

Readers' Letters 24 (Anthony Damiani and Students)

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 1965 and 1981.

Anthony Damiani was a lifelong student under the tutelage of Paul Brunton from the mid 1940's until PB died in 1981. Anthony had interest in and proclivities towards the arts, philosophy, and mysticism from the time he was a young boy. He met PB while putting up a display of PB's books in the window of Brentano's where he worked as a buyer of rare books. Thereafter he joined the circle of PB students in New York mentioned in the note about Jim Covell. He and his wife Ella May hosted PB's son Kenneth for a time when Kenneth was out of work and homeless in NYC. Under PB's guidance Anthony's interests in philosophy and meditation flourished in deep and meaningful ways. Anthony started a comparative philosophy and meditation centre in 1971 in upstate New York, Wisdom's Goldenrod which focused on philosophy, esoteric studies (including astrology), and meditation along with PB's writings. Anthony's unique vision involved the unity of all the great philosophies yet retaining their very real differences.

There are three sets of letters relating to Anthony in the archive: this one (Readers' Letters 24) is from his earliest years with PB, and include some oblique references to the family's move from NYC to California and back again (they only stayed long enough for their third son Paul to be born there). The second set of letters (Damiani Letters) is from near the end of his life and have to do with the creation of Wisdom's Goldenrod; the third set (Damiani Letters – Family) has to do with a personal crisis he experienced in his lattermost years – these have been sealed for 25 years at the request of the family.

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

L24.001

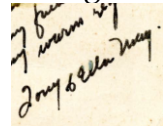
1 - 2

Postcard from Tony and Ella May to Barbara Plaisted
Lugano Italy
{1971}¹

Dear Barbara,

+ Cleta: Overwhelmed by awe! since I last saw Him - It was naive of me to think that either John or Jocelyn and I even gain a hint of the mighty transformation that would and have happened... a mystery not to be spoken. Many wonderful days in his presence. Regards to all my friends in Ohio.

Assured of my warm regards

A small, rectangular piece of paper with handwritten text in dark ink. The text is written in a cursive, somewhat slanted style. It appears to say "Tony & Ella May" followed by some less legible words, possibly "Lugano Italy".

L24.003

3 - 4

Envelope addressed to Barbara Plaisted
Air mail from Europe to Ohio

Extract: None

L24.005

5 - 10

Letter to Barbara Plaisted from PB
Jordil-A CH 1807 Blonay sur Vevey, Switzerland
4th December 1976

Dear Barbara Plaisted,

Thank you for your sending of September and will you also speak to Joyce Long and Linda Boldeck on my behalf. All is now satisfactory.

I must also thank you for having send the clip from the Mountain Path² written by Mrs Osborne. It was thoughtful of you. You mention that Tony has given you his explanation of the matter, but I don't know what it was. But also nor do I know what this Hungarian lady Edith Deri has told you after her visit to Ramanashram.

At present I have not the time to go into a lengthy detailed discussion of the whole matter, so I will simply give you the following information about a few essential points to help make it easier for you, if possible, as I have no wish or interest in getting

¹ Date from postmark is difficult to read.

² This is a quarterly journal that has mentioned PB's work.

involved in a controversy with the Ashram, which is quite officially ~~and correctly~~³ presenting Maharshi's⁴ teachings to the world.

To go into detailed history of how Maharshi⁵ came to be described as a mystic will take too long. I therefore simply inform you that for several years I have tried to get the publishers to withdraw in {friend} those homages which I say that he was a mystic or imply his was a second stage of realization. It has been difficult because the text of the particular and only book in which such matter came up was the Hidden Teaching Beyond Yoga. Purely through technical difficulties connected with the fact that the text has been {illegible }, many pages at a time. However it now seems that I have almost overcome the problem and before the end of the next 12 months these {deletions} will have been carried out in the printed version of that book.

You may therefore accept that Maharshi⁶ is a Sage without any {illegible } on my part. I hope this helps you to unreservedly give your devotion to the Maharshi.⁷

Your question whether "a rejection of the guru is a necessary stage in order to find the Truth for oneself" can be immediately answered it is not⁸ at all necessary to reject the guru at any stage.

Your surmise that if you move to the {cottage} in the country to live {thus} closer to Nature that it would benefit you is certainly correct. This is particularly true as regards finding quiet for study and meditation and for getting a less {illegible } environment.

If⁹ you wish to consult me further concerning the two {illegible } concerning the Maharshi¹⁰ and the {illegible } difference you may write to me again.

You¹¹ inform me that the library for lending books is another development which is being planned by you and your friends. This looked as a suitable way to introduce the subject still {illegible } in the area until I met Dr Arthur Broekhuysen again and I informed him of what you're are planning to do. He then told me there is another aspect to it of which as a professional librarian himself he has had personal experience for instance both the Theosophical Society and the Krishnamurti movement had similar ideas and materialized them into action. The results were to create difficulties for themselves and not at all as they had hoped or expected them to be. Both found the results unsatisfactory and in the end had to present their libraries to a university. Furthermore Dr Rudolf Steiner's Anthroposophical Society decided from the very beginning that the most effective way was to put their book also in the university

³ Edited by author

⁴ Marharishi's in original

⁵ Maharishee in original.

⁶ Maharishi in original.

⁷ Maharishee in original.

⁸ Page 7

⁹ Page 8

¹⁰ Maharshee in original.

¹¹ Page 9

library. Arthur suggests that you discuss the matter with your local public and university library before making a lending library yourself.

With Peace,



L24.011

11 - 12

Envelope to Barbara Plaisted
Airmail postmarked Montreux

Extract: None

L24.013

13 - 14

Letter to Barbara Plaisted from PB
Montreux
12 July 1957

Thank you very much, dear Barbara Plaisted, for the grey sweater on which a lightweight zipper was now sewn: it is very much easier now to wear and put on. Also for the pair of dickeys; both are usable and fit the throat quite well.

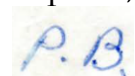
Your suggestion of not troubling with the tricky work of zippering the other 2 sweaters is excellent; replacing them instead with turtleneck cotton ribbing and sewing it to long front, short back cotton body. In that case one could be sleeveless, the other sleeved. However as you guessed white is not preferable; rather a quiet grey or something near it is a more suitable colour.

I will try the watering sticks on the plant very soon, having been away in Zurich for a couple of weeks, and not yet {withdrawn} plants from storage

Both soup ladles are effective, so please thank Mary Ann F. for them on my behalf.

If you have learnt anything here, after getting over the surprise of my great personal difference from the usually expected Hindu holy man type, the use made it in daily life itself is the best thanks. Spirituality should become naturalized, natural in its final effect, and simplified.

With peace,



L24.015

15 - 16

Letter from Timothy to PB
Undated letter

Dear PB

We have sent two packets with Om for you to look over. One of them is your paras, categories I-IX, and the other is some of the notes from your talks with us.¹²

As regard your paras, all 28 classes have been {classed} edited; we are in the stage of gluing them to 8 1/2 x 11 sheets

We split the paras you let us take with us into two sets; The first set has been {illegible} and edited by {illegible possibly name} Devon and myself. The remaining categories - X through XXVIII need to be glued and Xeroxed, and then we'll send them to you. This shouldn't take more than a few weeks. Then we'll start on the 2nd batch, which we feel will go much faster. Use {care} send all the incomplete paras in a batch of envelopes, or glue them on 8 1/2 x 11 sheets, whichever you prefer. We hope that our editorial work on these paras is helpful to you - that is what has taken the most time; if you need the 2nd batch faster, we'll reduce or stop the editorial work and simply {class}, sort and glue the paras, as I did while we were with you. Reading, and writing on the paras is a wonderful experience for us - we are learning something of the philosopher's view on life from it.

Our notes - what is sent is the first of two of three batches. When you have edited them and send them back, we'll read them to our group here - we'll {also} send the 2nd batch to you as soon as possible.

Anthony is getting along - all though there are still days when he is discouraged - my sense is that not everything is {resolved} yet, though there is little {turmoil} on the surface, and the group has weathered well. He is spending more time alone now - Avery has taken a large part of the class duties. When¹³ we send the {illegible} paras, we'll keep a Xerox copy here until we've gotten acknowledgement of your receipt of them. Then, we can send the Xerox copies (of our edited work) if you like - of keep them here, or destroy them as you wish.

We have been working with Anthony in seminars on Plotinus and astrology. I have begun reading chars - about 6 a week - and am looking for a storefront in Ithaca, to open a center or front from Wisdom's Goldenrod - if you have any suggestions for a name, they would be welcome. Devon has just gotten a job at Cornell, so our "vacation" is drawing to a close.

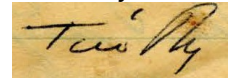
My heart fills with joy, light and gratitude when I think of you, it is too much for me to find fitting words for all I feel. It would be so wonderful if we could be of assistance to you again - somewhere someday. We both hold dear to our hearts the hope that you might be able to come to America - perhaps Columbus Ohio, to continue your work. We believe such a place would allow much more efficiency and comfort in getting your literary work in order - and with practically no loss of privacy. A small house could be arranged so that you could meet with people in one room, (when needed) and keep the rest of the house in atmosphere of {illegible}. We do hope that you're not {losing time or risking health by not havinan assistant for cooking and shopping - perhaps soon someone from here (if there is no one in Europe already

¹² This paragraph is marked in margin with a bracket to the left.

¹³ Page 16

helping) may come to help you. As always – truly – if there is any thing either Devon or I can do – either in the US or in Europe – which needs to be done, please let us know – such things are our deepest happiness and honor to fulfill.

Thank you, PB



L24.017

17 - 18

Letter PB to Ed

Columbus

Sunday, undated letter

Please note, dear Ed, with reference to my letter of yesterday and the {packeted} clock (Robert Geyer's) I ought to have mentioned that I leave this town very early Wednesday morning, the 3rd August to fly west.

Therefore any letters for me should be sent to the next address;

c/o Jerry Warren

PO Box 826

Pauma Valley

California, 92061

Thank you,

With Peace

PB

L24.019

19 - 20

Letter from PB to Ed

August 12, 1977

Dear Ed,

This is to tell you that I have left the Pauma Valley address and can now receive letters only care of, Mr. Kenneth T. Hurst, Mountain View East 696 Sierra Vista Lane Valley Cottage, N.Y. 10989

If the clock which was returned for exchanged to Jerry, please send it c/o Kenneth as soon as possible, as I expect to leave for Switzerland at the end of this month.

With regard to the Hidden Teaching, it is now on the press as the first book to be printed.

With Peace



L24.021

21 - 22

Letter from Devin to Ed

Clarens, Suisse

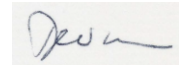
Jan 21, 80

Dearest Ed,

As you must know, his presence is unspeakably good. I will try to write you more later. I wanted to tell you that PB said if you were subscribing to the NY Times book section he would indeed like receiving it when you're through with it. He asked me if you were subscribing already and I said I thought you were considering it. He said he would like to keep up with the developments in literature. He did not respond to the offer of the Christian Science Monitor, though I told him you had suggested reading it here to avoid having the title seen in his mail. He asked me to give you the above message {incoming}

Thank you again for all your kind offers of help to us.

With love,



L24.023

23 - 24

Letter from PB to Ed

Chemin de la Maraiche 1, 1802 Corseaux sur/Vevey

Undated letter

Thank you, dear Ed, for forwarding Anthony's block and the repaired clock.

Your request and offer are welcome but my situation here is very different from what it was elsewhere. It is not desirable to explain in writing. You can certainly help me but probably mostly with household and allied matters work. The book has been abandoned until my other matters are finished with about the end of August.

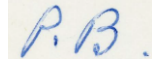
1 Please come any date after 1st January. You should visit only. For a prolongation there are complications and difficulties but we can discuss this when you are here only.

2 On no account say that you want to work with me; that you are a school teacher seeking a combined holiday in Switz and seeking to brush up some French.

3 On no account mention my name or affairs. Ask for no explanation by telephone.

Sorry for all this uncertainty but it cannot be helped. It is not desirable for you to live in Corseaux so I expect to find you some place near Montreux instead, but all must be explained and discussed when we meet. The first move is to arrange your one-way journey, then inform me. We shall have to meet for discussion before you may come to my residence. Make no plans other than a one-night lodging at a hotel or I could meet your train and take you to one.

Telefon (021)528095
With Peace



L24.025

25 - 26

Letter from PB to Ed
30 August

Dear Ed

I sent you a letter this morning but did not have time (trying to catch the post) to add another paragraph.

It is about the travel clock bought in Ithaca. IT is excellent in alarm and reasonably accurate. But the black dial is very difficult to read at night. My eyesight is not as good as it was.

The inquiry at the shop could perhaps be made whether this clock could be exchanged for another with a light or white colored dial. This they had but it was with {radium} lit hands and figures. I would accept them.

If they are agreeable, I would gladly pay a fee of \$10 for the exchange then. On the chance that they may enclose a bill for this amount herewith. If not it would be better to give it back to our friend

With thanks



L24.027

27 - 38

Letter from Randy to Ed
June 30, 1981

Dear Ed,

Got the Hills book in the mail today, and I can't think of anything I've done in a long time that I've enjoyed as much as sitting down to write you this letter with the last line of your note in mind.

When Anthony first asked me about coming here, my immediate inner reaction was, "No, I like it right where I am." Then she got off the bus.

I hadn't "applied," and I really didn't feel any personal devotion toward PB. In the end I decided to come because Anthony asked me to.

After a few weeks here I began to realize that there must be someone else better qualified for what PB really needs most. But then as I went over his alternatives I realized that, except for you, there isn't anyone I know who would be better than I am here. So I've gone on with it, doing the best I can. In the meantime, I've learned a lot,

especially about who and what PB is. I've come to care a great deal for him and for his well-being, all the while realizing that my being here has from the beginning been much more to my own benefit than to his. What started out for me as a job I meant to do as well as possible has become a friendship rooted in reverence. I stand on my own feet, of course, as ever. But my heart warms each time someone¹⁴ PB and I have met together asks me about my "father."

