

Readers' Letters 25 (Notable Persons)

Editor's Note: The Readers' Letters files consist of correspondence between PB and his students, followers, fellow philosophers, spiritual leaders, friends and family. Most of these letters were sent to PB by readers of his books. They are in no particular order, and there may be letters by the same person in other files as well. Most of the letters in this file were written between 1936 and 1988.

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

L25.001

1 – 8

Incomplete duplicate of L25.311

Extract: None

L25.009

9 – 12

Incomplete duplicate of L25.317

Extract: None

L25.013

13 – 14

Duplicate of L25.319

Extract: None

L25.015

15 - 16
Duplicate of L25.320

Extract: None

L25.017

17 - 24
Incomplete duplicate of L25.321

Extract: None

L25.025

25 - 30
Incomplete Duplicate of L25.325

Extract: None

L25.031

31 - 32
Incomplete duplicate of L25.329

Extract: None

L25.033

33 - 34
Incomplete duplicate of L25.325

Extract: None

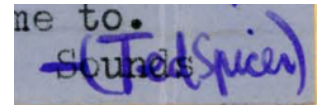
L25.035

35 - 38
Letter from Sigurgeir Sigurdsson¹ and note from Ted Spicer

¹ Properly Sigurðsson.

Isafjord
11th Dec. 1938²

Yes, I met Sigurdson from Iceland and he was a very fine man. In his capacity as Bishop, he will be able to give a maximum effect to that which he learns as your Pupil. I know he wanted to be one, and it is good to know he has made the request. I should like to go and see him in his own Country one day, as he invited me to. An island -- with a few people and no roads or motor cars!!



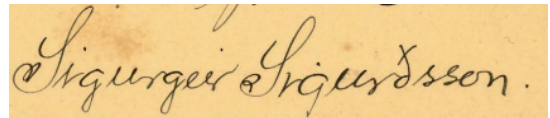
Dear Mr Brunton!

I thank you very much your letter from Amerika. I was very truly glad that you remembered³ me.

Next year I am going to live in Reykjavik, the capital. I have newly been elected bishop of Iceland. I hope you will send me your thoughts, I am always sure you can help me even more than any other man.

With Christmas Greetings and every good wish

from
Your sincere friend



L25.039

39 - 40

Postcard from F. Yeats-Brown⁴
Kitzbuhel {illegible} Bath Club⁵
31 Jan '38

Paul Brunton Esq
99 St John's⁶ Avenue
London NW3
England

I was delighted to get your card and know your address. I am starting a book on Europe next week and going to Berlin, Vienna, the Balkans, Ankara, Rome etc. I wish

² "1939" is handwritten on the note from Ted Spicer.

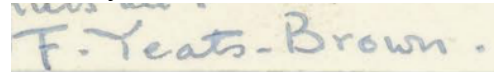
³ Page 37

⁴ "Y" and a small triangle are handwritten in the bottom right corner of the page.

⁵ "c/o Bath Club {Dover} St." is written in a different hand.

⁶ "99 St John's" is circled in a different hand with "91" handwritten above the address.

you would pray for me! I hope we may meet in May when I return. Meanwhile all good wishes. If you have time to send a card, Bath club always finds me.



L25.041

41 - 42

Letter from PB to Auriel Slater
c/o National & Grindlays Ltd, 13, St. James's Square, London, S.W.1., England
June, 14th, 1965

Dear Auriel Slater,

Your letters of last year were received long after you sent them, as I had to leave New Zealand rather suddenly in February 1964 and have been travelling ever since.

It has not been possible for me to attend to any correspondence other than that connected with the purpose of my journey. So please accept my apologies for this long silence.

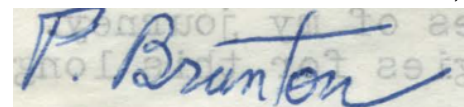
I trust by now that your teaching experience has been fruitful to you, as I am sure it must be to the children who are fortunate enough to be your pupils. I certainly wish you all success in this carrier, because you have the right ideal of serving humanity both spiritually and culturally.

Concerning Bob Taylor I have neither written to him nor heard from him since I left N.Z. However I have looked through the Horoscopes of yourself and your mother. In the latter case, there are strong opposition within and without hindering the expression of strong favourable positions. I am not able to calculate precisely but judge that the two sextiles to the Sun should produce good improvements during the two or three year period from now.

As⁷ regards your own chart, the large concentration of planets in Germany points to the teaching work very markedly. The aspects to Venus and Uranus show good spiritual and musical possibilities. You need to guard against nerves affecting health. At present I do not know when I should be able to come to N.Z. again, as I can see only a few months ahead just now.

Please, tell your mother that I am sending her my very good wishes for these coming twelve months; and to both of you the hope that you would come closer to the Overself during that time.

With Peace,



2 inc.

Dear P.B.,

It seems as though new and wonderful thoughts keep coming to mind these days and I think, "I must remember to write that to P.B.!" -- yet when I actually attempt writing I can't recall a blessed one of them! I suppose this is because the thoughts themselves are not sufficiently important to write to you about, and are important only insofar as I understand them fully and then act or think upon them. They appear in the most "natural" way -- during meditation, or when I am making beds or doing the dishes, or while I am driving you station wagon along Dune Road.

These thoughts -- they are really inner promptings, aren't they? -- have carried you Sarira along many new, surprising and instructive roads lately. In fact, they first began appearing on the seventh of June just a few minutes after the huge sky-liner bore you away into the blue morning. It was as though a firm, unswayable determination had taken over to keep me so physically active that there wouldn't be time to brood over your departure.

That first week was really hectic, thank heaven. It was also loaded with mistakes, for it was during this time that my change-over from a lazy lady of leisure into a housekeeper-cook-cleaning woman-nurse-chauffeur took place. The mistakes were, of course, almost all my own, but I tried, and continue to try, to keep my mind open, my mouth shut and learn as much as possible.

Yours and Eva's most welcome letter, together with the superb Philosophic Cosmogony, arrived the very morning of our departure for Quogue; and thoughts of you and the disc-work so illuminated my actions that they put a smile on my face and heart that no amount of confusion and difficulty could remove.

What an opportunity it is to study the Cosmogony! I do thank you! When reread and studied in its light, all the previous material you have let me see becomes more clearly understandable and takes on deeper meaning. This is true of the notes, too. I wish I could tell you all the things that especially helped me, but this would lead to repeating para after para.

Thank God for this new knowledge which is now being given to the world. Thank God for the Messenger who was chosen above all others to give it to the world.

As⁹ you specified in yours and Eva's letter, I will keep the typed transcriptions and disc here until another five or six discs have come in and then only send the result

⁸ "W" is handwritten in the top right corner of the page.

⁹ Page 45

to California, unless, of course, you would now prefer otherwise. (Incidentally, I like your new notepaper: it's such a perfect size and so good looking!)

To return for a moment to those "thoughts" I mentioned in the first two paras, it seems as though some of them are imparting an awareness of the faults and limitations which have been acting as obstructions -- and in easy stages, so that I can recognize them for what they are and take measures to overcome them. But there are so many! How truly is this called the Long Path!

Yet the Short Path continues alongside of it, for the invisible reality of the "I-Principle" is always here awaiting only remembrance of it. Without the Grace of Higher Forces acting through me, I could never have made this change-over from a would-be thinker to an out-right doer. Just in learning how to drive, for one example: after an hour of Henry's kind and impatient instruction, I was driving with almost as much ease and confidence as a veteran driver. How wonderful it is to feel -- and actually see -- the results of placing the mind and body in conscious cooperation with the Higher Will.

Yet, how much more wonderful it would be to induce this rebellious mind to release its grip on time and transiency and illusion, and to penetrate to the still centre of Reality.

All the old aspiration has returned, only now it is vastly intensified. Sometimes, the day will come when awareness of unity with God will hold me, like the mother cat holds her kitten. Until that timeless time, I must hand on to my inadequate sense-reasoning as the next best thing, like the baby monkey hands on to its mother, mustn't I? All the opposites, all the troubling paradoxes, all the truths which seemingly oppose each other, all the profundities in the simplicities have only led me to yearn more deeply for the awareness which unifies all. How well I know, now, that reasoning alone is far too incomplete! For this reason I spend two, and sometimes three and four, periods a day in meditation -- but fruitlessly so far. I have read and reread what you wrote in "The Quest of the Overself" upon the subject of concentration. Still it eludes me. But I won't give up trying and hoping for success.

Sometimes I wonder if the whole of the Quest is not simply a process of elimination, in which case it might be simpler and kinder to clonk me on the head and be done with it.

I¹⁰ don't think I'll go back to the city this summer. There is really no reason to do so. Also, I don't care for the idea of having someone come in and mix everything up. I keep my own foods separate from the boys and Henry's. Unfortunately, I do have to cook meat -- and I can't help but wonder if ordering this meat from the market and then preparing it for others is not almost as bad as eating it oneself? Naturally, I would prefer not to -- but it seems to be my duty.

