times, but in such an utterly different way from that of the human individuality that the Theosophical idea you mention of its slipping back at death into a general pool is roughly correct. It is needful to add that as the cell reincarnates from this pool the individuality is recovered.

I do not usually venture to give out my opinion of contemporary and near contemporary teachers, but I feel I can break this rule in your case. Your doubt that there is anything of real value in Gurdjieff's teachings is somewhat too sweeping. Such a value does exist in those parts of his teachings which derive from Buddhism. I see no reason to doubt that he gained this knowledge from monastic circles in Central Asia, but I reject the non-Buddhist not only because it is what you call fantastic, but because the man himself had a black evil strain in him as well as a personal imbalance. I discussed this matter with Ouspensky and feel sure that he eventually broke away because of the impure character of Gurdjieff. Please treat my statement in this connection as confidential, except of course in the case of a friend like Nigel Watkins.

Gurdjieff's assertion that individualized man's soul may become extinct, as well as another assertion that millions have no soul at all and therefore never survive, is quite wrong, as you intuitively feel. This is not only my own view but is

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<sup>38</sup> This letter is written in response to a letter from recipient.

the teaching of the highest Central Asian Buddhist esoteric circles which I received through the lamaistic contact mentioned in the preface to The Hidden Teaching Beyond Yoga. I remember, too, that the Maharishee of South India was most insistent on this point that nobody would be lost and that ultimately all would be saved.<sup>39</sup>

## L22.067

67 – 68

Typed letter from {Jorgin} and Gita<sup>40</sup>

Content speaks to atomic war between Russia and US, NATO and also about changing the energy sources used by the current world.

*Extract: "More constructively: We must stop energy generation by destructing materials, coal, gasoline, uran{ium} etc. and instead promote inventers to build machineries on the principle of the watermills and windmills. Most likely utilizing the earthmagnetical felt or even eventually gravitation, and similar constant sources of energy."*

## L22.069

69 – 70

Note from George and Helen {Forsdyle}

Regarding details of upcoming visit by PB and handwritten notes by PB himself on back that seem to be directions.

*Extract: "We will be delighted to have the pleasure of your company again;"*

## L22.071

71 – 72

Note from George and Helen {Forsdyle}

Handwritten personal letter mostly requesting another visit before they travel dated 28.10.63

*Extract: "Have you any news of {Lao} Russell? We thank you very much for your kindness and words of wisdom the peace is still with us."*

## L22.073

73 – 74

Letter from {Granville} Rice

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<sup>39</sup> Subsequent lines may be missing.

<sup>40</sup> Seems to be friends or at least in regular communication with PB.



Typed letter discussing yoga and the idea of a book on Hatha Yoga PB was planning to write.<sup>41</sup>

*Extract: "I had to do so much reading before I even got a rough idea of what it was all about. I believe many people could be guided into a better life if they had a definitive plan from an authoritative source like yourself."*

## **L22.075**

75 – 76

Typed letter from Ted Spicer to Art  
Mentions bringing questions from Art to Paul<sup>42</sup> and includes some discussion of Grace.

*Extract: "I had not much more than finished answering your letter of the 18<sup>th</sup>, when your letter of the 23<sup>rd</sup> arrived. I will make amends for the delay in replying to the former by answering this one – as well as I am able – straightaway. I shall be writing to Paul this week and I will include your questions as requested."*

## **L22.077**

77 – 80

Handwritten note by unknown  
Quickly written in note style and may be a draft response from PB to a letter as often helpers wrote actual replies for PB.

*Extract: "Please understand that I did in fact {comply} and {illegible} read it."*

## **L22.081**

81 – 82

Incomplete letter from unknown  
Handwritten letter with missing corner, author mentions India near end.

*Extract: "You will {gather} from them something of your thought in the west now."*

## **L22.083**

83 – 84

A card from H and B  
Titled "Greeting" card contains an extract from a letter written by Fra Giovanni printed in color with short handwritten note.

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<sup>41</sup> Handwritten note at bottom right labeled "New Book #2" by PB himself.

<sup>42</sup> Likely PB.

Extract: "With Love, H & B"<sup>43</sup>

## L22.085

85 – 86

A handwritten note by unknown and typed poem by {illegible}  
Handwritten note is in red pen addressed to "Pee Bee"

Extract: "Here is poem {Odrji} wrote for us, which rather embodies his yoga (of Electro-magnetic Pulsations.) It is much more than Shabd Yoga in some ways."