So today, when he asked me to go with him through the file of applications to help pick out who will replace me here, it wasn't long before my heart was saying, "PB, there's no one here as good as Ed." To make a long story short, if we were still into Zen, I would have stopped this letter at the end of the second paragraph and enclosed a new VMCV "carte au porteur."

If you want to come, you're on. If not, it's perfectly understood, by both of us. There are others who can manage, so you're not on the spot. At any rate, it wouldn't be until at least November, and maybe even three months later than that.

The point is simple: not only are you the best qualified for both sides of the job, but you have experience in knowing how to react to your own reactions to being with PB. And my own feeling is, where PB is concerned, try first for the best before settling for anything less.

This letter is, of course, entirely personal: no one other than you and I and PB will know anything of it unless you either tell them or decide to come. But we will wait to hear from you before going ahead with any other plans. I will be writing to Steve Smolen soon to get¹⁵ more information about his skills, but that will be clearly just a "feeler." There is also a possibility of Michael Wakoff coming for a period of not more than three months (PB's limit, not Michael's), so I will write him as well. But anything you hear about that from others - if anything at all - is entirely tentative.

Having gone this far, Ed, I have to go on and touch all the bases. PB had said earlier in the afternoon, "If Ed has been successful at his job, then they won't want to lose him, and they will probably grant him a leave." Then just before I left he mentioned, "So you will write to Ed, then?" I told him that yes of course I would. And he said "Since we all know each other, you can ask him directly." I said that as long as we were being frank I might as well admit that a very big issue for you during your period of having no income was the loss of financial security, and could understand your not wanting to risk getting back in the same boat. He said, "Well, we don't want to interfere with his financial security... but he got it as soon as he left here. As soon as he left here, he got what he wanted. It's up to him."

Thanks for letting me do this,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

¹⁴ Page 29

¹⁵ Page 31

July 1¹⁶

So. With all that said, a sort of “second Movement” mood comes on. What I thought was complete is apparently only a beginning. All the hesitations come forward as I realize what I’m in the process of owning up to.

As I sit here by my window on the lake, one of the tour boats is passing by, with lights, music, dancing. No doubt there are human beings on it who actually are enjoying themselves among the others who only feel as if they should be. It’s been a very long time since I’ve been able to look about me for long and be truly satisfied with my circumstances... inclined to say, “Yes, this is where I want to be.”

I’m not sure that I would come here again if the opportunity were presented. I’m not even entirely sure I want to stay here another day. Much of it is what I suspect a trip on a one-man spaceship would be like. If my visa were rejected (it still hasn’t gone through), my only sadness would come from the thought of PB having either to go for a while without help or having to adjust again to someone else sooner than would have been necessary.

I won’t miss the trolley busses on bit. I won’t miss that ridiculous typewriter. I won’t miss shopping, shopping, shopping, shopping with never enough time... and hardly ever getting anything that’s more than “acceptable.” I won’t miss¹⁷ the feeling of going deeper and deeper into debt each day for the sake of being allowed to go on being a less than adequate domestic servant.

But I will miss the satisfaction of seeing PB in good health, wearing clothes that aren’t hopelessly wrinkled, free to go on working the work that if it went undone would leave us all even more hollow that we so often are... and knowing that I had something to do with that.

It would be so much easier if he would come to the States... and that, by the way, is still a possibility. So many of the seven day endless weeks would begin to make more sense if they were an arrow pointing him to Ithaca. I really don’t think he realizes how hard it is for those of us who care about his wellbeing to give him what he wants under the conditions he sets. But then, those conditions may be more for what we need during the time we’re here.

Whenever I’m inclined to complain or maybe even just to outright quit, I hear his voice inside me saying, “Philosophy demands much, but it gives much in return.” But I don’t admire the part of myself that would bargain, least of all with God. I guess that why I stay is because OB is someone incredibly special, and I just don’t want to see him go. I can give six months to his way for what he’s helped to make it possible for me to learn of my own.

Would¹⁸ I come again? I don’t know. But if I’d had two years to think about it, another plunge might look quite different than it does now.

¹⁶ Page 33. Starting here the letter pages are numbered in the upper right by the author, in order, from 4 through 6.

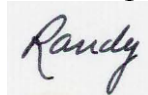
¹⁷ Page 35

¹⁸ Page 37

The work load has changed. Most of the literary work PB intended to get done was finished by then end of my second month here, and PB just doesn't have the strength now to tackle any of the bigger projects. The secretarial work is minimal, but what little there is needs to be done well. Since his operation, PB frequently has trouble forming letters, remembering how to shape them, spell words, etc. He likes being able to just give out the idea and leave the composition of the letters to the secretary. All the physical-dependent functions (senses, memory, etc) are frequently tenuous, but the inner PB... well, you know. When he's able to shine through, I have no questions as to why I'm here or if I want to be. The most important part of the job is to do whatever needs to be done to help him be able to shine through more steadily. I can't think of better hands to put that in than yours.

If my own experience can be used as a measure, you'll have support if you want it. You'll certainly have mine, either way.

In friendship,



L24.039

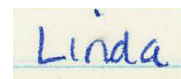
39 - 40

Note from Linda to Ed or Bob

6/30/79

Ed or Bob -

During my interview with PB he suggested I do an exercise using the sacred words "THIS AM I." I have been trying this exercise, but I would greatly appreciate an explanation from PB on the meaning of "THIS." is it an affirmation referring to the "I" or should it be thought of as inclusive of the world as the vedantists speak of the whole worlds as Brahman? If there is any opportunity, I would greatly appreciate an explanation for my confusion.



L24.041

41 - 44

Letter from Bob to Ed

Aug 8

Dear Ed,

I hope you are beginning to feel settled in your new life. PB wanted me to thank you for the dried vegetables. He wanted to pay you for your expenses, so here is \$5 from him. He wants to do some more research before he decides on what brand he will be getting, and he has asked Loraine, who already is familiar with some of the

companies, to follow up on the leads, so he said that you don't need to trouble yourself further – even though I know you'd be glad to. He like both the vegetables and the dolomite, but he says that what you sent will be plenty for a while, but he would like to know where you got the pills. Has there been any progress on the binders?

I am still doing fine, but I think the honeymoon is over, and the impersonal treatment is definitely taking over. He really treats my ego as an objective they and does not respond to it. Ordinary personal interactions are virtually absent. I come, matters are dealt with, and I go. A point which you brought up seems to have occurred with me. He told me he does not want me standing around waiting for instructions all the time (Remember the “waiters should wait episode?”) He wants independent {initiative}, my own ideas, for me to generate my own work and my own approach to it. He sat me down on day after I¹⁹ had again asked him if there was any think I could do, and said “Why do you keep asking me. If there is anything I need, I'll ask you,” and he said it with a force I had never seen him exhibit. He then told me to do the work as I saw it needed to be done, and affirmed that I should work independently and use my own creative approach. I went home that night with a lot to think about, shaken up a bit by his directness. However the more I thought about it, the more glad I was that he had done it. It is the nature of my Ithaca job and the way I usually run my life to be expected to do work on my own without any supervision. My boss usually gives me a problem, and sends me away to solve it. I enjoy that latitude, and I really did feel uncomfortable standing around waiting for PB to do every thing for me, to tell me every little detail. The only difficulty now is that I'm not sure that I'm doing things according to his preferences or my samskaras, and he told me he wasn't going to criticize my work. I never know how I'm doing, unlike my Ithaca job, which gives me instant feedback, and it leaves me kind of uneasy.

Because of this setup, we rarely talk anymore since we are usually engaged on different projects in different rooms. You talked about it being quiet for you. This is a mouse's delight. As good as it is to be more on my own, I do miss the interaction with him.

It²⁰ is probably more efficient in terms of the amount of work we can get done by working on two projects at the same time, but the outward interaction, the little gems that he says every now and then come less often because there are fewer occasions for them. And his physical presence is not always there to remind you where you are and what you are involved in, so that outward inspiration is not as present. I mentioned before that I just had Uranus on Mercury. My Mercury symbol is the self-impregnated woman. Apparently that {classing} work on the notes is not what I thought it was. He has really just been giving me food for thought, kind of humouring me, letting me play around with his ideas. He has undermined a lot of the projections I had on him, but I've found new one, new ways to appreciate him. I can't really relate to him anymore because he won't let me. I have to relate to the work, my self, and my Self. It's a little

¹⁹ Page 43

²⁰ Page 44

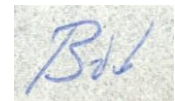
like cold shower, but hopefully it will wake me up a little. It really undercuts the projection that being with him will help you become a more spiritual person. It may, but you still have to do the work yourself. I do not question that I am drowning in Grace, but the way it works out I don't think is a simple equation.

This is turning out to be a longer letter than I had planned - continue on the back of page 1.

Anyway,²¹ I'm {bungling} along, and despite what I have said so far in this letter, I do feel good. There is a keen sense of purpose that really makes me feel alive, awake. Enough about my feelings.

I would like you to handle a matter for me in Ithaca if you can find the time. Will you buy my plane ticket home for me and send it here (registered mail). I would like to return in mid-December, so try for Dec. 17, which will give me 2 weeks to acclimate, as Tony suggested. I came on Capital airlines and dealt with the stone travel agency on {Eddy} Street near {Cabbagetown}. They had the best air fare to Europe via Belgium (Brussels). Also include NYC to Ithaca on the ticket. Please do it soon because the air fares are going up Sept. 1. I also won't have to pay excess baggage back. I also won't have to lose the exchange rate. The Swiss travel agents also plead ignorance about this company (and Icelandic is twice as expensive from here.) Please tell the travel agent my situation and see if there will be any problems using a ticket bought after my departure from the U.S. to return home, etc. It can be paid for out of my accounts that Phil can handle. My original ticket number from Stone Travel Agency was 8342771101 issued May 24. It cost \$202 then (including NYC to Ithaca.) Please also arrange a veggie meal. PB has encouraged me to arrange to stay on beyond 3 months, so now I feel free to set the later arrangements. Please also get a number I can call in Europe for Capitol Airlines so I can reconfirm my flight. About 50 people were left at JFK because they overlook and cancel those who don't reconfirm first. Thanks, old buddy. I'll try to keep in touch.

Love



L24.045

45 - 48

Incomplete letter from Bob
Undated

...²² "Silence and solitude are taken for granted at a spiritual retreat. There should be some privacy to study and meditate. It was in this context that he said, " it is

²¹ Page 42

²² Previous pages of this letter can be found in L24.049.

absolutely necessary to have some solitude if he wants to develop. Even Sankaracharya turned it over to a younger man.” (I assume the outward role of administering the role as spiritual leader.) PB said that a certain amount of privacy was essential.

I only described the physical setup and the frequency and number of visitors (classes), and that produced his response. Since he said “Tony should be told...” I believe that PB’s remarks should be relayed to him. It is a situation that directly concerned you, and I think you could do a better job personally than I could in a letter, but if you don’t want to get involved in it, I will write him and give him a series of quotes, those I just gave you. I know that it won’t be easy to present this to Tony - anyone would feel uncomfortable, but it is PB’s judgement. Let me know if you want me to handle it instead of you.

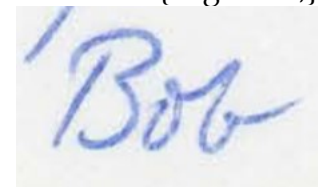
I meant to start this letter off on a bright note - that things were working out for you. Sorry to get into such heavy stuff. I am glad for you that you’re going to get some quiet.

There is very little more to tell you about what has happened since my last letter to the center. I have had quite a few days off - PB has had a large number of visitors and has had to make a couple of trips out of town - he went to see Queen Frederika this weekend.²³ I have been indexing his volumes on a regular basis, and last week he began me on classing his paragraphs - a task I’m not sure I’m quite qualified for. I guess it’s as good a way as any to commemorate Uranus on Mercury. Even if I do it all wrong it’s a terrific exercise of my understanding. You have to understand what he’s saying before you can categorise the quote. I hand in my first batch tomorrow. I hate to make a parallel with a take home final, but....

Aside from that, you are eminently familiar with the rest of my daily chores which I am doing. I should tell you that I am very happy here. A lot of the anxiety I had before coming was self-doubt, that I would not be able to be helpful and would just get in PB’s way. But he seems to accept me as I am. When something isn’t done the way he wants, he doesn’t criticise - he takes a constructive attitude and either tries to correct it, or works around it if that isn’t possible. Anyway, I love the work and I love PB. I look forward to each day because I know I’ll be there working with him. I have been able to put away all of the compromises I had to make in the world - I can be direct and honest and completely vulnerable without feeling afraid. I know you understand what I’m saying.

I’ll write more as things unfold. Oh, the piano is mahogany. If you’re careful how you chop it up, there’s probably enough to panel the bathroom.

{A gaudie,}

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. The letter 'B' is large and loops around the 'o', which is followed by another 'o' and a short horizontal stroke.

L24.049

49 - 50

Incomplete letter to Ed from {Bob}²⁴

July 29

Dear Ed

I'm glad to hear that you got back without any problems and that you were able to work things out with Tony and are staying where you wanted to. When I told PB that you had not gone back into the Center, he said "good! he won then." We had discussed your situation before I got your letter (it came out in a round-about way.) Since he asked me about it, I felt I had to be open with him, and I explained what we had talked about before you left. He said he had encouraged you to be strong before you left, and he made repeated statements that to move back in would not be in your best interest - things like "it is absolutely necessary to have some solitude if he wants to develop" and "he can give Tony a few hours a day if he wants to, but certainly not sleep there." "Living here (Vevey) was the first real relief he had for some years to be himself. This gave him a break so he could start a new life. He would be foolish not to make use of the opportunity to stay at your place. I predict that it is unlikely that he will go back without some rearranging." I think that's enough confirmation for you.