Henry and the boys certainly are looking very well, although, last week, Henry surprised everybody by suddenly shaving off his mustache! He looks sort of bare without it; however, this is only the boys and my opinion -- everybody else approves of

this change. (This kind of thing is a major even in Quogue, or, at least, in this household.)

Henry also seems considerably happier now about my taking over the household duties. He does seem somewhat confused by my waiting on him, though. Or, perhaps, "embarrassed" is a better word. It's really funny: for years he has been threatening me with the very tasks I have now voluntarily undertaken! Actually, I like housework and cooking, and I feel that I'm learning all the time. I wonder if this is what you meant when you said, "I'll be sending along enough work to keep you from being lazy!"

P.B., you are amazing!

We do miss seeing you!

Affectionately,

There's no need to keep this or to answer it. It's only a sort of report.
I'm sorry that this isn't better written: there have been continual interruptions.

L25.049

49 - 52

Letter from Sherry
holiday house, Quogue, L.I., New York
3 August, 1954

Dear P.B.,

The disc bearing your messages in your own voice is most gratefully received. Thank you for remembering your Sarira.

I transcribed your treasured letter immediately so that Henry, who was here at the time, might also enjoy your personal news as well as the references to himself and the latest word of Dan. Henry asked me to be sure and send you his very best, and to say that he wishes to thank you for mentioning him. Also, he wishes to assure you that during our own recent heat-wave, any slight air-conditioning was desirable. (His words.) He wants to thank you, too -- as do I -- for thinking of Phoenix's problem about Dan, and he will give Phoenix your message. He said this just as he was going out the door headed for New York. I suggested that he might write to you himself and he replied he is going to.

We are delighted to hear that you have found an appropriate residence in a kindly climate. Your description of it makes it sound like a welcome change from city life. May it prove to be a place for inspiration and personal satisfaction to you! (We're also pleased to hear that you're enjoying the added comfort of Bermuda shorts! Henry and I do, too!)¹¹

¹¹ An illegible word is handwritten in the right margin by this paragraph.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of my time in connection with household activities here in Quogue, but need I say that my first duty will always be to any service that you will allow me? Yet it seems that all activities, regardless of what they appear to be, are a form of service to P.B., as well as the means for acquiring knowledge and experience. But it is encouraging to hear that you know these present experiences to be valuable ones! I wonder, in that way. In any case, time's own Grace will reveal what lies behind your words. Meanwhile, I certainly enjoy having outlets for the old pent-up energy. Household activities require a certain amount of time, it's true, but there is also free time and I can always make time for more important work. You know infinitely better than I do what I need. The ego is not qualified to judge itself. While I long to learn more, I hesitate to trouble you further. So, in this -- as in all other matters -- Thy Will be done.

The work on myself goes on. It's a slow and not seldom painful process, but it does continue. Activities here, even though mostly menial, make the days seem longer, fuller and less monotonous than in the past. Planning and preparing meals and doing the so-called chores, plus taking¹² the boys to the beach keeps me physically occupied, while also allowing a certain amount of time for reflection, assimilation and consolidation of the material you have already given me. I bought a large notebook and have put into it almost all the typewritten work you have entrusted to me. Thus, the Philosophic Cosmogony, the Ananda and Gurunathan material, Notes I - XXVIII, my own notes on your conversations, James Covell's review of Powys' book, the unnumbered "extra" notes including the extracts from "Secret Tibet," etc., my notes on Conze's book on Buddhism, and, now, the Philosophic interpretation of Genesis have joined forces under its single cover as well as, I hope, to some extent in me. This cherished treasure-chest of material spends long and precious hours with me on the beach, on our lawn and on solitary expeditions in the station wagon -- usually to some spot where the sound of lapping water and the song of birds form a restful background for the stark penetrating music of its words. These words, in turn, form the foreground as well as background for all thoughts activities. Your words are in me always. Their incoming is steadily forcing out the old ones which are no longer useful and taking their place.

The acquisition of a driver's license has proved a happy event. The newness of being able to drive has not yet worn off and, next to typing, it is my "favorite" form of self-indulgence at present. Hardly a day goes by without a drive along the dune road, or else, exploratorily, along some of the country roads that interweave across the Island. P.B.'s station wagon is my portable "retreat."

At other times, when the children are in swimming and Henry is golfing, there are opportunities for solitary, meditative walks along the beach. Some deeply inspiring recollections have been uncovered at these times. I seem to see and understand many things more fully. I try to hold these thoughts upon returning to the herd, but it's rather like trying to carry a sea-water in a sea-shell without spilling it. Still, practice is supposed to eventually make perfect; so I'll continue to practise, come what may.

Recently, my “good” brother, Justin (Jay), spent three days in Quogue with us. I felt that there was a definite reason for his visit even before he arrived -- for I had been praying for Grace and Guidance, and the thought that, of all the people I know in the east, Jay was the only one with whom I felt an affinity, was followed almost immediately by the letter announcing his unexpected visit. (His first visit to these shores, too.) As always, I was impressed by his sweet disposition, his thoughtful consideration of others and by what seems to me to be his inherent humility. He does seem to truly live most of his ideals -- and they are of the Highest kind. Perhaps the Message behind his coming here at this particular¹³ time lay simply in the example of his person and character, for he appears to have travelled far on the Long Path (although he knows it as the Religious road) and especially in his dealings with the boys. He was so gentle and patient with them, always looking for the good in any situation and turning minor irritations into jokes that made us all laugh. He also made me see clearly how far I still am from becoming what I must be.

And yet, like Henry, his “spiritual” thirst appears satisfied and he is quite content to stay where he is, so to speak. Something like longing creeps into me when I witness his quiet acceptance of surface values and of what he believes to be both unaskable and unanswerable -- even though I know Nature will not allow him to remain there forever. Then I wonder, selfishly I know, if there will ever be rest and satisfaction for this sometimes weary aspirant, for philosophy reveals there will always be further veils to penetrate and that there is no end to one’s journey. And without beginning or end to the process, there cannot be any means of measuring one’s progress except relatively between two or more individuals. In this sense, I feel that Jay is far ahead of me, for he leads a far more selfless life than I do. But, even this very selflessness limits him, for it seems to keep him where he is -- while, in restless pursuit, I may hope to someday catch up and even pass him. I suppose there are as many measuring points on the Quest as there are individual entities in the universe, and all of us are “ahead” or “behind” in some respects. The four sides of the psyche seems to cover an inexhaustible amount of territory...

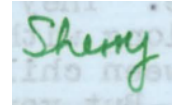
There is no need for my going into any personal problems here. They exist, of course, or I wouldn’t be growing up along with the rest of humanity in a state half way between childhood and maturity, as you once pointed out. But you once travelled this way, too, although it must have been a long, long time ago, and all the obstructions of and by the ego, all the self-deceptions and all the realizations, as they appear, one by one, are known to you. For some unaccountable and wonderful reason you have undertaken to hasten my human evolution, and for this I can only offer my everlasting gratitude and service. So many times a day I pause to marvel at the miracle that brought me into your orbit, and to bow my head in wordless, reverent thanks for your Grace and Guidance, your kindness and interest.

I’m sorry and ashamed, too, not to have written to Eva sooner and will do so now. I’ve wanted to write to her -- even tried to, several times -- but for some reason it just wasn’t forthcoming. That morning when you were leaving for the west coast she

mentioned something about how she wouldn't know me when we next met because I would be so changed, and I guess I'm ashamed that there¹⁴ haven't been greater changes as yet. But I will write to her now, and will keep it light and frothy, with news of the children and Henry, etc., which is probably what she would like to hear anyway. I would appreciate it if you would not tell her about his. I'm sorry, too, about the suitcase not being delivered. The man at Stern's (our Sterns) assured me that you would have a specially made one -- in grey, to match the smaller case -- by July fourth, and I gave him a check for it. However, Henry now tells me that this man called the apartment after I had left for Quogue to say it couldn't be done at the present, or some such thing. Henry neglected to tell me this, unfortunately, although he says he did, so I was under the impression it had reached you long ago. Henry is a little careless about such things. But I feel that you would say it is a small matter and to forget about it, especially since you don't need the case for the time being: so I will notify the Sterns man to return the check, and will await your further word about when you wish it sent to you. I'm very grateful to you for mentioning the matter.

I haven't had the opportunity to study the latest work on the Philosophic interpretation of Genesis, although it has been transcribed, and shall start on it right after the letter to Eva has been sent off. I can see that this is leading into a new field, and it looks promising. Thank you for sending this to me. I'll ask Henry to bring down my old Bible so that I can carry on in this direction.