## L22.087

87 – 94

Incomplete letter from unknown<sup>44</sup>

"On Hypnotic Suggestion as a Cure for Bad Habits" is written across top of page in another hand of this very light and difficult to read handwritten letter.

Extract: "My bad habits and weaknesses are {illegible} at least to me and I beg of any assistance you may be able to give to overcome them."

## L22.095

95 – 96

Letter from {Bro Mandus}<sup>45</sup>

Typed<sup>46</sup> letter dated 1977 March in another hand.

Extract: "I felt such an outpouring of God's compassion towards your child and I am sure something wonderful is being set into motion. I do understand the nature of this searing problem."

## L22.097

97 – 98

Incomplete letter from {CM Beach<sup>47</sup>}

A undated,<sup>48</sup> typed letter that describes events during their long absence from writing, including travels and politics, current and future plans.

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<sup>43</sup> This is the complete handwritten portion of the card.

<sup>44</sup> T H {Neill} noted at top in another hand and may be original authors name.

<sup>45</sup> Handwritten note in the margin says "Letter (presumably from Bro Mandus to PB)".

<sup>46</sup> Seemingly typed after receipt and appears to be incomplete.

<sup>47</sup> Name noted at top of page in red ink by hand.

<sup>48</sup> Acknowledges letters from recipient of Feb 6, 19, Aug 11, 20 from previous year.

*Extract: "I owe you an apology for not having answered the request in your last letter for information about a possible visit to Europe, even though the letter did not reach me until much later owing to my travels."*

## **L22.099**

99 – 100

Incomplete letter from CM Beach

Talks about right attitude of mind and references the Overself and Zen Buddhists teaching.

*Extract: "You asked about the right attitude of mind when one is actively employed. If you have to create and hold an attitude it is still not the ultimate philosophic procedure."*

## **L22.101**

101 – 102

Quotes from PB replies since September 23/61

Undated

Quotes from PB Replies since September 23/61

Elliot Macrae: We are getting older. I take good care of my body and maintain good health, but above all maintain that practice of the presence of God which makes life so much more worth while

(2) Please do not misconstrue my silence... All my friends are accustomed to such long intervals when I am too preoccupied either with creative work, with world affairs, or with complete inner retreat – to touch correspondence

(3) I'll be pleased to have a talk with you, or a 'no-talk' if you want the stillness, or both

(4) Early next year I propose to write a book which will be a sequel to and development in completion of all those that have gone before, but also be abruptly different in standpoint I hope to be able to send the script to publishers during autumn

(5) At times life may be difficult for you: Intuition, equanimity and hope may get clouded over temporarily: It is then that you should seek more contact with nature, and also cast the burden of your problems on to the higher power.

## **L22.103**

103 – 104

Incomplete typed letter from unknown<sup>49</sup>

Describes author's response to the passing of a loved one named Neechie.

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<sup>49</sup> Letter is heavily annotated by PB himself and possibly also original author.

*Extract: "when suddenly my tears stopped most abruptly!! And I knew (without word or other message)<sup>50</sup> that Neece was in the hands of God, and only God was needed to support and take care of her and there was nothing for me (ego) to cry about."*

## **L22.105**

105 – 106

Handwritten notes

An address for Guruji Poonja written in one hand, and other notes by PB himself.

*Extract: "(1) Was 7 years with Ramana (2) 3 months ago reached Europe under suggestion of Benedictine monks he met in Himalaya who was hermit there."<sup>51</sup>*

## **L22.107**

107 – 108

Incomplete letter from unknown

Discussing Frank C Reynolds whose letter was given to author to connect with and help and what the actions the author took

*Extract: "As he is a Rotarian and is going to visit California and asked if there was anyone there he could meet, I gave him Ted Spicer's address, and wrote Ted separately."*

## **L22.109**

109 – 110

Letter from the British Coaling Depots LTD

A letter certifying that PB was a passenger on a ship that was delay.

*Extract: "This is to certify that Dr P. Brunton was a passenger on the mv Taiwan sailing from India to the United States of America, and that he would have arrived in New York about mid May if the ship had not been wrecked on April 21<sup>st</sup> 1946 in the Bay of Suez."*

## **L22.111**

111 – 112

Letter from Norman Vincent Peale to Kenneth Hurst

Letter about Kenneth's book Live Life First Class and thanking him for a personal reference dated June 3 1986.