In our conversation about you, I discussed the residents' living situation - what you would have gone back into, and what all the monks have for living quarters. PB said "Tony should be told to readjust the situation."...²⁵

L24.051

51 - 52

Annotated envelope

JUL 31 1974²⁶

Extract: "Warn Tony not Bert's letter he omitted street"

L24.053

53 - 54

Writing titled "About Anthony's Correspondence with PB" by Alan Berkowitz

Undated

About Anthony's Correspondence with PB

²⁴ Author determined by handwriting.

²⁵ The following pages of this letter are found in L24.045.

²⁶ Postmarked date.

Some years ago I acquired the file of correspondence sent to PB by Anthony's students. I had in fact previously worked on this material with PB during one of my visits with him. Subsequently I then took on the very-time consuming task of locating and notifying all of these individuals and of sending their correspondence back to them, which was completed approximately a year ago.

With these letters was a file in PB's handwriting titled "Anthony himself" which contained Anthony's personal letters to PB. Based on my conversations with PB, Anthony, members of the family, and many others, I was afraid that these letters might contain extremely personal and volatile information. Thus, I made the personal decision to read the letters first in order to get some ideas about what was in them and what might be appropriate to do with them.

Because of my hesitation and concern it took me some time to emotionally prepare myself to read them. When I finally did so I was pleasantly surprised as all of the correspondence is from the early days of the American Brahman Bookstore and of the development of Wisdom's Goldenrod, and they contain almost no personal information about Anthony and the family.

I know that in subsequent years many other confidential letters were written to PB by Anthony and his family members. I know this because I saw and organized these letters at PB's request when I was with him (without reading them) but I do not know what happened to them.

The letters do contain some confidential information about Anthony's students which Anthony disclosed to PB in these letters. It is my opinion that this information should not be shared with others, and I have therefore covered over these sections of the letters and copied them so that the copy does not contain the personal information. This had to be done for only a very few of the letters.

One copy of these has been sent to the Damiani family, c/o Louis Damiani. The originals are being sent to Wisdom's Goldenrod. I have also kept a copy for myself.

If there are any questions about these letters or how they were handles please feel free to contact me:

Micha-El (Alan Berkowitz)
alan@fitg.net
530 938-3889

L24.055

55 - 56
Circle Books Horoscope Solar Chart for Nov 27, 1898
Undated

Extract: None

L24.057

57 - 58

Incomplete letter from {Anthony}²⁷ to Kenneth

Undated

Dear²⁸ Kenneth,

I have struggled with this letter for some time before I discovered that I was trying to rig up a new and entirely revised Tony... to present you. Why?

It is interestingly true that the touch of death abolished the entire sorry scheme of things... I mean that the psychological and imaginative compensatory structure of thought - that supported a {septum} of values, this entire psychic apparatus fell to the ground. And in a flash, I understood the meaning of the real dying the philosophic death. Of course the old habits persist, for the {cramp} of consciousness has been frozen into my style of becoming. And now I understand what the Old Alchemist meant by their strange and almost diabolical symbols. I suspect that they would refer to this stage as {solution!}²⁹

Anyway the game of hide and seek goes on with the {Self}. I³⁰ have always feared that with middle age the sources of creativity, the spontaneity that carves out from life its deepest secrets would ossify. And I dreaded the thought... how much more the reality... And now I find myself plunged into a sort of social activity... the book store. But without {illegible}, almost anonymously... enthusiastically believing that nothing can be more important than getting across 'their' message.

I was overwhelmingly pleased and flattered with your offer... to try and procure an English agent. I won't flatter you with too many offerings and thanks... but I intensely appreciate your kindness. And I'm well aware that it could mean the difference between success and failure.

I am in the process of trying to do likewise in the case of Indian Publications... but still no success. But here the problem is not as difficult for if you send the money {illegible} invoice - they send the books.

I shall enclose a small list of books - with the name and address - and if it is at all convenient you could pass it on to my future agent with the understanding that it's just a fraction of ...³¹

L24.059

59 - 62

Letter from Tony³² to Romaine

²⁷ Author determined by the handwriting.

²⁸ Page 58, "{n/d} attached {then} destroy" is handwritten in the right margin.

²⁹ "dis" has been inserted in a different hand before "solution!"

³⁰ Page 57

³¹ The following pages are missing.

American Brahman Bookstore, 118 West State Street, Ithaca, New York 14850³³
Sept 10th '71³⁴

Dear Romain,

Your letter caught me by surprise... The delight however was mixed when I read further about my overburdened schedule and ill health. There is some truth to the former, in the summer there is always more to do than can be done besides the work load at my job is heavier. The compensation however starts with the fall. Traffic falls off considerably the load is lighter and I enjoy many leisure hours by myself in studies and dreams. True intellectual knowledge wearies, but the intuition soars into the soul realms... more and more it frees itself from the snares of conceptualization

You may remember that I mentioned to you the fact that we were going to move the store over to where the Chinese restaurant was located... and so we did. It is smaller but it looks so much nicer. I think you will enjoy the atmosphere I tried to reduce the classes but they seem to be growing instead at any rate they still are the same... Monday Astrology (philosophical and astrological its backbone) lean heavily on Jung

Wed... Commentary and explanation of selected passages from the Wisdom with comparative evaluations from other traditions

Fri We are starting next week with the Hidden Teaching it will include many an excursus such as the nature of mythological consciousness, language determinants that predetermine thought etc. Prof Plantek will help me and deliver some of the lectures. (He is {now} with P.B. and won't be back for a month.

Time and experience has matured my approach and I understand their difficulty with more acumen... in other words I can put what I known to better use for them. The tremendous scope of the creative vision that PB has graced the errors of our age with makes it all worth while

Steve³⁵ has assured me that he will bring you up to date as far as astrology is concerned. I know that you will enjoy the approach we are using

They will start looking for an apartment since you have a car I'm sure it won't be much of a problem... you may even enjoy living in this area

And of course you are welcome to come to the classes whenever it suits you. I can reassure you that never do I exert any pressure subtle or otherwise on any one to do so. You are free to question this fact for yourself. Here absolute freedom is my motto

We look forward to seeing you and I sincerely hope that you need not drive back and forth to the West coast.

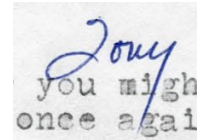
Again my sincere affection and regards

³² "Tony file" is handwritten at the top of the page.

³³ Address appears in the letterhead.

³⁴ The date has been added in different hands at the bottom of the letter.

³⁵ Page 61

A small rectangular piece of paper with handwritten text in blue ink. The text reads "Tony" on the first line, "you might" on the second line, and "once again" on the third line. The handwriting is cursive and somewhat slanted.

I hesitate to mention for fear you might accuse me of motherliness nonetheless I must once again make the offer of my home until such time as suits you... Yes we have reason to feel that way about you and you should not feel put out by such expressions. I dare not clothe my inner thoughts with words for fear you might flee but some day I may be able to say how much strength you provided me with when darkness became black

I expect to see Gillan tonight and see if I could get her view... you know how I respect and admire her. Yet it is no easy matter to get behind her reserve and cautious nature. So will write to you again shortly and keep you informed

L24.063

63 - 64

Metaphysical Chart and astrological notes
Undated

Extract: None

L24.065

65 - 72

Letter from Tony to Romaine
Aug 2 '70³⁶

Dear Romaine,

I promised to write you - and I find myself confronted with myself. And by myself I mean that vast {network} of self-interest and subtle psychosis that wrap mee in an invisible mantle of self-deception. I know of many clever devices and checks, but they are powerless in the face of these projections... for they have brought me to my knees in the realization that all knowledge is but knowledge of the state of my being. Now if I may more precisely state the overwhelming fact that blind me: you should³⁷ be here in Ithaca with me they cannot find out about P.B. if you decide to remain a hermit. {illegible} P.B. sent you there, but forever? You have been of so much help in getting this started that I hesitate to speak thus. And even now I³⁸ have heard again

³⁶ "Received by R Aug 2 '70" is handwritten at the top of the page in a different hand.

³⁷ "(?)" is inserted after "should" in a different hand.

³⁸ Page 66

about more help from you. Do you see how easily an obligation comes into being. So can I state my views and keep constantly in mind my blind spot? At least, you hear this in the background as you read further.

One other item, I feel a {illegible} personal esteem and love for {illegible}: and she may even consider my thoughts unfriendly. It would not be true for what I say about this whole matter is tearing me apart. However T may be premature about feeling this way. There may be solutions that are as yet not discernible. Such as other people (perhaps from Ithaca) going there in your absence, to take your place... even if for awhile.

A³⁹ further and probably most important consideration is your own feeling or hunch about the situation. This will be decisive... it must be!

Do you feel that the next step is a need for growth in the area of understanding?

And would you consider helping to establish a meditation center for this group? Out in the world. These youngsters are firmly resolved to proceed in learning something about meditation. Here is work for you...

Of course the ideal solution may be for you to be here and there... to spend time in {illegible} and Ithaca these are considerations worth reflecting upon...

I am convinced that P.B.'s teachings⁴⁰ will come out into the open {very} soon... (Neptune is heading into Sagittarius.)

This may sound to you like colossal egotism on my part... the ultimate self-deception, so be it.

I am still trying to catch my breath from a {illegible} - even the thought that these youngsters should think it {puts} my heart aglow. For {they} presented me with a {ticket} for going to see P.B. (assuming he would see me.). I was never so embarrassed, and never did I feel so unworthy!

I intend to write P.B. and offer him the {illegible} to visit us - if it is at all possible. (I mean physically.)

I⁴¹ am well aware that he does it in other ways... situated at the pole of existence what need has he to visit us?

Did I {illegible} to you that P.B. said to {illegible} when he visited {illegible} last summer, 'Romain should open some {illegible} with Tony' at the store! He further remarked that I was knowledgeable!

Perhaps I'm trying to blow my own trumpet, but really it's not mine at all...

I will try to say a few things about your chart... the less the better but there are some events that have started and will continue for a few years the determining factor will be your preparation and insight into {basic} psychological structure, it is for us to work with these cosmic influences.

Venus {conjunct} dragontail 1st house Capricorn

³⁹ Page 67

⁴⁰ Page 68

⁴¹ Page 69

These are thoughts and ideas that arise imperceptible at first, but gradually increase... a devaluation of personal service to others {next face} {illegible}; a shifting of your center of gravity to the inwardness symbolized by Leo. A concern for the {illegible}. Accompanying will follow Saturn conjunct Saturn (Saturn coming back into its own natal place 2nd time.). You will then be presented with a moment of freedom. To choose {and} follow the destiny you have made. Remember Roma, there are no flags flying - no drums roll... it is gaiety {and} still. The idea percolate from within and gradually diffuse the consciousness. Recognition is called for. Then the big event... Saturn conjunct Sun - something like dying... The old self gives way. Very often it can be a death experience wither in a mundane or spiritual sense. I have begun to feel your chart a little... but I'm also aware that there is some blockage, I still can't read your chart clearly. Perhaps it's meant so that you should use your own intuition (?).

Your⁴² next few years will be crowded with subtle changes - growth is inevitable with the coming years. By the time I see you again I should be well into your chart. Saturn going back into 9th house suggest caution when traveling, the days are squared by Mercury when you leave {illegible} for Calif. (very noticeable mental uneasiness) and squared by Mars when you leave for India. Which I don't like. (assuming Sept 15 - 16 your departure days) signifying a 'bad' beginning.

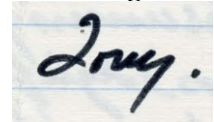
I won't say any more for now until my studies go a little further.

Well for now - my best wishes for you future hopes... whatever they may be. I sincerely hope that they include Ithaca. I must in passing mention to you, that in no {wise} will your freedom ne interfered with. You know of course that you are welcome to live with us; alone, {as} {illegible} others.

I⁴³ am convinced that you could be of tremendous influence in helping these lads about meditation

My love to {illegible}... you may assure her that in November many others that wish to see {her} will arrange in orderly relays to visit the ashram. Steve is making sure.

My love and warm regards.



L24.073

73 - 74

Letter from Anthony
Undated⁴⁴

My dear P.B.,

⁴² Page 71

⁴³ Page 72

⁴⁴ "ARCHIVES" and "for Ithaca Visit" are handwritten at the top of the page in different hands.

I send you this letter of Om Gupta - because I believe you should have it - but I already told him not to expect a reply. Nonetheless he felt the urge to send it. I discourage students writing you unless they already haven't or some special reason.

I wish once again to thank you - from the innermost and outermost part of me - not excluding any of me - To persist in having all of me pay homage It was a delight, and a vacation added on to privilege to be with you.

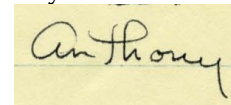
I was extremely gladden to make the necessary arrangements for Richard Goldman and Ed {Mckeown} visit. All is ready (except for Ed Mckeown passport) would you make reservations for Mckeown at the same hotel as Goldman and at the same {port}. I do not know which of us felt happier.

I⁴⁵ have not been able to inform the group - and especially those who are still anticipating - your intended curtailment of visits. Perhaps I'm still hoping in my heart that you will modify somewhat your drastic stance. I have known such precious rare moments only in music - so that I can't imagine depriving, or being the bearer of such sadness to others.

Enclosed a picture of Kathleen, who requested I mail it... My daughters-in-law; Kathleen and Laurie have asked me to speak to you about the possibility of a visit in the future, and I didn't mention it to you... for fear that your refusal would become more adamant. It was the one sadness of my visit - it was the unidentified and {unknow} {illegible}. Everything and everyone was kindness itself

Again to my most revered master -

your devotee.



P.S. Enclosed another request

L24.075

75 - 76

Letter from Om P. Gupta

Pattern Analysis and Recognition Corporation, Rome, N.Y. 13440

Nov. 28th, 1976⁴⁶

Respected Dr Brunton:

I am going to India on Dec 23rd to see my father. He is very old and sick. I shall be coming back around 12th of January. This return date is open. I shall be grateful if I⁴⁷ could see you on the way to or from India. You could answer it through Tony.