With love to you and Eva



L25.053

53 - 56

Letter from Sarira

holiday house, Quogue, L.I., New York

15 August, 1954

Dear P.B.,

Something has happened which I feel strongly urged to write to you about, if I may. It may or may not be important, but it has brought about a sharp change in thought, and, as such, perhaps I should report on it.

Recently, "The Apology" was read for the first time. It left a very deep impression; I was greatly moved by it -- but that is another matter. During the reading of "The Apology," I kept a dictionary close by for frequent use in expanding and finding derivations of words, many of them familiar, but, as it turned out, only surface acquaintances up to now.

It proved so interesting and informative that I immediately set out to do the same thing with "The Philosophic Cosmogony." Even such words as "to record" (recordari, to remember, plus cordis, the heart or mind); to simulate" (... to assume the appearance of without the reality); "electricity;" "atom;" "proton;" "neutron," etc., came under study. The last four give a general idea of the direction towards which my thoughts were led; one word led to another and so on.

For the first time, I began to feel a keen interest in the scientific approach -- even though I don't know anyone less qualified or less prepared to undertake such an approach. However, I soon discovered that the dictionary (Webster's New Collegiate, 2nd edition; is there a better one you would care to recommend?) made a remarkably fine substitute for a college education.

The point is that within a very short time the transition from "a universe of real substance to a universe of substanceless thought-waves and thought-imaginings; a universe of motion which creates the make-believe of substance and form" was, at last established.

The first reaction was one of profound gratitude, as well as one of release from tension. It seemed so wonderful to know, to understand and, actually, to be able to prove for myself the unreality, the substanceless of the phenomenal world. And the wonder of it was that the world, with all its beauties and pleasure, yet remained. It was like having lost something one loved and having it returned. A certain degree of emotionalism accompanied this discovery but it took a good turn and fired me with determination to share my unexpected happiness -- which is like love -- with those around me. It will stick, I think, this determination. Already it has done some good and it is heart warming to see some results from even these early efforts -- particularly where Henry and Chris are concerned; but, of course, time, as well as effort, is needed to correct long-time-wrongs.

Side-by-side¹⁵ with this feeling of wanting to bring happiness to others, another quite different development has taken place. I don't know how to describe it, so I must ask your forgiveness for my inadequacies.

In the Philosophic interpretation of Genesis, you point out how we have changed our concepts of God through the ages, always clinging to the error of identifying God with manifestation. Now, although the concept of God as Mind is certainly the most reasonable one conceivable, I have had some difficulty adjusting myself to it. "Divine Law" is also very explicit, especially in that there are, as you point out, continual observable examples all around us and in ourselves. I don't know whether it is because I am unwittingly still seeking a "more personal" God, or whether I am simply too limited to comprehend these concepts of "Mind" and "Divine Law": - To me -- again probably because of my limitations -- Mind implies the existence of a Thinker and Law implies the existence of a Lawyer, Judge or some Being of super-intelligence behind it. Somehow I can't conceive of them as existing independently, i.e. without the latter "manifestations." Now, Socrates' divulgings of an inner oracle seem to coincide with

my own interpretation of the Overself, except that the latter seems to me to be more expansive -- if it truly prompts and guides one as well as admonishing him.

To be able to discover and prove my unity with the Overself is, of course, my deepest, greatest and most abiding desire. However, in addition to what has been said two seemingly impassable obstacles appear to be standing in the way -- and again I hope you will forgive my bluntness for speaking frankly.

The first is inevitable, I suppose, upon recognizing the fact that everything -- so far as we can reason -- is forever more reducible. (Sense-reasoning, rather than mind-knowing --?) In this case, how can there be an ultimate essence? I have placed "Essence" in correlation with the "Underlying Reality," "Mind" or "God." So, now it would seem that there is only nothingness, unreality or zero -- that we, as human beings, as well as the numbers 1, 2, 3 and so on, are entirely imaginary. This, of course proves (to me, at least) that we truly are thought-imaginings. But, the Cosmogony statement that "the real universe is invisible and the visible universe simulates the invisible one" leaves me wondering what real universe there can be in that state of nothingness; the underlying reality having disappeared?

The second obstacle is simply how to be able to explain our existence and the existence of the universe -- illusion though it is -- without admitting the co-existence of that very underlying reality, Mind, which has just "disappeared?"

The statement in the Ananda material that "one need neither affirm nor deny the objects of perception; the important¹⁶ thing to understand the fallacy of the un-illuminated thought-process" is somewhat of a comfort here, even though it doesn't seem to go far enough.

A third point which might be mentioned is how to reconcile oneself to the apparent "loss" of "Divine Grace." It has always seemed so necessary as a concomitant to one's own efforts. Some time ago, the realization that "Grace" probably represents the returns from, or message of, experience came to light, and I reread every reference to it in the material you have given me as well as every reference I could find in your books in order to cross-check. There doesn't seem to be any conflicting evidence, although the statement in Note 61, XVII, that "Grace is of two kinds: The ordinary better known and inferior kind... on the Long Path (and)... the rarer and superior kind (which) ... arises from self-identification with the Overself" leaves room for further interpretations and deeper understandings of it, which is still beyond realization.

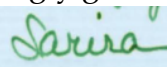
A fourth and last-to-be-mentioned "difficulty" is how to admit and fit the dear, old ego into the picture. It cannot but be an illusion also. Certainly it is the biggest of all problems, and how to get rid of it, along with its desires, complexes and limitations is alone a seemingly impossible task -- particularly during attempts at thought-stilling; these seem to start in defeat and end in despair.

Dear P.B., please forgive me for asking so much, so many questions. Perhaps they will resolve themselves: the Cosmic Cinema is forever changing and who knows what tomorrow, or a week or month from now, will reveal? If these obstacles seem impassable to me, I must also remember that less than a week ago I was despairing over

ever making the transition in thinking from a world of real substance to a substanceless one, or ever realizing in experience what this meant.

Yet, I think the greatest, most joyous and most moving discovery of all is the utter naturalness of these revelations! Isn't there some way this can be made more clear to readers? -- that fears, doubts and suspicions truly are in no way necessary. If only those who mistrust the word "Philosophy" would take the trouble to look it up in the dictionary and then take its derivation to heart: Philosophia -- the love of wisdom!

Your everlastingly grateful



P.S. I hope {it} is alright to send this c/o the Massons: I'm sorry to bother them. Please give my love to Eva, too!

L25.057

57 - 58

Letter from S.

holiday house, Quogue, L.I., New York

16 August, 1954¹⁷

Dear P.B.,

Since writing to you yesterday there has been what I can only call a further development. I was fortunate enough to have several hours of uninterrupted meditation this afternoon. Thought moves fast and it covered a good deal of territory. But wherever it went it kept returning to one undeniable conclusion.

Most people can be content with the world around them -- with the satisfactions it can be forced to yield; I cannot. I know now that what I seek cannot be found anywhere in this world, or in any sense-experience. No matter where thought goes, it remains a thought, one of an endless series of thoughts which can only give birth to more of the same.

Therefore, it appears that I must now turn to what is called Yoga. From what my studies and experiences have revealed, Yoga alone can go beyond thought. So there is nowhere else to turn.

Do I think that Yoga will yield immediate results? Is a house built in a minute? Can a new-born infant become a mature man overnight? I know it will take time maybe years of intensive practice. I don't care how long it takes.

Dear, P.B., can you tell me what I must now do? You are the only person in this world that I can turn to. I trust and love and revere you above everything and everyone else.

I know what is expected of me in this world, and that to be Good one must do Good. It's as simple and as difficult as that and I am prepared to be and do it.

¹⁷ PB inserted "dictate reply to {illegible}" by hand at the top of the page.

This is not Sherry Wesselman writing to you now; it is not even that potential, Sarira, although I will try my best to become her on this plane of existence. I am simply a nameless, undistinguishable entity who yearns to be permitted to become a student among students -- your student.

I don't know what else can be said; I guess it's better to say nothing. Only my greatest daring allows me to write these humbly meant words. Now that they have been written I can be quiet. It doesn't matter in the slightest how long you take to answer -- not even if it must await your next visit to this part of the world. I know how busy you are. I will understand and wait my turn -- in the deep hope that I may someday be found worthy and ready.

your



L25.059

59 - 62

Letter from Sherry
holiday house, Quogue, L.I., New York¹⁸
16 September, 1954

Dear P.B.,

Henry took the enclosed snapshots an hour or so after hurricane "Carol" passed by. Her sister "Edna" was better behaved as far as Long Island was concerned -- she left no new damage to speak of. there's no need to return these snapshots; we have duplicates. Before you discard them, though, perhaps Dan might be interested in seeing them, too. (He once visited here.) Yes, they're quite dramatic, aren't they?

The place looks a bit better now. Most of the debris is cleaned up, although there are huge piles of sawed up trees all around which no one wants. It's a pity because there's enough firewood for several winters' supply for someone who could use it. I wish I could get it to Tony, but maybe he doesn't have a fireplace either.