*Extract: "It is a book that can truly help the reader as it says on the cover; to be happier, healthier, and more prosperous."*

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<sup>50</sup> Underlining added by PB himself.

<sup>51</sup> Notes added by PB himself.

## L22.113

113 - 114

Incomplete note on a card from unknown to unknown

Undated letter

...gone<sup>52</sup> yet?

I'm presently looking for another job, where I can learn something new. It seems Australia is the place easiest to get with a limited amount of money, as there is no work or language problem.

If you hear from PB please give him my best regards. I would...<sup>53</sup>

## L22.115

115 - 116

Christmas card<sup>54</sup> from Earnest

Undated

With my very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



## L22.117

117 - 118

Letter from J Alderete

Handwritten letter discussing practices and possibly discontinuing their use and asking for guidance.

*Extract: "To avoid taking too much of your time, if you write me and just say yay or no, then I shall know how to act concerning facing and asking questions."*

## L22.119

119 - 120

Letter from unknown<sup>55</sup>

April 30, 1981

Dear PB,

I heard only recently, on my travels, of your illness, and the news has caused me much anxiety. Please inform me if I or any of my associates<sup>56</sup>...

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<sup>52</sup> Previous lines are missing.

<sup>53</sup> Subsequent lines are missing.

<sup>54</sup> Card shows image of birth of Jesus in a manger.

<sup>55</sup> "It's attached 2 books by PB to be full rewritten" noted on back of note in another hand.

## L22.121

121 – 122

Letter from M

A short description of an interview with Henry Joachim dated 6. 11. 1950.

*Extract: "The enclosed report of my interview with Henry Joachim needs no more comment, but perhaps I should add that I like the man, and greatly sympathized with his difficulties."*

## L22.123

123 – 124

Letter from Embassy of the United States, Bern, Switzerland

Letter is a notification of questionnaire to be completed and returned.

*Extract: "Consequently, we would appreciate your returning the completed and certified questionnaire within the next few days."*

## L22.125

125 – 126

French letter from Pierre Freymond

Typed official letter from Lausanne.

*Extract: None. Letter needs to be translated.*

## L22.127

127 – 128

French letter from P Freymond

Letter is similar to L22.0125

*Extract: None. Letter needs to be translated.*

## L22.129

129 – 130

Letter from Rama

29 Sept. 1952

Dear Paul Brunton:

Your travels will be far and you will return to so very near and through that the awareness of pure LOVE will take place and the heart will make UNION with

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<sup>56</sup> Subsequent lines are missing.

the ONENESS, and in THATNESS is will remain for it will fully regain the establishment with true reality.

RAMA

## L22.131

131 – 132

Foreign language<sup>57</sup> letter from Phae<sup>58</sup> with translation  
1939<sup>59</sup>

Translation<sup>60</sup> From the Siamese

Dr Paul Brunton is known to the Supreme Priest of Siam and he is a true Buddhist. He is worth of a holy statue of the Buddha for use in his shrine, so the Supreme Priest has given him one, as well as this certificate to accompany it.

The Buddha statue is presented as a personal gift.

## L22.133

133 – 134

Letter from Silvia Csaszar

Requests information about PB and his life since he no longer replying to public requests, and possibly written to his publisher.

*Extract: "As the author says in his works that, because of his advanced age, he cannot reply to any correspondence I wonder whether you could help me and send me some information about him and his life."*

## L22.135

135 – 136

French letter from Georges Linsig Sr

Typed letter needs with some sections highlighted in margin possibly by PB himself.

*Extract: None. Letter needs to be translated.*

## L22.137

137 – 138

Letter from T Yajima<sup>61</sup>

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<sup>57</sup> Likely Thai.

<sup>58</sup> "Phae is his original name" and "Tissadevo is his Pali name given at his ordination" noted at bottom of page by hand likely by an original archivist.

<sup>59</sup> Date added by hand.

<sup>60</sup> Typed at bottom of page.

<sup>61</sup> First Secretary from Embassy of Japan, 3 Tennyson Crescent, Forrest Canberra, ACT.

Letter is about whether a Japanese rice cooker is available in Australia. It's not.

*Extract: "Under these circumstances, I am sorry to say that the appliance in questions cannot be bought in Australia."*<sup>62</sup>

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<sup>62</sup> PB wrote "IF A FRIEND is passing thru Japan, ask him buy one for me" at the top of the page.