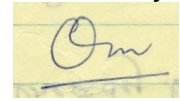
⁴⁵ Page 75

⁴⁶ PB inserted "May see me re an Indian matter around 12 Jan" by hand.

⁴⁷ Page 76

I have also requested the manager of Sri Sankaracharya of Kanchi to see Sri Sankaracharya if possible. Hoping to hear from you,

Sincerely,



L24.077

77 - 78

Letter from Tony⁴⁸

Valois NY 14888

Undated

Dr Paul Brunton-
13 Chemin de Ballallaz
Bloc A app 11
1820 Montreux
Switzerland

My dear, Dear P.B.,

How often I had the urge to write you - and just as often like a disobedient child - refused. Now hearing from you through the Godwins my imagined rights are put to rest. I suppose that you would like to know - should the personal {angle} {since} the girls (Anna and {Lina}) must have told you all you wish to know about the center and all related matters. Anyway I made it clear that whatever questions you asked should be fully answered.

Now that I am faced with speaking to you about myself personally the analogy that comes to mind; a sublime chaos within - out there a transparent-crystal blue sky. How do I talk to Sky to space, the sun and wind? the surface {illegible} - the "ego's consciousness" or {intentionality} is really {in} {illegible}... and perhaps I managed to keep afloat by remembrance. The glorious memory of my visit with you. However I have not been able to give up the ego - as you advised. but truly it is a phantom. However unbecoming my expressions of gratitude - to you - may {illegible}, please accept this part of me which can with a full heart say thank you. For in the light - {enters} of this theoretic understanding - {there} is some peace and freedom... or release from tyranny. (Ideas, {illegible} relationships, meaning at times of {bad into me})

I must await events some what before I understand your remark about my retirement. I know that the center must be more properly handled... but I face Ella May's insistent desire to keep or own in personally. I prefer to turn it into a legal entity in its own right. But still retain 'some' control. How much is still an open question and can be worked out. But truly I would consider it a privilege if I could be instrumental

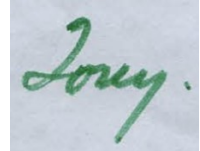
⁴⁸ "T" is handwritten in the top right corner of the page.

in helping to establish some reference to prana - and meditation. Embarrassed though I be - in asking you to consider a name for us... yet I believe it most appropriate.... My health seems good I sleep deeply and well - I work and study while I work at night -

I⁴⁹ am finishing some works on my home - and try to spend my free evenings with the family. There is an appearance of a more penetrating understanding and balance.

In the deeper recesses of my being silently pray that I may become worthy (to see you...

with sincere devotion, thank you for the peace and blessings and guidance



L24.079

79 - 82

Letter from Tony
Valois, N.Y. 14888 U.S.
23-IV 1969⁵⁰

Dr Paul Brunton
Fermo Posta,
35031, Abano Terma,
(Padova),
Italy.

My dear P.B.,

Only after considerable internal resistance did I succumb to the pressure of writing you. A young man and devoted student is going to Europe this July and August... John LiedenFrost and begged me to see if an interview can be arranged. I have informed him of your semi-retirement and seclusion to no avail. Another young man getting his doctors degree will be going to Oxford Eng. for a vacation (home) this summer a {Jocelyn} Godwin. I wish also to include {Bharath Raj Singh} pupil of Prof Eagleton (Mysore Uni. 1938) "seeks Dr Brunton's' blessings"... he is teaching at Cornell University. I'm aware my dear P.B. that this may cause you some inconvenience. Please forgive me. The bookstore is turning into a philosophic forum... with emphasis on your books. However 'Wisdom of Overself' went out of print! may I include my name among those who seek your blessings?

devotedly yours.⁵¹

⁴⁹ Page 78

⁵⁰ Postmarked date.

⁵¹ "(PEND" is written in a different hand in the right margin.



L24.083

83 - 84

Incomplete letter from {Unknown}

Ithaca, N.Y.

November 2, 1973⁵²

Dear PB -

your advice about trying to get a P.O. Box certainly was excellent. This mailbox that goes with the apt. and is situated on the road is constantly left wide open - I think it is loose and swings open after delivery. But it is no good anyway. Louis {illegible} who owns this apt. tells me the landlord brings her mail to her. {And} it is addressed (my mail - for those who do not have my P.O. Box) is taken over to her as well! She said she had a postcard which I {could} identify as being from M. Wolf and her sister, Susie in her possession. So I am thankful it is not in use -

Sunday, Oct. 28th I was moving along a divided hwy and spotted the form of a black cat off on the road which I assumed had been struck. I moved on but conscience got hold of me so turned back re-running back down about a mile and coming up on it again. The day was cold, grey and raining - drizzling. It had a collar around its neck (which is what helped me turning back as I thought...⁵³

THE⁵⁴ HYMNS OF SANKARA - Publs Ganesh & Co. (Madras) Private Ltd. First published in 1970.

The young black boy handed me the book with a slip of paper in it to tell me how long it could stay out. On the slip of paper at the top, was GRACE PERIOD. I opened the page and my eyes immediately fell on: "Not in the forest, nor even in one's own house, nor in what-is-to-be-accomplished, nor in the body, nor in what is invaluable does my mind dwell; but if my mind be not attached to the lotus feet of the Guru, what thence, what thence, what thence that thence?"

(tatah kim tatah kim tatah kim.)

I think these poems are exquisitely beautiful and would have loved to hear them chanted - it must be so beautiful!

I⁵⁵ read a few to Ellamay and she laughed and said "There is so much about you that reminds me of Tony,⁵⁶ it makes me laugh! The two of you are so alike, its funny!" She has said this before and always alludes to our love for you.⁵⁷

⁵² Three slashes are handwritten across the page.

⁵³ The following lines are missing because the page is cut.

⁵⁴ Page 84

⁵⁵ "{illegible} PB note" is handwritten above this paragraph.

{Ellamay is getting up on her feet and fighting back more}...⁵⁸

L24.085

85 - 86

Letter from Tony⁵⁹
Valois N.Y., 14888, U.S.A.
Undated⁶⁰

Dr Paul Brunton
14 Chemin de Ballallaz
Bloc A app 11
1820 Montreux, Switzerland

How often Dear P.B.,

in the midst of the many silent nights your image arises in my mind's eye. A poignant nostalgia overwhelms me. These thoughts of and about you are still welcomed and treasured. Sometimes I'm annoyed with destiny for putting so much distance between us... and sometimes thankful, for the dragon's breath can be a scorching fire. As you see I have been unable to wipe out the personal. Nor do I have the desire to do so. Your spiritual guidance, the many and happy gifts of thought you send are a great joy. To align the various 'schools of philosophy.' To put into one 'schema' the many and abundant interrelations {illegible} and correspondences, how delightfully releasing! A paradigm of excellences. The chaos and confusion becoming transparent and now even useful. Truly; you have been very kind to a most undeserving yet willing devotee. This guru pours and pours again into this leaky and frail vessel. the contradictions in my life get answered by paradoxes, i.e. must be lived through. And for me Guru embodies that process of learning...

Enclosed a diagram we use... if interested could send details.⁶¹

It's⁶² {illegible} - but I find it useful - one can find out the limitations inherent for instance in Jung... or the one sided position of Buddhist Logicians... many philosophers - decapitated the top circle - a point of view could be traced or mapped out in considerable details... However I shrink back from bring the great traditions within its purview. Today is 10 years... since I took this job... and moved up here... The growth was 10 times that... but could I take that one more leap. To you... My most beloved I commend my soul -

⁵⁶ Underlined by hand.

⁵⁷ Underlined by hand.

⁵⁸ The following lines are missing because the page is cut.

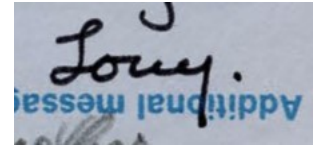
⁵⁹ "T" is handwritten in the top right corner of the page.

⁶⁰ "This letter" is handwritten three times on the back of this letter in a different hand.

⁶¹ The rest of this page is a diagram with handwritten notes.

⁶² Page 86

With offerings of love and devotion -



I realized after looking at diagram that it's too sloppy - will send another.

L24.087

87 - 94

Letter from Anthony Damiani
Undated

My Dear P.B.,

your intention to visit us at Valois - was greeted with a burst of awe... and incredulity and even though I cherished this hope in the depths of my heart I insisted to others of my belief in this possibility - I am now required to think the unthinkable...

But I must not protect my inner chaos - rather I must put my thoughts in order so as not to burden you.

Regarding your visit, and arrival in NYC (I presume) One of us - would like to meet you and Noel at the dock if you so desire, to transport you by car to wherever you wish.

The Shapiros (Herbert and Barbara) for instance would gladly spend a week in New York City for just that purpose. Another, Alan Berkowitz could bring Noel to Valois upon her arrival or a day later. It is but for you to say - what way we can be useful, to name the time and place and the how! For this would be a great joy to us. Naturally we - at this end - can not make any plans or propose any schedule until we hear your news on this matter. Would you consider our offer?

I⁶³ understand you plan to play in the city for awhile and then visit Valois. Again anyone of us would be pleased to transport you - (back and forth) including yours truly - it is about a five (5) hour trip by car from NYC to Valois... and then back again... when you wish to leave.

Accommodations - would you like to stay with someone? (us for instance?) or inquire into motel rooms or a combination meals⁶⁴ with us or various others and room by yourself. Or would you rather wait until you can see for yourself...

As you can see my dear P.B., my heart still makes claims - and though I can understand with my head something of the impersonal nature yet the rest of me refuses and so I must as a devotee ask you permission to do whatever I may to make your journey and visit as comfortable as possible.

⁶³ Page 89

⁶⁴ Page 91

...And sometimes I understand my heart when it claims you as its touchstone of Truth.

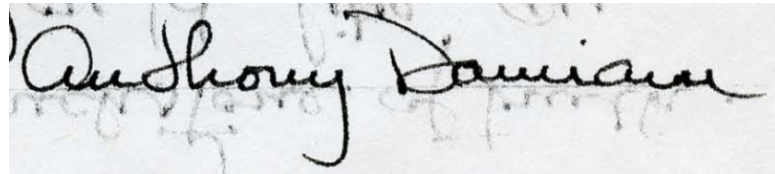
Of course many here would like an interview with you and if you would give me some sort of general indication of your intentions? but I'm presuming.

Work has started on the Temple library I⁶⁵ pray for your guidance and 'gifts of thoughts' in this ticklish situation --- and I feel uncomfortable in the role of neutrality.

I should not of course conclude the letter without mentioning that Anna Prim returns {here} for a visit and accompanied Mrs A. {illegible} who has decided to stay. Everything has worked out well for her and Ed Mckeown has really helped her settle down into a small but comfortable apartment.

Dr Om Gupta while in India was granted an interview with the Sage of Kauci Shankaracharya after mentioning your name. He sent the group blessings - with the Maharaja statue {the} {illegible} bought for the center, but only after making sure it was for us. Some of us {felt} that blessing

And finally P.B., friend to my Soul, guardian and benefactor of my well-being, I remain eternally grateful.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Anthony Damiano". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The background is a light-colored, slightly textured surface, possibly a piece of paper or a scan of a document.

L24.095

95 - 96

Address of Mr and Mrs Joseph Licata⁶⁶

One Brocton Lane, Country Village, Kings Park, Long Island, New York, U.S.A.

Undated⁶⁷

Extract: None

L24.097

97 - 98

Handwritten notes by {PB}⁶⁸

Undated

Margie Licata
{n/l}

⁶⁵ Page 93

⁶⁶ "L" is handwritten in the top left corner of the page.

⁶⁷ PB inserted "Tell Tony I wrote and got no reply from this address" and "Is it ok?" by hand.

⁶⁸ Author determined by handwriting.

1. Advise to change work from Institution (mental) She needs a change of atmosphere to a healthier one.
2. Joe is teaching music.
3. She is susceptible to psychic influences and could {also} {illegible} negative conditions which exist in such a place
4. ...⁶⁹

L24.099

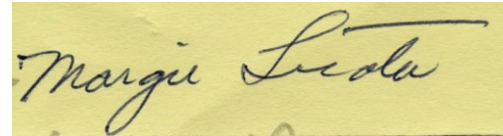
99 - 100

Letter from Margie Licata⁷⁰

July 5, 1971

Dear P.B.

This is an {afghan} crocheted for you. I hope you find it useful.⁷¹



L24.101

101 - 120

Letter from Tony⁷²

Undated

Dear P.B.

Your recent letter overwhelmed me - it brought to memory the many undescribable kindnesses with which you pour round me. Gratitude has humbled me and truly speaking only silence is proper, words would only confuse and divide. Again my thanks for your advice... as always and with devotion

I wish to take this opportunity to inform you of some developments and changes since my last letter. I fear you may be unnecessarily burden by its {length} and detail however since some misunderstandings have arisen, I believe some clarifications are useful and in order. Besides Mr J. Godwin indicated in one of his letters that I should write you.

⁶⁹ Page 98 contains handwritten notes which have been crossed out by hand.

⁷⁰ "L", "via J Godwin" and "wool {bed} spreads {illegible} ashram" are handwritten at the top of the page.

⁷¹ "write note to" is handwritten before the signature in a different hand.

⁷² "D" is handwritten in the top right corner of the page.

When I first started this store every disadvantage was at my disposal; except the essential. An exaggerated minimum of books for stock, no money to speak of, a certain fear or hostility from Ella May etc. etc.

Since⁷³ then the store has tripled its stock, purchases necessary for the {business} have been made and credit established.

Stephan, my eldest son operates the store full time, and although as yet draws no salary except whatever expenses are necessary, is quite happy in the doing. I am convinced he has grown considerably in the meantime and we have worked out a few psychological problems between us. He makes out the horoscopes and arranges the⁷⁴ necessary routine at the store leaving me free for the classes. His business like attitude is a necessary {front}. The fascination of your books has started. And he insists on having two shelves full of your titles. By the way they are our biggest sellers. If the reputation of your books spread it is by a very natural process; word of mouth. Of course other book stores have been forced to carry P.B. titles.