A lot has happened since I foolishly wrote that last letter to you. I hope you will forgive it -- and me. Nature has seen to it that I was brought back to earth again, and, P.B., I do realize my error. It's been made very clear to me that my duty to those here can never be less than, nor different from, my duty to the Overself. In serving one, I am really serving the other. I am trying to keep this constantly in mind, even when I know I could be doing a better job.

Chris was quite sick for a while but is gradually improving. Perhaps it was because I inwardly resented this additional burden that this resentment appeared to take form and I became sick, too, with the same miserable "bug" -- but I've continued to keep busy. Some difficult, but instructive, lessons have been involved. Now, I realize

¹⁸ "(until Sept. 26; then 965 again.)" is typed next to the address.

that when one prays for guidance, one must be willing to accept whatever form it takes and the follow it. I guess it has to be pretty rough on us sometimes in order to help us.

No matter what troubles come and go, your blessed, healing Peace is with me and in me. It is the calm eye in the middle of life's hurricanes and it is always there awaiting only remembrance, beckoning me home to its timelessness and stillness and perfect harmony. It is my secret foundation and all-powerful support. It generates me and leads me.

P.B., it seems more and more as though you yourself are this Peace. For in thinking of you, I am also thinking of it; and in opening to it, I immediately become aware of the warmth of your inspiring and impersonal Presence. Time seems to stand still, and the ego becomes simply an instrument to record the passage back and forth into that stillness. The very atmosphere itself seems electrically charged with your quiescence, your extraordinary understanding and unspoken encouragement.

These have become my "refuelling" periods. Without them these shattered old nerves might have had a difficult time to keep from going to pieces. The need to hold on and hope on has been a primary need during the nightmarish excitement and confusion¹⁹ of the last few weeks (doubtlessly exaggerated by sickness.) For a while I was very worried because, no matter how hard I tried, I couldn't seem to regain the same outlook, interests and enquiring attitude which propelled me through the earlier part of the summer. Now I'm beginning to think this was a necessary changeover. But it has left me somewhat like a fish out of water; my responses are mostly mechanical. If only I could make some plans for the winter. The thought of returning to our old lethargic, unproductive way of living in New York is a dreadful one. Karen has taken another job, so Wanda and I are going to share the housework -- but that takes only a fraction of the days' time. When this problem arose earlier, I shrank away from it, deciding it was too big for me to handle. But now the time has come to face it and take practical measures.

One night, recently, Henry remarked that I should have been a scientist. At first, the idea seemed only amusing, but it stayed in mind and keeps popping up in my thoughts. I keep remembering, too, what you said about healing and what you told Eva and me about Sariputra and therapeutics. The frequent references to science in the more recent work you sent have been noted, too. I wonder if this is reason enough to hope I might become active in this field? But how? There is my lack of a college education, age and inexperience to be considered, and it would mean starting all over, beginning at the bottom and spending many years in preparation. Still, the idea does have undeniable and definite appeal, far-fetched though it may seem and even though I know nothing whatsoever about the various branches of science or what I could fit myself to.

Of course, such an undertaking couldn't be attempted without your permission or recommendation. It's only an idea anyway -- and I wouldn't even mention it except for the fact you were kind enough once before to encourage me to speak of what appealed to me. Oh, P.B.! I still long to do the same thing -- to serve you with all my

heart and life in some useful capacity! or, if this isn't possible, simply to be of assistance in any way I possibly can. But you are so far away!

If your Teaching could join forces with modern scientific enquiry, a fabulous store of new discoveries might be uncovered, bringing to birth many of the revolutionary changes you spoke of in the Philosophic Cosmogony. But how could this lone individual hope to help?

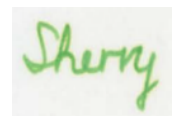
I do like the cool, impersonal way science looks at things; I like the way it meets challenges head on and the way it probes into matters as far as it can go; I like its optimism and restless search for a better world. But these are its philosophic attributes. There is also its disregard for metaphysics; its atheism and its materialism -- dead end streets which only lead back into themselves.

Do you think that I, have overcome these same obstacles at least to some extent in myself, could hope to progress where others have failed by combining my studies -- by learning what I could from both metaphysics and science, and then putting the results into some sort of actual practice? Might this lead to the healing you spoke of?

Again²⁰ questions... Always questions. I'm so sorry.

"The Wisdom of the Overself" (I almost hesitate to put the quotation marks around that because it is as true as a statement as it is a title of one of your books) has guided me to the answers to all but one of the questions which were brought up in my last two letters to you. The unanswered one must wait further development, I guess. I am inexpressible grateful for your inspired and inspiring words! The chapters, "The Birth of the Universe," "The Metaphysics of Sleep," "The Secret of the 'I'," "The Immortal Overself," "The World-Mind," and "The Unveiling of Reality" have straightened out my thinking appreciably and deepened my understanding to a certain degree -- enough, I think, for me to know better than to start a third page when all that has been necessary to say has been said... except that everything I study, everything I think and everything I do steadily deepens my determination to equip myself for some sort of ultimate service to P.B.

Your



L25.063

63 - 66

Incomplete letter from {Sherry Wesselman}²¹

Undated

...²² foundation for {it}, even though, of course, it's the hardest work in the world. But after all, if it weren't for those bleak and awful periods of "despair" and "suffering"

²⁰ Page 61

²¹ Author determined by the handwriting.

we all have to go through, I guess we'd never develop sufficient initiative to keep on with the work of overcoming ourselves.

Coming back to New York was very much of a let down - although the two straight weeks of rain and disagreeable weather we had just before leaving led me to recognize many of city-life's compensations at such a time, particularly where children are concerned. Now, the boys are happily occupied with schoolwork and their friends, television and the movies. (And by the way, if you haven't seen "The Egyptian," I think you'd find it very absorbing!)

In retrospect, it seems that recent and present experiences, difficult though they appear (or, rather, which I make appear difficult by my own attitude!) are all necessary and helpful: furthermore, they seem to be leading (or forcing) me into a new field - frankly, one which I don't yet recognize or understand at all (but will, no doubt, in time.)

Meanwhile I'm doing some reading and (lately) some scattered bits of writing of a Philosophic nature which don't fit any category I've ever heard of! One such fragment is enclosed (in case I've piqued your curiosity!)

(I²³ can't type it - or this - out decently because Henry threatens to go to the movies if I use the typewriter at night nowadays!)

Most of it came to me while I was struggling to keep thoughts out during meditation last Saturday night. It kept insisting, so finally I abandoned my own attempts and gave myself over to "Thinking it out." Actually this - and the others like it don't come in lump form so random remembrances of separate thoughts which then produce more thoughts, some of which reach out to join together into something calling for unity and expression. Maybe they are worthless, no good at all, except for personal clarification on some points; I don't know. There's nothing I can judge them by except possibly Carpenter's and Whitman's works - which are on such a different and infinitely more exalted scale that comparisons are naturally impossible.

In the beginning I tried to stick to paraphrasing, as in the case of Psalm 23 which was sent to P.B. and which he was kind enough to comment encouragingly upon. But the trouble was that I couldn't find other things to paraphrase: either the originals didn't strike the needed responsive chord, or it seemed practically a sacrilege to mutilate their beautiful words into clearer Philosophical meaning (as in the case of The Sermon on the Mount, The Shakespearian sonnets, etc.)

This²⁴ led to a frustrating standstill - from which the enclosed and bits like it have hesitantly and tentatively appeared (like a turtle sticking his head out: if the view indicates the greater wisdom of withdrawal - pop, it goes back in!)

I hope you will forgive my rattling on at such length about such a seemingly unimportant thing. Actually, it's about the only thing that has happened since we came back so I feel inclined to build it up a bit!

²² "-3-" is written at the top of the page; previous pages are missing.

²³ Page 64

²⁴ Page 65

Henry is well and quite active socially these days. He helped to organize and preside over dinner-dance at the Metropolitan Club last week, which apparently lived up to his hopes. He has several couples from Quogue at his table.

Just recently I learned that Phoenix Ingraham has been secretly married since May to the twin-sister of that strip-tease dancer who married Tommy Manville! (I know this sound like gossip - and it probably is!). Now Phoenix and spouse are {illegible}. They live in a house out in Mamaroneck owned by the strip-tease dancer, who also lives there when she is in town. Not only she, but the mother of the twins, and, also, Phoenix's wife's children by a previous marriage live there, too. It sounds awful, doesn't it? But Henry says that Phoenix seems quite happy and is working hard; also, he is counting on having a son this time!

To complete a report on family activities, Pussy and Wanda should be included! Pussy spent²⁵ a long, difficult summer at the cat-and-dog hospital undergoing treatments for a serious sinus condition. He came home looking like a forlorn, scrawny little shadow, but he is improving all the time and is gradually becoming his old jaunty self again. Wanda faithfully prepared food for him every week and took it down to him. She is so goodhearted, willing and sensible - not only in this, but in many other ways as well. I've learnt a lot from Wanda; and she, in turn, has learnt more about Philosophy, I think, than we realise. Being such a selfless generous soul, she must have remarkably good karma ahead of her.

Oh, yes! Our solitary {finny} friend in the hall aquarium departed his watery spheres a month ago. (natural {illegible}!) Henry has now filled the tank with lovely looking but delicate, "Angel" fish, which he is nursing like a mother. (I have ruthlessly abandoned parenthood where this new brood is concerned!)

Please thank P.B. for sending me Peace. I'm so glad you mentioned the fact that his work on the new book goes on. I have wondered about this, but hesitated to ask. Everyone asks so much of him, my selfish self included. But I promise not to pester him with any more letters for quite a while. Would you please tell him this? ({Just} so that he won't think I'm sitting around brooding over self-earned and self-induced problems.) If...²⁶

L25.067

67 - 68

Letter from Sherry²⁷

965 Fifth Avenue, New York, 21, N.Y.

29 September, 1954

Henry and I are so very grateful to you for your letters, P.B....

²⁵ Page 66

²⁶ The following pages are missing.

²⁷ "W" is handwritten in the top right corner of the page.

and we very humbly appreciate your generosity with your time and energy. Hearing from you has brought the sun out from behind some dark clouds for both of us and filled us with happiness! Henry was so pleased! I haven't seen his face light up that way for a long, long time. He stayed home all morning to talk; and his honest pleasure -- frankly mixed with a little puzzlement -- was an inward delight to behold! Your letters provided much new food for thought -- just what the doctor ordered for both of us. Thank you, P.B.! May the happiness, help and inspiration you are giving us return to you a thousand times over in the fullest possible measure!

I am deeply appreciative of your kind, edifying answers to all my questions, and for your invaluable advice and explanations on the other subjects.

It is good to know the hurricanes helped us to work off some bad karma. The more the better! I only hope they did some profitable damage to our illusory homes in the ego.

The Science of Life as studied in the laboratory of philosophy must certainly be the greatest of all sciences. What a wonderful way of putting it and thinking of it! I'm glad you are able to find at least some favourable scientific faculties at work in this individual; but it is those which a scientist ought not have which interest me even more.

Your letter dealt a wonderful and powerful blow to erstwhile defeatist tendencies! Thank you for your true surgeon's touch in these matters, and for reminding me of my tremendous blessings in being led and having grace. If only my preparation for the elementary practice you speak of may prove adequate -- better than adequate -- when you next visit here!

It seems a shame that you have been put to the trouble of moving again. That smog must be a terrible nuisance. Perhaps you read the recent article in the Hearst newspapers about nuclear physics' uncovering of a new method whereby it will be possible to generate electricity for the whole cities in the not too distant future by using a small piece of uranium together with a specially built reactor, thus eliminating all smog and smoke.

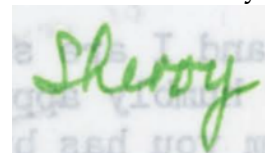
The news that, despite the irritations of smog, you are well and happy is so very good to hear!

This is being typed on the Royal electric machine. If the typeface is unsuitable for whatever purposes you have in mind I wouldn't in the least mind turning this typewriter in for another model. Since it is still new, a good trade-in allowance could be arranged, although that's relatively unimportant. It would be no trouble at all to get whatever machine you recommend in any size type you prefer. I'd be happy to do so! So please don't hesitate to state your preference!

Thank you for sending us your new address. Also, for your kind and encouraging words about the philosophic version of Psalm 23. It was a new experience -- that of standing aside and becoming a channel for inspired words to flow through, and watching as they emerged in new shape and sound. I had very little to do with it actually, so can't take any credit.

I'll²⁸ be happy to experiment further in this same vein. Whatever the results, they will be for P.B. form P.B.!

Gratefully,



I received such a sweet, generous and selfless letter from Eva. Would you please thank her for me? I'll write to her soon; just now there is {little} news that would be of interest to her. I'm grateful for her kind thoughts of all of us here, and we send ours to her, with love.

It's a small matter, but if you happen to hear a new popular song called "The Temple of the Understanding Heart," the words seem worth noting.

L25.069

69 - 72

Letter from Sherry²⁹

965 Fifth Avenue, New York, 21, N.Y.

17 October, 1954

Dear P.B.,

Even though I feel my letters to you have been much more numerous than necessary, and that I am being inconsiderate -- if not actually unfair -- in imposing overlong on your time, energies and goodwill, one more letter must now be added to the awful pile. (If P.B. is ever overheard to groan aloud, it surely must be on those occasions when another of my overlong, overwordy and probably tiresome letters appears among the more important things in his daily mail.)

To come quickly to the point: There isn't nearly enough for me to do here in New York. Unless I soon find a real job of some sort (any sort, it seems) I actually and truly fear the consequences. Time has never before hung so heavily on my hands and this is having bad effects.

Upon returning from Quogue, I took over the family housework (what little there is of it) excluding only cooking and dishwashing, which remains Wanda's department. This arrangement has worked out very well, for several reason, and it seems like a good idea to continue it. Wanda takes Chris to the park three afternoons a week (which does them both good); I take him occasionally, and Barney helps out on weekends (on a wage-earning basis, so he enjoys it.) However, (and I hope you will forgive my taking your time with such miner matters) I am also arising much earlier nowadays (shortly after seven) to awaken the boys for breakfast and get them off to

²⁸ Page 68

²⁹ "W" is handwritten in the top right corner of the page.

school on time. Thereafter, while Henry sleeps on until his usual breakfast hour of 9:30 or so, I do the simple housework and tidying up, and am through with that and the newspaper by the time he appears. There remains the whole long empty day ahead, and it is almost invariably dreadfully long and empty. Except for thee one day a week when I take more time for the heavy (more thorough) cleaning, and for the occasional trips downtown (I walk both ways as a rule, so do get some outdoor exercise as well as what is mistakenly referred to in the city as fresh air) -- except for these absurd efforts at time-filling, I have been unsuccessful in keeping my abundant energies occupied.

Before you laugh and say, "I can think of loads of things you could do!", I might add that I've done a bit of reading, also. One particularly gloomy day, I chanced to remember your remarks last spring about Bucke's "Cosmic Consciousness." Hoping that the intervening months have made me "ready," I procured a copy and have been giving in my close -- and I hope sufficiently discriminating -- attention.

Until the opportunity presents itself to hear from you in your own words what you have to say about many of the matters discussed in this book, there seems little point in my dwelling overlong on them. In general, my reaction was one of keen enjoyment, certain enlightenment and some scepticism (as regards Bucke's statement: "Whitman has and always will have, the eternal glory of being the first man who was so great that even the Cosmic Sense could not master him;" I cannot reconcile myself to such a point of view, nor can I help but feel that he overrates Whitman.) His words also spawned one serious worry:

On pages 376 -- 379, Bucke lists the factors which he believes enter into and finally decide for illumination. Among these (I won't quote the paragraphs, they are too long) he states that the aspirant, or seeker, (or simply, individual,) must have -- and that it is, in fact, most important for him to have -- the right heredity. He points out that it is "probably imperative" to have a "great mother... a woman strong, athletic, spiritual, of good physique, of superior mental³⁰ and especially moral, powers" and that "the father should be a superior man physically and spiritually;" also, "then comes the final and supreme physiological necessity -- namely, that the union of father and mother from which is to proceed the Cosmic Conscious man shall occur under perfect conditions," etc. If these statements are wholly true, there remains small hope, if any, for Sherry; but, on the other and brighter hand, there may be considerable hope for Henry, and (if I develop myself sufficiently) not a little for Barney and Chris. I try to keep my thoughts on their excellent luck (or good karma) -- but it is difficult to ignore my own lot in a matter of such tremendous importance to me. I'm not asking for P.B.'s confirmation of these statement: in fact, unless by some very happy chance you disagree with them, I'd just as soon try to forget about them. At any rate, I believe my parents did the best they knew how to and I certainly don't begrudge them their lack of the faculties here quoted.

Aside from this (or perhaps I should say including this) the book is extremely instructive, or at least seems so to me. I especially enjoyed the sections regarding Plotinus, Jacob Behman, John Yepes (his reference to the "abyss of wisdom" and

"science of love" seems noteworthy in a churchman), and most especially, the section on Edward Carpenter. I was so impressed by the preceding notes and quoted passages from "Towards Democracy" that I set out to find (and got) a copy of this latter book. Even though, of course, I am not judge, it has more appeal to me than "Leaves of Grass", which I've had (and misinterpreted) for many years. Now, I would like, too, to read more of Plotinus's writings, if they are available; they bear such an uncanny similarity at times to P.B.'s, that I feel at home among them.