I do not indiscriminately recommend your titles but they do sell... I have found many of this younger generation with a spiritual hunger and impulse but without the necessary direction. I have seen with my own eyes youngsters transformed after reading and studying your writings. Please do not ask me to play down and deprive these people of your writings. P.B.⁷⁵ I do not know how to say or express this feeling, my imagination cannot leap so far in addition to my inability to speak or write you, there is this numinous reflex that blocks my spontaneity. I will remove your picture from among the others, representing these teachings... but only because you insist. Their transcendental hunger has removed some of my reserve. The store is building up small but representative and selective titles in Philosophy East and West, Yoga, Buddhism, Alchemy, Astrology, Psychology, Kabbalah, etc. Some popular items Tarot, Magic etc... but always in the background is the possibility that they may be influenced to higher things.

I⁷⁶ do not know if I am the cause of some of the misunderstanding about the sort of astrology that we are interested in doing at the store classes. But whatever the origin, it is proper for me to explain it to you in some detail - if then you believe our effort misguided - I will gladly {ceased} the class and the charting. When I say we, it includes besides myself and Dr {L. Silvers} a math professor at Cornell U, who is not exactly given to any exaggerated mode of expression; quite the Contrary, reserved and cautious in his approach. We have long ago recognised astrology's {fragmentary} character, and what has been handed down is only the residue of a vast wisdom and revelation beyond our understanding the astrological mandala incites our brains into an attempt to schematize and evolve some sort of understanding that can be 'objectively' validated.

⁷³ Page 102

⁷⁴ Page 103

⁷⁵ Page 104

⁷⁶ Page 105

A⁷⁷ tool that can help us to pry open the psychological domain, and perhaps even glance at some soul qualities in operation. [Ambitions], {rash}... but our approach isn't; on the contrary we are amazed at its grandeur and celestial implications. Most often we get taught by our inability to seize upon the various frames of significances operating simultaneously in one nativity; our understanding works retrospectively. We dare not predict. We have enormous difficulty in trying to locate meaning in the present, let alone the future. If there was a danger - at one time - it was represented⁷⁸ by Ramananda (alias {Bob Hanley} - who had written to you a very long letter) However he has left about the time I wrote you last. I regard his work in the store has subversive and I found it in opposition to mine. A very disturbing and almost nefarious influence which I had to undo. Especially the mythologizing... about past lives. I believe the lesson has been learned. Any deviation from the philosophic principles the store is dedicated to brings immediate reaction

I hope this very brief indication of how we are working in and with astrology settles the problem to the proper proportions.

We have free classes in the store three and four times a week.

One⁷⁹ night (Wed) is devoted to metaphysics and is preceded by group meditation, (which they have insisted upon.) for three hours the class is devoted in studying the Wisdom of the Overself.

Another night is concerned with the Hidden Teaching Beyond Yoga. Prof {Plateck} carries this class - (He teaches Symbolic Logic and Math at Cornell University.) With his very crisp and precise intellect; the presentation he makes often provokes the students to study further. I am sorry that he missed the opportunity of visiting you.

We⁸⁰ try to remain flexible - and at times when a sufficient number in the group request a follow up... we try to comply. Recently I had to 'summarize' Guenon, Schuon, Burkhardt, Coomaraswamy (modern traditionalist) On the other hand I had to retreat from an attempt at explaining Proclus. One of the neo-Platonist that truly requires a rigorous intellect... That whole tradition of positive⁸¹ metaphysics is a grand monument dedicated to superimposing data from a transcendental source on to the intellect.

Perhaps my remarks may help you gain some position by which you can evaluate my direction. I may not succeed and probably won't but I will give it a good try. The ABB is sub-titled a bookstore for the Elite.

Eventually a certain dexterity is aroused from the ability to manipulate concepts and with it a tremendous re-evaluation of the entire cognitional apparatus - a sort of disenchantment with just thinking and the desire to go beyond productive imagination... the ground for meditation is concretized. A border situation has arisen -

⁷⁷ Page 106

⁷⁸ Page 107

⁷⁹ Page 108

⁸⁰ Page 109

⁸¹ An illegible word is handwritten in the left margin.

for what can I tell them of meditation? {illegible} that happened to me is of such meagre value...

We⁸² also conduct a class in Astrology. The royal we refers to Prof Silvers and myself. It demands of students psychological effort... That goes beyond {illegible}, Maslow, Adler, Jung etc. In these classes we attempt to break through the mythological structures with which we operate. At times one may suspect the class is using a Madhyamika approach... but actually an intense awareness of the qualities we operate through and with is a practical illustration of your remark from the 'Quest of Overself' we are not perceptions. Dr Silver is very devoted to your writings but has been unable to express himself in a letter to you... however I'm sure he will get to do so eventually.

It is a strange state of affairs that we find in our universities now a days. The artist, mathematician, writer and all sorts but philosophy majors are interested in these studies. The latter are still playing word games. Perhaps that may be one of the reasons they find your books refreshing. Metaphysical vision combined with creative vision and psychological insight...

At times we include series of lectures on C. Jung (excluding the alchemy portions for I find his formulations on this subject inadequate... and too psychological.) and his followers especially E {Neumann}, who in my judgement has gone a step beyond his teacher.

Enclosed⁸³ some photographs you requested, these were taken by {John L.} when he visited you.

I will return the notes that Romain left me to read - will you inform her?

I think you have received a letter from Jean {L.} Pauls requesting an interview, I do not know him personally but from what I have heard he seems to be a quiet, serious lad.

A strange series of incidents that brought me into contact with a group of people in Ohio deserves to be described. I will simply say that a small group of people there asked me to visit them and explain some portions of your books. By the very nature by which circumstances {illegible} themselves also arranged the possibility of my stay. It was the younger group that interested me. The promise of enthusiasm, will prejudice my outlook, all that I can say for now is that quite a few of them are sincerely interested. Of course it was to be expected that some seemed more concerned about your person than teachings. But I found this trait quite common⁸⁴ among seekers... I do not encourage it and at times find it necessary to tactfully switch tracks. They have started small groups that are studying systematically your earlier books. And have sent me a tape recorder - so that some of the philosophy lectures might be sent to them. However I'm still hesitant. {Mr} J. Godwin has inform me about your concern in regard to some (particularly {illegible}) movement to⁸⁵ exalt herself by claiming a mission. I supposed

⁸² Page 111

⁸³ Page 113

⁸⁴ Page 114

⁸⁵ Page 115

it's her artistic temperament more than anything else that is asserting itself. On the other hand I. Fagan is quite mature in her approach and I believe had kept this growing group together.

Another item that may interest you. Charles {illegible} and family are leaving for Ecuador. Last summer Charles and family spent a couple weeks {illegible}... circumstances had neatly arrange for his visit and I thought that he would settle in this area, for it seemed all the indications were pointing in that direction. Then suddenly decided against it. I refrained from the pros and cons... he seems to have settled into an organized immaturity I fear what he refuses to recognize inwardly as a psychological complex will be {illegible} outwardly as fate.

Jim Covell also paid us a visit early this summer - his intention was to get a position at Cornell University Library... and this was almost a certain possibility. This enormous library had definite need for his talents in languages. However he had but to wait two or three days for confirmation, and this he could not do... for that would have meant a re-arrangement of some plans, but most of all the inner {purity}, from which he operates prevents a free to easy access to life. All I could do was suggest, hint at...

I⁸⁶ felt if he were to re-locate in this area it would have given us the opportunity to work together on many of his commentaries on⁸⁷ your works. But 'fate' decided otherwise. Ever since my heart attack - resignation to unalterable circumstances has been easily acceptable. I do not know what God's will is - except by trying and finding out. I suspect in those days of unconsciousness an integration took place, I noticed the introduction of this stability into Romaine's character after her illness also...

Human reverence is almost a caricature this touch of compassion has reduced all human knowledge to a common place vulgarity.

{I} have enclosed some photographs of my family, home and environment. It is not {illegible} in a personal way, although neither is it excluded. It is meant to introduce a very embarrassing and totally irresponsible request. I know you forgive me the lack of consideration for your person, and regard my {ignorance} with compassion.

Last ⁸⁸ month I was presented on my birthday with a ticket (airline) to Switzerland and expenses paid for a two week vacation by the group of students here. The kindness invaded my brain and numbed my response... I thought in that moment to offer you this gift... If it is at all possible that you may be making a trip to America, which would include a visit to Ithaca. I would joyfully make all the⁸⁹ necessary arrangements - if you wish hotel accommodations, or my house (which can provide you with spacious room and bath.) Car and chauffer etc. I am aware my dear P.B. that these are secondary considerations... and whatever the decision we will abide, gracefully.

⁸⁶ Page 116

⁸⁷ Page 117

⁸⁸ Page 118

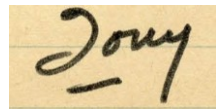
⁸⁹ Page 119

If the decision is negative, may I and Ella May come to visit you? I am still the naive lad of twenty-five years ago - asking almost pleading with heart palpitations and a lump in my throat...

If affirmative, I would need a few months advance notice... to arrange for a vacation from my employment and organize for the trip. Late winter or early spring, Jan though March?

I⁹⁰ understand Romaine will be visiting you, perhaps you can get whatever information you seek or wish to know from her. I am quite sure there are many other items I have forgotten to mention but there will be another letter concerning some very practical work we are attempting. Romaine has become a real support in her friendship to us... I have often sought for some means to return the kindness... unsuccessfully.

Undivided and whole - my humble esteem and devotion.



L24.121

121 - 122

Letter from Tony to Romaine

American Brahman Bookstore, 118 West State Street, Ithaca, New York 14850⁹¹

Undated

Dear Romaine,

Thank you for the kind remembrances passed on by Terry. I also think of you... often and am somewhat aware of the difficulty you are now facing. No defences avail, inner or outer... Nor can anyone be any help... this is your battle. Within a year you will witness radical changes and if you permit, a transformation of consciousness.

I hesitate to speak so freely my dear, it might conjure up the image or archetype of you beloved... which you might think I wish to replace. Nothing could be further from the truth, for it is the common bond between us and without that how could rapport be established?

Yet on the other hand this is precisely the ground upon which you can build... The work you have done at the ashram can be put to use here, in Ithaca where there is need of just some sort of spiritual retreat. Your training and leadership qualities are very much in need, but without the commitment of your will it would be useless. I have found out in practise that when we are willing to help others we in turn are helped... and guided.

If you were to ask me to put as briefly as possible, to lay on the line so to speak my objective, it would go something like this. The true state of divine union is without

⁹⁰ Page 120

⁹¹ Address appears in the letterhead.

means, and comes to pass when man gives up, not as a means, and comes to pass when he knows with certainty that he has no other alternative. In the ordinary way, such certainty comes to pass only through struggle to free by all available means,⁹² leading to the conviction of their futility. To put it in another way. The mind does not become free from the illusion of the ego by way of the unconsciousness - by any attempted reversion to nature, or to primitive innocence and still less by any kind of forgetful inebriation in⁹³ ecstatic sensations, whether induced by drugs or self hypnosis. The ego is dissolved only through the way of consciousness, through becoming so conscious of what 'I' is that it has no power to enthrall

This giving up is the sacrifice I am asking you to consider...

I have perhaps overstated the situation, but I must keep in mind your extreme sensitivity and mistrust my command of language to say what the heart and brain wish to say. After all words have no wings and resemble corpses rather than ideas... you must fill in the missing spaces, and please give me the benefit of any doubt

P.B. seemed concerned about you, I did not notice that with any of the others that we spoke about, even with Noel in a couple years⁹⁴ - of whom I spoke of; and the impending changes... He seemed unconcerned although the visit to the Glasses was at my discretion.

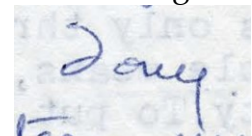
You belong here with us, and I am willing to help in whatever way I can, that is in regards to the physical changeover necessary... with all of my incompetence. Why not consider seriously, I say this with all my heart, and I am including Ella May

In regards to Mataji's visit here there may be some difficulty. Around June I expect to be in Ohio with a group studying P.B. and there will be conflict in regards to dates. As soon as I can will inform you (her) They need encouragement, and it was suggested that I follow up...

I have learned and am learning to brush aside my personal inclinations and preferences, for they come first

I am hoping that you visit us again before leaving the ashram regardless -

very warm fraternal regards



After rereading this letter my impulse was to burn} it - for it doesn't say it just as I would want it said - but my 15 hour day prevents the {niceties} so necessary in this work - forgive me dear.

⁹² Underlined by hand.

⁹³ Page 122

⁹⁴ "in a couple of years -" was inserted by hand in the margin.

L24.123

123 - 124
Metaphysical Chart
Undated

Extract: None

L24.125

125 - 126
Letter from Tony
Undated

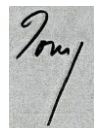
Dear P.B.

I do not know why these people ask me to add a few lines to their letters... they certainly are unaware of my own feeling of inadequateness

{illegible}⁹⁵ has attempted to use you before, as {illegible}⁹⁶ it seems to me that he has a natural gravitation towards these teachings but not the intellectual equipment to handle them. However recently he has started to investigate his own psychology and finding the blocks that have prevented a proper appreciation. I have often found this to be the case. Your books often attract a person but their own psychology repels... It then becomes necessary to expose without offence the culprit, which Jung often refers to as the shadow. At any rate and whatever name it is given does not matter so long as they get a handle on the problem.

Have written to Romaine and after a stay with her sister she may come to Ithaca. That promised letter has again been postponed.

My Love and veneration and gratitude



L24.127

127 - 128
Incomplete writing by {Unknown} with Astrological notes
Undated

Extract: None

⁹⁵ This word has been cut out of the page.

⁹⁶ This word has been cut out of the page.