In spending some time rearranging my bookshelf the other day (getting rid of the junk,) while also attempting to straighten up Henry's -- so far as he would let me! -- I noticed that he has copies of "The Divine Comedy" in English, and selections from Francis Bacon, Blake and Kant. They are old and worn (being bought at second hand) so I asked him for permission to add these to my philosophy shelf. P.B.'s books are alone on their own shelf now. Also, I have a copy of Goodspeed's modern version of the Apocrypha and New Testament and Smith's version of the Old Testament in one volume. I thought I might study these, or any others you might care to recommend, during the coming winter.

But I have to have something else to do besides reading.

If you happen to have any manuscripts that need typing or retyping (that is, anything at all -- not just those which would interest or help me) or any other jobs or any sort that I could do, I can't tell you how grateful I'd be for the opportunity of working at something -- at anything! That is really the only reason for my writing now. I just couldn't bring myself to ask you outright for work earlier: I was afraid you might possibly feel duty-bound to select special material or that you might make time to dictate selected passages on the discs, or some other bothersome job in the midst of all your other more important activities; and the thought of this troubled me more than my own inactivity did.

Efforts to produce more writing in the vein of the philosophic version of Psalm 23 have proved unfruitful so far.

The man at Stern Brothers telephoned a week or so ago to say that he had gone ahead and ordered your grey two-suiter case anyway and that it had come in, so I thought you might like it after all and asked that it be sent on to you. Also, a bill came in for you from Thomas Edison & Co. for extension of our maintenance service contracts, for the {V.P.s} and I called them and cancelled them as you specified last spring. Lastly, there is what I believe is a new product in drugstores called "Nods," which are more pleasant and effective than "Flents," in case you know others who are troubled by noise.

Devotedly,



Letter from Sherry³¹
965 Fifth Avenue, New York 21, N.Y.
6th April, 1955³²

Dear P.B.

There are so many things in this I would like to indicate as being especially helpful! - particularly your references to the flesh as "The Temple of the Spirit, a holy dwelling place wherein we are slowly learning lesson after lesson;" how the body comprises millions of tiny lives whose protector we are; how it needs and must get our kindly attention, and how we must live in it and use it and accept it and control it and someday master it.

Your remark about the Theologians who "look suspiciously at the flesh, unsure whether it is the handiwork of God or Satan" is completely delightful! (One can just see the poor souls looking at themselves out of the corner of their eyes!). The part directly following that, about the metaphysicians who "dismiss [the flesh] altogether as not worth the attention which they give exclusively to abstract things," applied past tense so accurately to one S. W. that it produced a slight gasp! It also made me all the more eager to study and learn what can next be done too cleanse, refine and purify it together with the mind and the emotions, and the actions intentions words thoughts and feelings. I do see why all this is absolutely necessary now, why this work has had to come first although I didn't before reading this chapter.

A while back when reading "Design of the Universe" I pencilled in the margin of a page "One begins, at last, to perceive with a glimmering of understanding the meaning of the word 'Balance.'" But stimulating though this discovery was, it didn't help me to achieve any better balance. Now, I would like to mentally write this same sentence on the margin of every single page of this wonderfully helpful chapter - and this time the enthusiasm comes not simple from the thoughts working alone, but from an³³ eagerly responsive unit comprising the body, emotions and mind all at least trying to work together. In these pages, balance comes into its own. How clear you have made it that the balanced life is the most natural, the best and the intended way of life for all on earth, as well as all in what we call the Heavens. I sometimes think that the sentence you wrote in a letter from Denmark, "Seek to understand and acquire Balance," has been and sill is the most important thing for me to learn - and that it has been a guardian angel of sorts, too.

There are several sentences I can't resist quoting as being outstanding guiding posts to this one student: "Renunciation is a new attitude of mind, not a new set of monkish robes" (p. 24); [one] is not asked to bear a cross of suffering in anguish but to carry a staff of support in joy!" (p. 25); "[one] cannot jump into the advanced ideas or practices but must develop by slow degrees" (p. 29); "The Quest of the Overself is a life of unceasing self-improvement" (p. 1); surrender to the ego instead of surrendering the ego" (p.12); "The Quest has to be staged progressively like all journeys" (p. 13); "The

³¹ "W" is handwritten in the top right corner of the page.

³² "{Prefatory" Typed USS}" is handwritten at the top of the page.

³³ Page 75

food taken into the body, the emotions taken into the heart and the thoughts taken into the mind must be carefully screened..." (p. 14), not only to deal with its surface manifestation, but to get at its own hidden existence on the one hand, and to work by aspiration, meditation and reflection upon³⁴ the Overself on the other hand."

Insofar as trying to convert or reform others is concerned, I promise you to keep uppermost in mind the counsel imparted in the second paragraph on page eighteen: "If an ideal or practice³⁵ is believed by any other school of thought than the one which [one] happens to be following as being good in its time and just as right for its place, [one] ought not to belittle it. Why can [one] not simply turn aside and leave it to those who think they need it? [One] ought to recognize their perfect right to follow a different way of thought, even if it seems... an inferior way" - and to let my actions, words and thoughts be guided accordingly.

As for my wishing to make others a carbon copy of myself, I wouldn't wish such a horrible interior spectacle on my worst enemy! - although of course this is a misconception of your real meaning, which shall be followed. I'll try to deny entry to all such thoughts so far as I am able to control them. Which isn't very well as yet. To strengthen the will in order to reform the ego is my main objective right now and probably will be for an awfully long time to come.

I'm sorry too have bothered you about the difficulties in meditation, and should have realised these were relatively unimportant until the other work was attended to - and that what you wrote me last summer on the subject was indication that I shouldn't worry about it; I don't, now, and am most grateful for your reassurance.

I'm also deeply appreciative for your reassurance as regards your own physical safety during all the recent disturbances of volcanos, Tidal waves, monsoons, cold spells and plane crashes! It seems that even nature gets excited by your presence!

Thank you very, very much for even taking time to write to me personally and for your wonderful wish that the deep happiness of the Overself comes increasingly into my consciousness. This present chapter of your new book - and especially page twenty-one - clearly³⁶ show how such happiness can be earned, and how it and satisfaction are conferred. But it is those qualities of virtue and cleanness that I really long for and am working for. I guess right now these represent a Goal to me, just as (I like to think) they once did so long, long ago for you.

I'm sorry there are so many erasures in the Typing, which are due entirely to my clumsiness; I'm sorry too that I didn't think to change the typewriter ribbon before reading page Twelve. Also, in the second paragraph of the article on psychoanalysis, I'm not sure that "matter of its present living" is right.

Henry is returning tonight from a visit in Nassau with his sister, brother-in-law and maiden Aunt. I know he would want me to send you his best (he always asks me to include this!) The children are both well and happy. Chris brought home a truly excellent report card with no school absences reported during the past quarter: I guess you know how much this grand change means to us! Barney went with about thirty

³⁴ PB circled "upon" by hand with the note "? find this" handwritten after this paragraph.

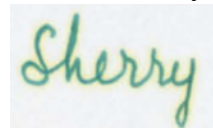
³⁵ Page 77

³⁶ Page 79

boys in his class on a five-day bus trip through New England during his school-vacation. He certainly enjoyed it, judging by his glowing accounts! - And that's about all our news.

Thank you again so very much for letting me do this work - and for everything.

Devotedly,



L25.081

81 - 84

Letter from Sherry³⁷

965 Fifth Avenue, New York 21, N.Y.

5 May, 1955

Dear P.B.

Thank you for notifying us of your change in address! It's so good to know you are back in the States! And I only hope it will seem as good to you, too

Henry and I are looking forward Tremendously to seeing you again when you come east! And like everybody else, I guess, we're anxious to know how you actually found Hawaii for your purposes, and to hear how you made out during all that confusion started by the volcano. But if you are understandably weary of the subject, we'll find other things to talk about, too, and perhaps take in a play or Two - if you can really spare the Time.

During your next visit, we are definitely not going to inflict ourselves on you as we have done, whether consciously or unconsciously, in the past. That was a thoughtless, selfish thing we did, and from now on we won't impose on your time in any way: I do promise this.

When you get the Time for your trip east. It would make me very happy to take care of the transportation and send on your tickets - if this is convenient. And if you plan to stay do a hotel, those reservations could be made at the same time. In case you decide to notify me as regards the date and name of hotel preferred, there is an envelope and paper enclosed. But if you'd rather not handle it this way or have made other arrangements, there's no need to write: I'll understand.

Today is the first really warm day we've had (85°) and the air is soft and sweet. The park is lovely to look at with all the new leaves coming out

Maybe it's because you are nearer - or maybe it's just spring fever - but it seems wholly unnecessary just now to take up any more of your time with a lot of chatter from
your devoted

³⁷ "W" is handwritten in the top right corner of the page.