L24.129

129 - 130
Letter from A. Damiani
Valois N.Y. 14888
1971⁹⁷

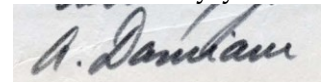
Dr Paul Brunton
14 chemin de Ballallaz
Bloc A app 11
1820 Montreux
Switzerland

Dear P.B.

I do not wish to appear as in any way as a factor in this request. I'm aware that you are in the process of relocating and burden with inconvenience... Perhaps you remember a Richard Goldman requesting an interview with you. Suddenly made a chartered flight to Europe and called me regarding if at all possible to get in touch with you for same. I took the liberty of giving him Noel's phone number and perhaps she could arrange the Interview I shall write to her and explain and apologize on the other hand if you wish to inform me directly by post I can inform his parents who are going to telephone him in Europe June 10 - and they could pass this message on in time if you wish. It all depends on what you wish... and that I can not fathom... Nor could I tell him your address. Frankly I did not know how to act on the spur of the moment and took what I considered the best choice.

Richard Goldman is in my opinion an interested and sincere person. {Tina} Kent also request to know the best time for you if she comes to Europe. These people are quite competent and capable to handle their own hotel problems -

devotedly yours -



L24.131

131 - 132
Card from Ella May⁹⁸
1/16/80

Dear P.B.

you make us so happy when one (or two) of our little community is with you. {We} each feel that a special part of us is there in your presence and thus you honor us greatly.

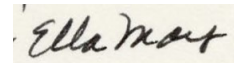
⁹⁷ Postmarked date.

⁹⁸ "D" is handwritten in the top right corner of the page.

Tony's classes are becoming more keen. He is truly an inspiration to his students.

Thank you for the love and guidance you constantly give us

with love,



P.S. Stay well.

L24.133

133 - 134

Letter from Tony⁹⁹

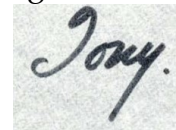
Undated

My Dear P.B.

Just notified - vacation granted from Feb 19 - to March 16... Making arrangements to visit you. Will inform you about exactness of flight time and other items very soon.

In the meantime if you have any recommendations or advice will gladly heed. As you are aware, our first visit overseas. A {illegible}... facing the Alps.

with everlasting devotion



P.S. Will get in touch with Romaine for the practical information necessary.

Tell me the name of the soup powder you like¹⁰⁰

Dear¹⁰¹ P.B.,

I was about to send you this note when your letter arrived... so I will go ahead with my plans to be there at the end of Feb. Until I find out the exact date of flight it won't be possible to make hotel reservation however in a day or so I will send you that information (Yes, a double bedded room will suffice.). I hope to get flight arrangements set in two or three days. Of course I will follow your suggestion and go to Milan. Again, thank you for the lovely remembrance.

devotedly

Yours.¹⁰²

⁹⁹ "D" is handwritten in the top right corner of page 134.

¹⁰⁰ "Tell me the name of the soup powder you like" is written perhaps in a different hand.

¹⁰¹ Page 134

¹⁰² PB inserted "Thank him for Indian leaf painting Card" by hand at the bottom of the page.

My dear PB,

Not without some trepidation and also concern do I write this request. Encouraged by Ella May and an inner prompting of my own I decided to ask you to see {illegible} and Tom! I am aware that you have refused them an interview, and I do not question your wisdom or compassion. But the refusal caused her so much pain and even despair that I could not stand by without attempting to say or do something. She has gone through pain and her separation from Sidney Piburn was an ordeal. I had tried to persuade them both to remain together - but alas after three years the break came. Perhaps the regrets will go on for a long, long time.

Tom Marino - has recently lost his job - and decided to vacation before returning to work. So they are by now in Europe. They will be in Vienna Sept 12 - 22; and P.B. please forgive me for being so bold, I suggested that they try to telephone you on Sept 15 or 16 at 3pm¹⁰⁴ and again request an interview. I have made it clearly understood that I cannot and do not have any influence in these matters. They will abide by any response. They will be in Europe for 6 weeks...

Also I received a long distance telephone from Charles Mirra who is still in Ecuador, and plans to return to the states within a couple of weeks. He told me that every attempt at reconciliation failed and that he feels it is now hopeless... but your letter keeps him {illegible} at to the course of action. Anyway he wishes to phone you and plans to see you if possible. He must retire to the states where the children are (with his mother-in-law) who now must move. I refrained from any advice - for the matter seems quite serious, he must carry a revolver for self protection. I think that there will be some change in her soon but I could only be sympathetic, not helpful.

And¹⁰⁵ the last inflection, my dear P.B. Ella May and I wish to thank you for the beautiful thanks, for the kindness and love that has preserved us, and it would take all of time to adequately thank you, but that it should be said at least once...

Yet I suppose my devotion is as illusory as yours is real.

I enclose the start of a letter meant for you, right after my return from visiting you, I had 'disappointed' or 'failed' you somehow and felt an oppressive doom again - you bailed me out

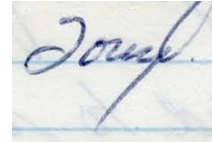
It is not poetical license when the Hindu tradition incorporates such phrases as

I kiss the dust from the feet of my master

¹⁰³ PB inserted the date by hand at the end of the letter.

¹⁰⁴ Underlined in a different hand with a bracket in the right margin and a symbol in the left margin.

¹⁰⁵ Page136



Perhaps an hour interview?

L24.137

137 - 138
Letter from Tony
Sept 75¹⁰⁶

How completely you filled my heart; my dear Dear P.B., whom you corrected my addressing you from Dr Brunton to P.B..

For a moment, and only a moment it flashed through my brain and stole the breath of life from me: Eternally grateful to this 'man' standing before me. Who is he?

Perhaps some day it will be given to me - to know. For now to have glimpsed into this ocean of compassion and benevolence answers my hunger.

I promised to write you - for I felt the need to further clarify and be comforted. But your kindness was misunderstood. - and in my desire to reach an understanding with you, something tangible that my mind could reach out with claws and grasp I missed an opportunity. What exactly I cannot say. Yet I keep looking for the impression - it must still be there!

L24.139

139 - 140
Incomplete letter to Tony
28 Aug 70

Thank you, dear Tony...

for waiting patiently for this answer to your letter

Your effort to bring this cultural center that is Cornell into contact with subjects not normally in the curriculum is laudable. John Leidenfrost and Joscelyn Godwin told me a little about it, too. And those students whose letters you forwarded are all grateful to you for arousing their interest.

I did not learn till last month about the Weiser-Rider arrangement: at least it will make available in the States those titles which Dutton's have let go out of print. Even if the binding is imperfect, as you complain, and even if the text is abridged, which is often the case with paperbacks, I resign the matter on the principle that half a loaf is better than none! The management at Dutton's are uninterested in our thought whereas

¹⁰⁶ PB inserted "Sept 75 from Tony" at the top of the page.

the previous directors were friendly to me personally. But they have passed away. I presume your inability to get books from them is because of their cold blooded strictly business outlook, too. However I have not personally seen any of these paperbacks and have now written to England to get copies and examine them. My mind has been occupied with other matters for a long time with the result that I neglect business matters. Even the current management at Rider Co are strangers to me: the personal relationship of former times has vanished here too....¹⁰⁷

L24.141

141 - 142
Letter to Anthony
Jan 28, 1978

At your request, dear Anthony,

here is a summary of what I observed about Mrs Ybor, and what I suggested.

It is a series of mystical phenomena of different states of intensity and now extremely blissful and quite unworldly. The light phenomena have also dazzled her.

These happenings, have gone on for some years, have taken her on upward flights on what seems infinite space and glorious heavens. At times they become too much for her, more than she can really bear, but so strong is her aspiration to get final spiritual realization that she tries to go along with the upward pull.

However the physical distress and pain which also recurs intermittently through disturbances of organic function are undesirable. Her visits to hospital do not eliminate these troubles but only alleviate them.

It is desirable for her to be brought down to a more measured pace of spiritual development both from the inner and outer points of view. Immediately these flights begin, she should walk around the room or eve, in suitable weather, walk around outside the house and breathe fresh air, but not deeply. This does not prevent her from keeping her mind in a devotional mood but she must try to moderate her impatience to attain realization. It is a grace to have such blissful experiences but it is time for her to learn that realization does not end with the highly emotional conditions, but with a deepening and widening calm which if allowed will settle itself down into permanency. It will contain a measure joy and a superior understanding, a detachment from the world and yet an ability too do what has to be done with it.

So I repeat: the period of phenomena should be a temporary one, when everything is finally swallowed in a single explosion of sublime peace, great understanding and discovery once and for all, of what the cosmic void really is.

Privately I would like to say that you should urge restraint upon Mrs Ybor in these matters. Also in the matter of drinking alcohol, this is to be kept restricted.

¹⁰⁷ The following pages are missing.

L24.143

143 - 144
Metaphysical Chart
Undated

Extract: None

L24.145

145 - 150
Letter from Tony
Valois, N.Y. 14888 USA¹⁰⁸
Undated

My Dear P.B.,

I really should begin this letter with some sort of apology... it is so long overdue that it belongs to the past. But what can I say? In the face of your numinous memory... I am very poor, and psychologically naked in its presence. There is no defence and it would be wiser to throw myself at your mercy... and forgiveness. Besides there are too many glorious memories which I prefer to keep in the recesses of my being, immaculately clean... for I am often referred to them by life's strange teaching method's... and this often turns out to be home base.

Perhaps I can make it easier on myself by starting to speak of the ordinary activities that are going on at the store. Where you have planted the banner and through your grace have made available much understanding to those that are searching.

I might mention in passing that it would be childish for me to expect adequate representation of the swarm of thoughts that float before my consciousness each and every one expecting some sort of embodiment through soulless words. Yet this has always been my problem whenever confronted with you. In their haste to reach out towards you they dam and choke me from within, leaving me speechless. So regardless how fragmentary this letter may seem I will insist on getting it out

A Mr Jocelyn Godwin has probably written to you by now asking for an interview... if at all possible this summer. He is now teaching at Cleveland State University and when I visited Columbus Ohio he spent part of the weekend with me. This group of people in Ohio interested in your teachings and books had asked me to visit them for the purpose of explaining some of your latter books. I found enthusiasm and interest but also considerable misunderstanding... I can only hope that my efforts helped in some way, they have just written and plan to visit Ithaca in June. The Fagans send their love.

¹⁰⁸ PB inserted "American Brahman Bookstore 118 West State Street Ithaca NY, 14859" by hand at the top of the page.

I¹⁰⁹ think you will find that many of these students are very sincere, however I am no judge in these matters and must leave you to decide as you will I am too fond of them (and perhaps flattered) to form any competent judgement I hope you do not consider us too bold by making your photograph available to those who feel the need for such. John {Lydenfrost} who visited you last summer has made available those very beautiful pictures he took

Charles Mirra made an effort to stay in this area last summer when he visited... but suddenly decided against it and returned to California Jim Covell did likewise. However the issue is still up in the air for both. I'll do all that I can but refuse to make up their minds for them. The decision should be theirs.

Perhaps¹¹⁰ the easiest way to get this letter off to you is by briefly writing to you about what is going on here in Ithaca at the bookstore. A small but hard core group has formed about the store and two nights a week lectures are devoted to explanation and commentary on the Hidden Teaching and the Wisdom of the Overself. A third night is devoted to a class in Astrology (bait) which by the way is being conducted by a math professor from Cornell University. Another math professor is planning to take over the Hidden Teaching class from me so that I could concentrate on other matters. In the meantime (that is while we are waiting for that final flash of illumination) Bob Hanley (alias Ramananda) is staying on with us and doing the store over as an astrologers shop. As you probably are aware Cornell University is an Ivy league college and University, with a very cosmopolitan student population numbering about twenty thousand, nearby is Ithaca College and although I am not located in the campus area (rents are prohibitive) we are close enough. We are attempting to establish ourselves as a sort of Occult Forum with some sort of Philosophic pretensions. And that is not too difficult when you become aware of the extreme intellectual degradation that has taken place in our schools. At any rate our reputation is beginning to spread and your grace is obviously operating through the activities that more and more reveal themselves as the planting of the doctrines... in a barbarous area. Strangely enough we have had the greatest difficulty in trying to get your books from Dutton & Co... And so we have been forced to seek them out elsewhere, mainly Ryder. Unfortunately paperbacks are not really very useful when it comes to the major works. Paperbacks simply will not stand up to any abuse, and when more than one reading is called for they fall apart. I understand that Weiser is taking over publication rights of your titles from Ryder.

I wish it were possible to be able to dedicate myself to writing a commentary on certain portions of The Wisdom... to find a few people who would join with me in this preliminary an effort... a co-operative effort with the greatest amplitude given to the comparative method. And thus involve them the students in depth; besides I do believe that the time has come to try and evoke even criticism to your works. To have these magnificent works brought to the attention of students and by focussing interests upon them force Dutton to reprint especially The Wisdom

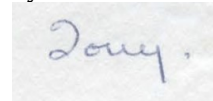
¹⁰⁹ Page 146

¹¹⁰ Page 147

Towards¹¹¹ this end some of the students such as Dr Silvers and R Plantek and myself are attempting to bring our ideas together in a co-operative effort... with a few others. To show whether in astrology or alchemy Art or music the basic presupposition implied, all of which are adequately represented in the Wisdom of the Overself. It sounds and is ambitious and I am aware that you once mentioned my death event of which I see prefigured in my horoscope. You may feel uneasy about the use I make of astrology... but I find it a useful tool to force students into a serious study of psychology (Jungian or any other kind) and finally a recognition of how they operate, the distinction between symbolic consciousness and existential... for it is not possible to realize the depth in your books without the corresponding understanding. I also try to make available such books as might arouse and foster their interest in mysticism and philosophy (eastern Vedanta, Buddhism, Taoism) Perhaps Mr Godwin could give you a better idea of what is going on here than I could by writing. I also wish to thank you... very very much for helping Romaine to see the need...

The reason I am sending this completely chaotic and disorganized letter is so that I will force myself to make amends by writing you again soon. In the meantime 'To my most beloved and revered master'... my eternal gratitude

your devotee



P.S.¹¹² Bob Hanley left us in January.