P.S. Please, please forgive me but I have been smoking about ten cigarettes a day ever since last August. If you tell me to stop this, I will.

L25.085

85 - 86

Letter from Sherry³⁸
965 Fifth Avenue, New York 21, N.Y.
23 May, 1955

Dear P.B.

Will you please accept the enclosed lines written by someone who must surely have been an old friend of yours at one time or another, Mr William Wordsworth?

There are no more Psalms as yet. Too much else going on at present. Barney failed his examinations for St. Paul's School, and he and Henry have been going around to schools in New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania trying to find one that will accept him this late. No luck so far.

From June 10th - September 9th our address will once again be "holiday house," Quogue, L.I. Like last year we will be maid-less since the children liked it better that way.

These words of Wordsworth's have proved helpful to me during some difficult times. Maybe you know someone else who could use them. But they are sent mainly in the hope that possibly you might find some pleasure in re-reading them.

This note is boiled down from a five-page letter, which, like all its predecessors, will end up in the wastebasket. That last {stilted} thing I sent you must have been a pain in the neck. No more dismal diatribes.

Always gratefully and affectionately,



L25.087

87 - 90

Letter from Sherry³⁹
965 Fifth Avenue, New York 21, N.Y.
21 November, 1954⁴⁰

³⁸ "W" is handwritten in the top right corner of the page.

³⁹ "W" is handwritten in the top right corner of the page.

Dear P.B.

Please forgive my sending you two books (under separate cover) without having written to you first for permission to do so: since you are leaving on the 30th, there wasn't enough time. I hope, too, that you won't feel this puts you under any obligation to read the books if you haven't the time. The only reason for sending them at all is that they proved so stimulating, interesting and helpful to this student it occurred to me that you might care to recommend (or give) them to others.

The first one, the new edition of "This I Believe," (this is the second in what promises to be an interesting series) had a very uplifting -- even inspiring -- effect on me. The individual philosophies expressed in this book ring with sincerity and earnestness and hope. Most of them agree on an impersonal god; several identify God as Mind or Infinite Intelligence. It's useless to point to this one or that one of the eighty authors as being especially noteworthy. They are all. Except for the twenty "immortals" at the end (which should have been omitted rather than presented in such a fashion, I think) all of them contain something -- or, at least, they seem that way to me. My own copy now has sentence after sentence underscored for reference.

The other book is Fritz Kahn's "Design of the Universe," which seems to me (although I'm only half way through it as yet) to be almost required reading for every student. Not only is it extremely interesting and utterly absorbing, but it presents -- in a style that often seems influenced by, or similar to, your own -- an up-to-the-minute, sparkingly intelligent and intelligible account of (1) modern physics, (2) the atom, (3) the heavens, and (4) the earth.

I can't begin to say how this latter book is widening my horizons. I seem to be undergoing some sort of ionization myself: old beliefs, like electrons, are being forced out of their orbits and someday the "naked nucleus" will alone remain. Continuing this line of thought, I wonder if the later occurrence of nuclear fission might not be compared, then, to the "Lightning-flash" of illumination? I feel this book is helping me to grow -- I'm beginning to feel the tremendous, inconceivable Force that spirals throughout the universe, ejecting and settling a-spin all the galaxies -- everything that is -- by the motion of its unfathomable, almighty vortex.

I⁴¹ find it especially helpful, too, in reading "Design of the Universe" to substitute the word "thought" wherever the word "energy" appears. Also, how much clearer and truer and more compassing is your statement from the Philosophic Cosmogony: "Life and growth are thought-waves multiplied by time" than Einstein's complicated "Energy (in ergs) equals mass (in grams) times the square of the speed of light (in centimeters per second)!" O, P.B.! You and your incomparable Knowledge make the heart sing!

Next Saturday, on your birthday, the four of us here will be thinking of you and thanking you for you even a little but more than on the other days. We will probably be in Quogue, since Thursday is Thanksgiving and the boys have no school from

⁴⁰ PB inserted "Ack receipt" and "{Morrow} and Design of Universe" by hand at the top of the page.

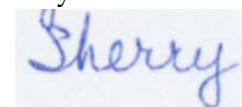
⁴¹ Page 89

Wednesday until the following Monday, making it possible for us to spend four days in the country. But Saturday, rather than the national holiday on Thursday, will be the true holiday for me -- with far greater cause for thanksgiving!

I hope you won't mind too much my sending you a birthday token. The cost was ridiculously small, but it -- or rather, they -- looked relatively useful since they have locks and keys. I'm sorry there wasn't time to have your initials engraved. They're made of something called Florentex. Since Henry is away (at Clove Valley) and there isn't time to wait and consult him, I took the liberty of sending them from both of us -- although I'm sure he would have selected something much nicer. Please believe me when I say we would be most unhappy if you took time to write us about such a trifling matter as this small birthday remembrance!

Since you plan to concentrate on your book alone during the next three months, the disturbance created by the arrival of letters would surely be an unwelcome one, so I will keep my correspondence to you during this time and inward one. You are always in my thought and heart. May your Muse of Inspiration and Lady Luck watch over you...

your devoted



L25.091

91 - 92

Letter from Sherry⁴²

965 Fifth Avenue, New York 21, N.Y.

16 November, 1954

Dear P.B.

This is just to try to thank you for allowing me to read and learn from the first-hand accounts of what others have experienced (or, opened to) in meditation.

Some of the experiences were familiar: first -- the long tunnel, but without a light at the end (also, I seem to remain still while the tunnel moves swiftly past me); second -- the expansion feeling, but probably to a lesser degree in my case (some-times I have another feeling, too, as if the lower jaw were as big and heavy as a mountain); and, third -- occasional visions, geometric patterns, undulating rhythmic waves, fleeting faces and, once, I distinctly recall, a perfect and utterly beautiful talisman rose suspended in blue air, which seemed to hold a tiny form or face in its center, too small to identify.

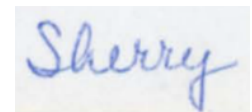
Except for the rose (which appeared to me soon after starting meditation nearly three years ago) these occurrences have been taking place every so often since childhood. I never thought anything about them; I guess I assumed everyone had them.

⁴² "W" is handwritten in the top right corner of the page.

But, now, there does seem to be something “new,” lovely and purposeful slowly uncovering itself inwardly (not in the body necessarily; more in the immediate area around it.) It feels like happiness -- but happiness is a fluctuating emotional state, usually arising from some short-lived pleasure; whereas this, in itself, neither fluctuates nor entertains any emotion other than, possibly, serenity. Probably “Harmony” describes it better than anything else. Curiously enough (to me) it doesn’t seem to have any connection with the heart, being neither “here” nor “there” but everywhere. I’m simply aware of it as I might be of, say, love or profound peace. It isn’t a feeling, although it gives rise to feelings -- tenderness and gentleness particularly -- which then seek outlets through my person.

I first became aware of it after the arrival of your most recent letter -- while answering that, in fact. So, as always, there is an indefinable “connection” between P.B. and everything wonderful that happens to me. This “assistance,” as you speak of it, fills me with a reverence and a humbleness far beyond outward expression. I must do something too manifest my thanks. Please let me! When next you visit New York, won’t you make your headquarters at, possibly, a centrally-located hotel (like the Plaza or St. Regis or Waldorf, where the food is edible) as the guest of an anonymous student whose identity is known only to you? Please consider it!

Your devoted



P.S. There is no need to answer this.

L25.093

93 - 96

Letter from Sherry⁴³

965 Fifth Avenue, New York 21, N.Y.

17 December, 1954

Dear P.B.

We don’t like to interrupt your work on the new book, which we shall all hope is coming along as you wish; and we hope, too, that you yourself are feeling fine and enjoying being out there!

This is about Chris, our seven year old. He’s been more or less sick with persistent sinus trouble since August; and on December 13th, his tonsils and adenoids were removed (for the second time in slightly more than a year.) He came through the operation beautifully, which I believe is directly due to his affection for and faith in you.

Shortly before the operation he said he saw you standing in the hall and that there were “little white lights” all around you. Also, every night he “meditates to” you,

⁴³ “W” is handwritten in the top right corner of the page.

assuming the lotus position on his bed, saying aloud: May I become a clear channel for the Overself. And please bless Dr Brunton. And, dear Dr Brunton, thank you for thinking I should get well. And I hope you are having a very nice time out there." He speaks very slowly and he believes you her him. Once he volunteered that he sees you when he says this and that you are sitting in the lotus position, too. Another time he "meditated to" you to ask you to help him overcome some intestinal pains, which accompanied the stomach upset, and made an almost complete recovery within just a few minutes after that.

These occurrences are included not only to put in a good word for Chris, but equally to try to indicate the depth of this faith in you and in the Overself.