L24.151

151 - 152

Letter from Ella May Damiani¹¹³

Undated¹¹⁴

Dear P.B.

In my heart each day I offer grateful thoughts for having been able to see you once again. Since seeing you, each day has so much joy - (even the difficult ones)¹¹⁵ that I sometimes feel I shall die in ecstasy especially while the sun sets. I speak often during the day to the Master Chou - {illegible} and the Sage {Wang Yang Ming} and to you. I hope only that someday I shall be worthy to hear in my heart the words you speak to me.¹¹⁶

¹¹¹ Page 149

¹¹² The Postscript is handwritten at the bottom of page 147.

¹¹³ PB inserted "From Mrs Damiani" by hand at the top of the page.

¹¹⁴ "7-!{mystic}7!" is handwritten by the author at the top of the page.

¹¹⁵ Page 152

¹¹⁶ "Damiani" is inserted next to the signature in a different hand.



L24.153

153 - 154

Astrological Chart for 10:00AM London Oct, 21 1898
From Robert Molinsky and Jeff Cox drawn up by Tim Smith

Extract: None

L24.155

155 - 156

Letter from Antonio¹¹⁷
Wisdom's Goldenrod Ltd., Box 5801 Rt. 414 Valois, N.Y. 14888¹¹⁸
Undated

I have been longing to write you Dear P.B.,

and mention a few items... for your consideration. Before doing so, I would like once again to express to you my gratitude.

To begin with the cottage is now completed... it's warm and cozy and a few finishing touches are required but they must be postponed until such a time as its use is determined. It is practically air-tight; so heat loss - electric heating controlled by a simple thermostat. And the cellar or basement is very dry. It would make wonderful storage area... equipped with steel shelving that accommodates a variety of arrangements. It is true that the cottage is just a cottage - and not a mansion but what it lacks in the way of luxury we may be able to make up by way of services. At any rate my dear P.B. I believe that now I may be mature enough (?) to consider and evaluate objectively your needs, and ways and means to conform to them.

I would only add to the entire list of pro and cons my personal desire and request to be of service to the 'world honored one.'

Another¹¹⁹ item that required mentioning: Victor Mansfield will be in Geneva this January¹²⁰ to attend a conference. Of course he would like very much to see you... if it can be arranged. Needless to say I am very pleased with his devotion towards you, but what we had in mind was the possibility of your transference to Valois and the need for someone here to make a preliminary survey of your belongings and the best way to transfer them to New York. Mr Mansfield would be excellent for this task. His

¹¹⁷ "D" is handwritten in the top right corner of the page.

¹¹⁸ Address appears in the letterhead.

¹¹⁹ Page 156

¹²⁰ Underlined in a different hand with "Ex" handwritten in the left margin.

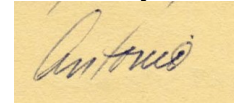
practical efficiency and capability I can vouch for. Of course all this is contingent upon the decision... but I cannot ignore this opportunity to have someone there if it is favorable. Also he will be travelling alone. Miss Betty Anderson has finished your frock, would you like her to send it? Where to!

And still P.B. the awe and wonder of it all! The mystery and miracle of your visit, the inner understanding that {been} manifesting and revealing the inconceivable... quickly... the victory is being established. How difficult to be worthy

I wish you would make some sort of request - something you need - anything that would embody in a physical way my devotion constantly, and with increase!

Of course all of us here are holding our breath

As ever bound by love,



L24.157

157 - 158

Letter from Tony to Romaine¹²¹

Undated

Romaine, my dear

I was prepared to visit you as we had planned - for all arrangements were made according to our last discussion

Somehow my intentions were dismantled when I spoke to you - for I feel the {lack} of {another} {liaison} (or was it my own {tenacity} disguised?) Anyway I did feel sad about the finality with which you spoke.

I cannot claim to understand P.B.'s intentions, yet I discerned through his wink of eternity a suggestion that you would join me in making this a center not only as a philosophic forum but an occult book store... involve you in this {mid} world - to the extent where intense effort and study, hard work at times true, but gloriously rewarding... I not only would involve you - but also some of your money... to the extent of {illegible}... I {illegible} had papers drawn up... however this would in no way have interfered with your freedom. To come and go would remain with you. If it succeed financially... well and good - if not I am prepared for an otherwise. This is the {spade} work, to make some aware of these¹²² teachings. It is in my opinion possible to use a commercial establishment towards that end... With this generation however, a certain 'intellectual sophistication' is a necessity. One must be or have an acquaintance with many facets of the esoteric doctrine. And to that extent one must try to equip himself

¹²¹ "Tony - Roma" is written at the top of the page in a different hand.

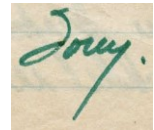
¹²² Page 158

for the dissemination. You must understand this is not my idea. The inward obligation may be mine... the ideals are clearly outlived in Spiritual Crisis.

We would like you to consider this home as yours... but unlike an ashram, and when ever it suits you - visit us. I consider the (200?) as a loan... and my heart goes out to you full with gratitude.

I shall write to P.B., what I may possibly be a last letter. It will not be concerned with the store. Rather one more last attempt to return to a status in meditation that made life - liveable. For me, every thought, feeling and sensation, is like an open wound that is open and burns with every movement of the soul.

as ever with love and sincere affection



L24.159

159 - 164

Letter from Tony

Undated

Dear P.B.,

A hasty postscript to my previous letter. Probably accompanying this one - for they were mailed together - a letter from David you man (I enclosed) wherein he explains what 'appeared' as an error, that is your invitation that he could visit you. It seemed that he did not request, at least outwardly - such an interview, but I understand that he reverently prayed for it... and of course he felt your answer - through Romaine - was inspired. So, in a sense - there is no mistake here, except mine. However, I thought you should know the details and when you see them inquire further to this interesting revelation.

After Richard Platek's return who assumed a more interested and consumed part in the group - a meeting was arranged wherein they discussed the possibility of purchasing a farm with a house on it and turning it into a study center. I am aware - of course of your distaste of organizations... and how they corrupt the 'way of individuation'... but so far this group has avoided that. Or any rate - and I'm not excluding the possibility of unconscious transmission on my part - this was¹²³ my intention as soon as the store was in a position to carry it; and as a matter for fact Steve already opened an account and started to save money with that purpose in mind. Keeping the store as out 'face in the street' and means of support. And also continuing with introductory lectures. I might mention - that in this regard - Steve has been the most truly responsible and accountable.

I¹²⁴ am still of the 'feeling' that this is the right away. A mature responsibility and active care of possessions is required. And Steve has been acquiring these traits.¹²⁵

This has been a source of amazement to me - his father - I know he would like to see you but hesitates since the store would be left, 'not properly attended.' However I can arrange to take vacation - providing I know six weeks in advance and mind the store for him, until his return. At any rate and to return to the idea of a study center - we have in mind to study these doctrines with some concentrated intensity... and in small selected groups. Large groups always force the understanding to reach the lowest common denominator. Also to be included is a library for members use. Membership does not imply subscribing to any limitation of one's personal freedom. However certain rules - governing out relationships for maintaining it - must be followed. The attempt will be to follow a philosophic idea. And since the interest ins basically educational - not religious, it will not be along the lines of an ashram. Perhaps¹²⁶ by the time you get visitors from Ithaca - some further developments will have taken place... at lease the pro and cons will be available for your inspection

Of course, any position I take will be opposed by Romaine... and from my narrow understanding and meagre psychological insights I suspect that incorporated into her will is a denial, a protest, perhaps even a hurt that is from a distant past. Jungians would probably describe it differently - an animus projection. Whatever, the fact remains her {viability} to relate is enormous

The¹²⁷ group however has learned - if anything - that only compassion can deliver us from the ego's artfulness and cunning... and with that as our magic talisman we can get out of some very delicate and ticklish situations. For as I expressed it to you recently - we use whatever means are at our disposal to seize upon ignorance, expose it. Piece by piece (psychologically) or in larger chunks (metaphysically) by applying the ax to the roots. In any case, there is no ignoring the level of understanding the individual works with... in order to be truly effective. We have taken your remarks about the philosophic discipline quite seriously.

The rest of your titles in paperback will be brought you when the next visitor comes. I would be interested in knowing - if you would consider submitting 'Indian Philosophy and Modern Culture' for reprint? (as paperback)¹²⁸

Crystal Warren approached me with soul eyes - and pleading... likewise Gary Borgida - Ever since I return from my visit - and the advice to strive for balance in general, as a disciplined middle way... I have been intimidated by their very sincere attempts. So that I wonder who teaches? who learns?

again, and forever eternally grateful.

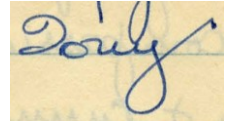
¹²⁴ Page 161

¹²⁵ "ask T remove PB photo {from} bookstore or group use" is written in a different hand at the end of this Paragraph.

¹²⁶ Page 162

¹²⁷ Page 163

¹²⁸ PB inserted "No - it is too dated" by hand.



P.S. I would like to remark here that the emphasis I have put on psychology for many is not that I am unaware of some the 'occult' explanations but rather is more helpful

For example: R. Steiner points out that we apply the same formative forces for processes of consciousness and of life, only in different functionings and in a metamorphosis. "Man thinks with the same forces with which he grows and lives!

Jung on the other hand prefers to the instincts as pictorial representations of the archetypes... that when thinking get too far removed from its biological foundations - problems arise... etc.

One advantage of this latter is that he is using western ways of thinking to bring them around to seeing the rather obvious - naming the 'unconscious'

But my preference is for Steiner.

L24.165

165 - 166
Incomplete letter from {Unknown}
June 72¹²⁹

Ellimay is still her saintly self and exudes love and humility for your holding her in the "white light" and Tony is still brooding over his chicks clucking with approval whenever they pull something off which they seem to be doing - so his life is sparkling as is his mind -- he is still your bhakta regardless of his exalted jnani status!

L24.167

167 - 170
Letter from Tony
Undated

My dear P.B.,

I'm sending you this forgotten greeting from Mr A Kumar and I thought to include a short note plus a thank you from Ella May and myself... sincerely yours... your request for Margret Licata address.

1 Brocton Lane Kings Park
Long Isl. N.Y.

I am of the opinion that you have seen a cross section of the group... enough to 'judge' and consider the rest. Kurt {Liehtmann} is one among those whom I believe

¹²⁹ Date is handwritten at the bottom of the page.

may speak knowingly about the project I have in mind, and of which I hinted at somewhat hesitatingly in my last letter. Please feel free to speak to him.

Even though it may seem to me that somehow I am 'called' upon to act out a role in the imagination first, before the actuality... it nonetheless is calling forth the understanding. An understanding which has considerably (my interpretation) objectified my 'own subjectivity' I have reason to suspect it will reappear in more subtle and illusive disguises, I mention all this to bring into conscious focus the issue. Is¹³⁰ it possible to consider the step by step building up of a center devoted to the study of pure philosophy by so many self seeking egotists? A dedication and devotion beyond the symbolic gesture? My experience with this group and many others that float through is definitely in the affirmative. I have been embarrassed by the wealth of enthusiasm and sincerity exhibited, or that quietly dominated their behaviour.

The group as such in their interaction with one another have been delivered from the guile of egotism by their charity and compassion. The next point which I wish to clarify is the misunderstanding that I believe Romaine may have communicated to you. The center as such could not exclude the proper reverence that is due to any {exponent} of the 'Wisdom Teaching' but this is not to say that I would be turned into a personality cult. Appreciation for the inspired metaphysical artistry and the philosophic sadhana revealed for our benefit (westerners) by your writings and person are not to be brushed aside lightly either. A balance is needed here. Romaine does me an injustice - in thinking or implying that my cherished memories {or} personal regard for you is for public exhibition. Those thoughts {harp on} my {vitals}, and philosophic blood is spilled. However I suspect you understand her difficulties differently¹³¹ and wiser than is conceivable on my part. There are two views which I will mention; one I derive from astrology - at least my interpretation - and the other based on psychological premises. A Leo ascendant infatuates her, overwhelms would be better put... and the outflows are {archaic} and infantile almost primitive in the meantime a {stellium} in the 10 house (self image objectified) {Gemini} suggests protest or better still the exhaustion of inferior characteristics. Saturn will soon go back over the {stellium} and I suspect many old personality structures will be revised. The process is painful - any attempt to change our habits is always interpreted fearfully. And in her case she may start running... From a Jungian viewpoint I suppose the interpretation would claim a need for her to develop the intellect. It would be impossible for her to see {illegible}. The animus would never permit that - at any rate having turned you into an absolute her opinions become dogmas and infallible - Discussion becomes a monologue... these two trends seem to be working conjointly and if she could be brought to see this - and cooperate with these influences then perhaps improvement... but none are so blind as those who will not see, and how could I be sure not to include myself?

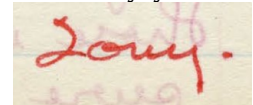
¹³⁰ Page 168

¹³¹ Page 169

I avoid any direct confrontation with Romaine - and allow others - to '{fraternize}' hoping to soften her total resentment. It doesn't matter what position I take, it polarize her into its opposite.

To return, about the notion of a center. As you are aware. I have about 65 acres. Of which about 3 acres are used for the house, grounds, fruit trees and a garden. There about 20 acres of meadow and woodland overlooking the lake, that are off by the side and which I think can be used for this purpose. The shell of a house can be bought and placed there... I still have a mortgage which will continue for five more years. But the location is restful and quite picturesque... that regardless of the outcome of the center, it could never be a financial loss. I am examining all the angles - and this one has an appeal. To have such a place (self-contained) where we could work, study and write without interference wither way would certainly be ideal. Please - Romaine may again misinterpret this to mean an ashram. Nothing could be further from my mind. A work house - yes - a cafe - nay. I move slowly - and avoid haste and am more relaxed in my being. But still obsessed with the notion of further inquiry into these teachings. I look in your direction and I am inspired and dismayed. What's been done is hardly preparation let alone admittance into the school of learning - even on {probation}!

again devotedly yours -



Please advise me which of your titles in paper you don't have. Some are being reprinted now and will be available soon.

L24.171

171 - 174

Letter from Tony

Undated

My Dear P.B.,

It may seem an impertinence and even a denial of whatsoever philosophic understanding I may claim to possess by saying thank you. The generous kindness shown to so many of us, has renewed our pledge and allegiance to those higher ideals and final goals. Somewhere in one of his books F. Schuon remarks that the being who has entered into the state of a Buddha accomplishes mysterious actions that are impossible to conceive and carried out without purpose and outside of any feeling of usefulness. This precisely expressed my inner bewilderment whenever I attempt to fathom and plumb the archetypal significance you brought to birth in me... let alone the {enigma} of P.B.

I am also grateful in another way.

From those that have visited you and returned, with water from the fountain of youth... we have been replenished and conserved

Some time ago I had a dream wherein I had a long conversation with Dr C Jung when it was almost over his face changed and you appeared... with the concluding remark that now I should understand why I had to spend so much time in these studies. Even then I was being guided... whenever I would allow it... towards ends unknown to me. For I have discovered here and there a thread that is leading me on to greater self knowledge... and delivering me from this conceptualizing self entanglement. Yet in some ways I have pushed hard, too hard to suddenly bring all my studies to a halt as you hinted at... but I am in doubt as to the meaning you implied.

From Richard I have learned that you were quite concerned about my health and suggested that he take over the class on the Hidden Teaching. Needless to say I have complied and am quite happy with the results so far... for among the many, he in particular I felt was best qualified to do so. I suspect that he has committed himself in some manner that I am unaware of... after seeing you

This of course leaves me free to do that task which constantly floats up into my consciousness... the suggestion and commentary on some sections in the Wisdom. I doubt my ability, but I have learned to doubt my doubts. The work needs being done, in turns of amplification and illustration... for the needs of this generation. A generation that seems too compensate for the one previous that was determined to suppress the religious function. However the present generation has been in my opinion purposely ill prepared and educated to understand the subtitles of this doctrine and least of all to grasp a creative vision when given, or presented as such without background or preparation. I consider it Jung's greatest contribution to our times... to point out how needful it is to teach people the art of seeing. "With a truly tragic delusion these theologians fail to see that it is not a matter of proving the existence of the light but of blind people who do not know that their eyes could see. that it is pointless to praise the light and preach if nobody can see it... How all this can be done without psychology... is frankly beyond my comprehension." I would like to add my feeble voice to these remarks by pointing out that the psychological immaturity with which I was confronted, and still am... I have noticed in others. And this problem becomes enormously complicated¹³² and inflated, destructively so when someone enters the quest with-out some sort of psychological guidance. At any rate these young questers have demonstrated a genuine desire to be acquainted with a psychological knowledge that is not brought over from the behaviour of rats, on the other hand I have noticed a very high handed and a most authoritarian attitude on the part of the 'Traditionalist' (among whom I include Guenon Shuon, Pallis Burkhardt, Coomaraswamy etc) in regard to the need of psychological knowledge. Although brilliant and intuitive in their grasp of the metaphysical doctrines yet a certain rigid and inflexible collective attitude seems to dominate their affairs. Almost (to use Jungian terms) as though the archetype of the (pseudo) wise old man is living out its life

through them. I play the game and manipulate concepts accordingly... but I doubt that the implied reconciliation between activity and tranquillity has been achieved... in them.

I might add that I also include in the metaphysic class... and intend to emphasize more strongly the neo-vedantins. I have always been fascinated by the names of Shankara, Mandana, Padmapada, Suresvaracarya etc and from modern times Malkani, Bhattacharya, Sub. Iyer. We have one of the finest libraries right here at Cornell. Nor do these students fail to make use of it, especially when titles and authors are mentioned. Your works provided them with the necessary key to open the treasures locked away in vaults. Books that have not seen the light of day for maybe seventy years!

We have taken for example a paragraph or two from the Wisdom and spent weeks examining in detail its ramifications from various levels. Then comparing and corroborating from traditional sources for furthering our depth of understanding. True we keep in mind that a 'creative vision' which contains transforming power must be handled with proper reverence but we also understand that it is our understanding that gets highlighted and our knowledge that gets more inwardized.

We use even astrology to try and grasp the 'form of the soul' with the jewel significance may be in the experiences that life affords. Although the procedures are somewhat experimental the results have proved interesting. A participation in universal meaning always arouses intense interest, the projection of the understanding affords me some clue or index into the labyrinth of their mind... and from there we can go on to an exhaustive analysis of mental presuppositions which interfere in the understanding of metaphysic.

But you may ask why all this elaborate apparatus... I would simply answer that my experience has been that most who claim to understand your latter writings do so with mythological consciousness, and quite frankly I must admit that that I have not met anyone (including myself) who has grasped the full import of the books. This is especially so with those students that have met you ages ago... despite the passage of years. The help has been coming through and I want to make the most use of it... a few others and myself will make the attempt to penetrate these teachings and pass it on to others, or at least share it with those that wish to

My aim is eventually establish a center for these studies... independent and in the service of jnana. Conceited! Ambitious! I hope to be excused on the grounds of devotion

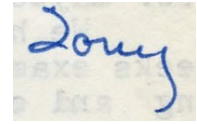
Anyway I have spilled out some motives that I am aware of... perhaps there is more in the background

Just¹³³ received a letter from a Ohio person, that wishes to establish a book-store and center for the group in Ohio and business purposes. Seems to be altruistically motivated. Anyway it seems more practical than D. French's idea of a half-million dollar temple for the wise. She is in business for herself, and runs a couple or so beauty

shops... and friends with Inez {Bealty} with whom you spoke. I plan to see them next week... and the others in Ohio.

She knows nothing about books or book business.

Again, my dear P.B., I can pay with sincere devotion



L24.175

175 - 176

Letter from Tony

Undated

It seems an act of unkindness to burden you with this epistle, but it does not need to be answer unless you decide otherwise

Perhaps you have a desire to hear of the new location that the store has? It seems to be a compromise between your suggestions and the circumstances around. It has a very nice appearance, panel walls, florescent lighting, three bathrooms, tile floor and ceiling, central air conditioning etc. And best of all the rent is very, unbelievably low. I doubt that it could be duplicated. One hundred and seventy five dollars monthly. Last year the store started making money and except for the month when we moved, has been steadily doing so. We may very well be over the hump. Since Steve is much more practical in these matters, he is in complete charge. My concern is with bringing in better and better titles, a carefully selected list.

The classes are restricted to a floating thirty... (each class) consider all toll about One hundred people but out of that perhaps seventy or so are really concerned. We do not water down any of the teaching... many find the metaphysic class too difficult and are turned away; that cannot be helped if they are not willing to transcendently reflect and deepen their point of view with the aid of the Hidden Teaching. Mr Platek is very thorough and places the preliminary portions within their grasp, the rest is up to them. The standards will be raised and not lowered

Last week I was interviewed on T.V., a half hour show on astrology, many claimed that the content of the show was above their head but the M.C. and producer highly approved and thought it was time for a meaningful expose, and that the psychological level was extremely interesting. Suggested a return... I attempted a re-integration of our fragmentary understanding of astrology back into metaphysical principles

Romain visited us for a short and quick week only to take off again, she is expected to return next week. Her extreme sensitivity will require all the tact I can bring, perhaps here more than with anyone else the feeling arises that I am anticipating in my imagination a future development.

The most difficult part of my job is now in the winter the travelling to and fro, for the rest it is that part of the year where I have some leisure to dream and study and especially during the long winter nights when I can sit in front of my fireplace and lovingly recall those glorious days I spent with you in Montauk, hardly appreciating them

I have been invited by the people in Ohio to visit them for a few days and have informal discussions on some aspects of mentalism. I am in the process of making arrangements. There is one person in particular a Mrs Dorothy French that frightens me. She is determined and has so expressed herself with a notion to build a center devoted to the 'higher purposes' At first I was amused, but latter informed by some others that she is known to keep her promises and be of an iron will. When speaking to her I had the very distinct feeling that here was an old soul and yet she hardly seemed to possess any artistic temperament, she is known as an artist... portrait painter of considerable skill. My confusion gets confounded... she is hardly what I would call a student, as of now she is engaged in making money by going into some sort of commercial enterprise, the selling of household articles already she is in the thirty thousand dollars a year bracket. And plans to get together a few hundred thousand to actualize her project. She further insisted that I will have to be a member, I'm flattered and dazed. I enjoy and am happy here, besides Columbus is a huge city... but I believe that my real {dejection} is otherwise. I do not wish - in these matters - to be under the thumb of those people who are concerned with matters other than self-knowledge. I find it difficult to believe

I'm¹³⁴ well aware that this letter is badly put together, rambling on and hoping in the meanwhile to include what ever pertinent information may interest you. Did Anna {Prym} mention to you about the astrological charts? I could not find them, we searched thoroughly, and I think they were left with you. At any rate please give her my address and I will make up new charts

If there are any books that you wish me to acquire for you please don't hesitate... I had the notion to send you some of the later writings of the traditionalist for your opinion, but already we are imposing

I have also started restraining those people that wish to see you, and that they should consider very carefully before writing you As an opinion I think you did rightly with John Paul, certain immaturity surrounds the spring of action

I do not understand my Dear P.B., why this urge to understand more and more does not weaken. This inordinate craving almost amounts to a concupiscence, and although not attended with the anxiety of former times it becomes a passion. Sometime ago I saw as in a dream vision myself making an intense an yearningful declaration of Love to Noel... but the distinct feeling arose within me that it was to my 'soul' that this sacramental perception was directed. True enough I hung a very thick projection on to her. I gather that this relationship to my own 'unconscious' is being symbolized

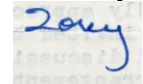
Already or rather too soon I have begun to enjoy the taste of sweetness whenever I dismantle a layer of ignorance

I expect that soon I will be able to send you an outline on the chapter that we at the store are interested in working out in more detail

Jim Covell has gotten in touch with me, the sort of letter that indicates an interest in reviving the past. Perhaps I may get him to show me some of his writings. Publishers in this country are looking for just such manuscripts on meditation, eastern philosophy. He is very inwardly determined and refuses to accept (not necessarily incorporate) philosophy as a social function.

Enough

devotedly,



that many of these 'Gurus' can be psychological so naive! It is for this reason that I regard the discipline so seriously and why, for example something like Jung's concept of the shadow is so important. Let me at least beware of the possibility that what I object to in a person or teaching is a projection; and that through {this} and the relation that it establishes I'm supposed to learn something of my own unconsciousness.

L24.177

177

Letter from Tony

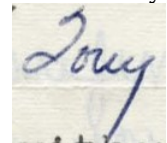
Undated¹³⁵

Dear P.B.

Just a brief note... Richard Goldberg and his wife would like to have an interview with you. They are going to vacation in Europe this summer. There is no need for you to concern yourself about accommodations for them. The letter sent me is behind and their address is indicated.

Letter will follow to express my gratitude... now would be impossible perhaps some deed, a life philosophically lived for one day?

devotedly



P.S. Found a soup powder without salt Becket Movement and Emptiness Unbounded worlds on the way

¹³⁵ "GOLDBERG" is handwritten in the top left corner of the page.

L24.178

178

Letter from Richard and Sandra to Tony
200 Sanders Rd. Apt 1, Buffalo N.Y. 1416
4/20/71

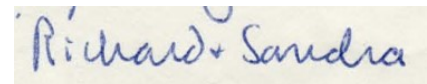
Dear Tony,

Sandie and I enjoyed our visit with you during our last Ithaca journey.

We have been continuing our plans for Europe, though we have had some difficulties arranging a charter flight leaving May 31 and returning June 25. It is as definite as a charter can be. As we discussed, It would be fortunate to arrange an interview with P.B. if possible. I feel somewhat hesitant about asking for any of his time, though a short meeting would be very significant and humbly appreciated. Would you please forward our request for an interview (possibly during the first few weeks of June, but actually at his convenience.)

Thank you, regards to the family,

Love



200 Sanders Rd. Apt 1
Buffalo N.Y. 1416

P.S. Let us repay you postage

L24.179

179 - 180

Letter from Tony¹³⁶
Jan 25 1971¹³⁷

Dr Paul Brunton
{Casella Postale} 105
Ch 6902 Lugano-Paradiso
Ticino, Switzerland

Dear P.B.

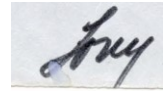
¹³⁶ "D" is handwritten in the top right corner of the page.

¹³⁷ Postmarked date.

Flight is scheduled for Feb 21 - I expect to see Kenneth before I leave and pump him for whatever practical advice and information I may. So you need not answer on that point. Of course I leave in your hands what ever arrangements you think best.

If there is any particular item that you may wish from U.S. please let me know. The Arrangements are for us to fly to Milan and the flight date is schedule Feb 21 -

Again, my humble devotion but now tinged with trepidation



L24.181

181 - 182

Letter from Tony to Kenneth

Valois, New York

Undated

Thank you, Kenneth

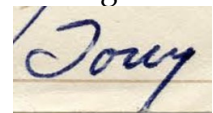
Even disagreeable news sounds pleasant coming from you. I am gradually getting orientated to the changes that have taken place since I worked with books... And I have succeeded in establishing contact with many of the British publishers. So it's not too bad...

Of course it is premature to make any judgements about the store at this time that there is a need for this type - I no longer have any doubt... but whether I am sufficiently acute as a business man to make a go of it... aye there's the rub!

Some of the young teachers at Cornell University have decide to write and ask P.B., if he would consider being Philosopher at Residence..! There is searching many of the younger generation

You do remember of course - that my invitation to visit us is a standing one - if ever...

Cordial regards¹³⁸



¹³⁸ Kenneth inserted "DAMIANI" next to the signature.