The operation seems to have served small purpose aside from somewhat improving his hearing, which has grown poor. Within a little over twenty-four hours he resumed coughing and complaining about the "stuff" dripping down his throat. He seemed depressed and weary; there was an age-old quality in his manner. Even though his illness is far from grave, it has considerably weakened his morale.

His two doctors (reputed to be the best available in N.Y.) now propose X-Ray and, possibly, radium therapy. This seems to Henry and me to be awfully drastic, and Henry says that with radium there is danger of cancer or, at least, of destroying healthy brain cells in addition to the infected ones.

For some time I have wondered if there might be an inward way to approach his condition, such as there is in dealing with arthritis,⁴⁴ but since he is a child, perhaps a mature mental approach would not be applicable in his case? Rather than disturb you, I attempted various methods: comparing his known characteristics with those of my brother Everett, who has been a life-long victim of the same thing -- but both suffer from many of the same weaknesses and it's hard to know which one to begin with or what to do; I've tried (and am continuing) to give him much more real affection, sympathy and consideration; I've prayed and prayed for guidance or remembrance, and have also experimented with outward approaches (I did discover that tub baths make him worse.)

If you have come across anything in your research that would apply to one so young, or if you have any advice you care to give it would be more appreciated than I can say. I haven't forgotten that this may simply be his karma. If this is the case, please don't bother to write; we will just continue the same "treatment" -- that is, patience, positive thinking and as much encouragement and understanding as we can give him.

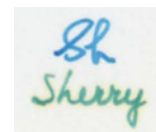
I wish to thank you, too, for the last batch of notes. Circumstances are pounding into me the absolute necessity of habitually practising these truths and I'm deeply grateful to you for them. Shall I keep them here until you arrive? (I'll assume this is what you wish unless you write otherwise.)

Henry and I appreciate your thoughtfulness in speaking again to Dan about Phoenix. But Dan still says he is unable to do anything as yet. He's in N.Y., apparently on business. Henry spoke with him over the phone but we haven't seen him. He plans to leave here in about a week and then return later for a month or so, so we may be

obliged to ask him up for dinner or something. If so, it will be on a much more impersonal basis than in the past; also I'll avoid mentioning Eva, his an out differing spiritual paths, and take care of himself in any business deals which Dan may be dreaming up, so please don't worry.

Perhaps I should have mentioned on the card that went with it, that the little "tea-cup" we sent you for Christmas is from The Ta Ming Dynasty (according to Mr Gunn at Long Sang Ti's.) If it should be damaged in transit, there is one other similar to it that we can get an keep here for your arrival. It was probably silly to send something so fragile that far -- but it did seem so right for P.B. Please don't take time to write about it unless it got (or gets) broken.

We all send you our warmest greetings and best wishes!



L25.097

97 - 98

Incomplete letter from Sherry
965 Fifth Avenue, New York 21, N.Y.
Undated

...⁴⁵ plans once again and decided to fly home after all.)

He brought this marvellous new work from you with him. But I really haven't had a chance to have more than a glimpse of it. After Mr V. left, I went out to have dinner at the Club with Henry and then to a movie he wanted to see. It was a bit too late when we got home to do more than scan the first two or three. And this morning, your letter came - and I want to answer it before settling down to anything else, even anything as precious and as much of a Godsend as this work. Dear P.B., thank you, thank you!

And I do give you my solemn promise not to type when Henry is here! I am sure he appreciates your consideration of him in this matter!

Thank you, too, so very much for taking the trouble to write your very explicate and helpful letter to 30 October, which makes it clear what I am to do. How thoughtful you are! I am so eager to work! Dear Lord, may the day be hastened when you may hand me whole armloads of work (or whatever) without even having to look at it, saying, "Sherry do this!" - and I may know immediately what to do and how you like it done, and then will do it quickly and efficiently without a single mistake!

Even⁴⁶ though prayer, per se, to the Essence of Evolution can, for me, only take the form of active service and usefulness to you (Together, of course with work on overcoming myself), my thoughts - and whatever creative power they possess - are all

⁴⁵ "-3-" is handwritten at the top of the page; previous pages are missing.

⁴⁶ Page 98

for your personal good health, abundant energies and physical as well as mental comfort. If only Hawaii will turn out to be an ideal retreat in every way and conducive to whatever you hope to produce!

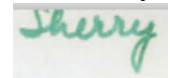
I am grateful for your encouraging advice as regards paraphrasing Biblical material and will continue to search for passage which lend themselves to wider interpretations.

The "Nods"⁴⁷ are on the order of "{Hents}" - anti-noise ear-stoppers. They have a wax base topped by foam rubber so there is no odor. They stay in better, too. Thanks to them, meditation and sleep are comparatively noise-free. They have to be cut to the right size which requires a little experimenting. Wanda told me about them. I'm sending you some under separate cover so you can look them over.

There is one other small matter. A married couple by the name of S. Wessman recently moved into our apartment building. Yes, there is quite a similarity of names and I have already (entirely by accident) opened some things intended for Mrs Wessman. The elevator men who deliver the mail are a bit careless since they are so busy. Your letters have never been tampered with, but just to be on the safe side, would you, in the future, please add "APT. 4-B" right after the name so that it can be read simultaneously? Thank you very much.

I just can't tell you how grateful I am for your telephone call! How wonderful to hear your voice and chuckle again!

Devotedly,



L25.099

99 - 106

Letter from Sherry⁴⁸

965 Fifth Avenue, New York 21, N.Y.

19 February, 1955

Dear P.B.

For the past nine days I've lived almost entirely within the sound and meanings of this tremendous work. It became the greater part of my being, while only the shadow-shape lingered in its dream-like existence. It is a strange thing but nearly everything in this chronicle of your own mystical experience seemed to reflect itself in miniature form within my own experience. While writing it out first in long-hand then on the machine, I underwent powerful facsimiles of your own accounts of joy, sorrow, despair, uplift, renewed hope and even, I dare to think, glimpses of your illuminations - but on such an incomparably smaller scale of course that it is outrageous to mention them in the same breath such a deep impression on both my thoughts and feelings.

⁴⁷ PB circled "The "Nods"" by hand and inserted "ack receipt" by hand in the left margin.

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

A thrill goes through me when I think what it will come to mean to your readers, students and friends everywhere when it appears in book form! It's a stimulating thought! I definitely feel this will awaken an immediate response in a large number of people. When they see their precious symbols transformed into actualities right before their eyes they are bound to sit up and take notice! If only they, like this humble student, will silently and helpfully listen to its message and seek to learn its lesson in propria persona.

This morning, when there were only a regrettably few pages of typing left to do, something happened which⁴⁹ might interest you. For sometime my well-intentioned brother Jay has been more or less bombarding me with religious material. If this came from a mere friend or acquaintance it would be easy to smile and simply avoid the subject, or if necessary the person, in the future: but when the person is one's own brother it becomes a different problem and an even greater test. Every time he did this in the past I grew annoyed, despite efforts to keep calm, and became a victim of my emotions. Once, when he and twenty-seven other {Clevelanders} came to New York on an Episcopal retreat (during which time they made their headquarters at the Cathedral of St John the Divine as guests of Dean {Pike} and Bishop {Boyntou} whom Jay regards with reverential awe) he took it upon himself to arrange for a minister we both know (from Cleveland) to call upon me uninvited at a time when Jay himself was to come. I'm ashamed to say that he thought of the two of them going to work on me together - on my last line of "defence," my own home - almost panicked me, stupid though it now sounds; and I was immensely relieved when the meeting seemingly - accidentally failed to take place. Nonetheless, my response to the expected situation was deplorable and forced me to admit it was a test very badly failed.

My brothers' latest attempt to convert me arrived this morning in the form of Dean {Pike's} book called "Beyond Anxiety" (!) which relates on the cover: "The Christian answer to fear, frustration, guilt, inhibition, indecision, loneliness, despair." Along with this book, Jay sent a note which ended: "Would you do me - and James Pike - the honor of glancing through this book? Best love, Jay"

All⁵⁰ at once I saw how foolish it was to go on getting upset by such surface trivialities - that they must be faced sensibly from now on. With this decision a feeling of strength and assurance followed into me. I felt I was quite capable of handling the situation without again becoming upset. The way I discovered this was by thinking to myself: "What would P.B. say to do under the circumstances?" I felt immediately that you would answer in that wonderfully gentle way of yours: "Why, thank him for the book, of course. It may serve a purpose one day." So I sat down and almost effortlessly wrote Jay a brief thank-you-note; and this small note showed better, I think, than anything I could write or produce for you, the actual visible results of all you have done for me.

Afterwards, I felt this represented one test successfully passed. The degree of self mastery which this gave me, as well as the unexpected, unsought joyousness and

⁴⁹ Page 101

⁵⁰ Page 103

deeper understanding of how Grace works in one, will not soon be forgotten - although I realise too that it is only one of the many such humble steps that must be made and which will become progressively harder as more and more experience is built up. Dear God, I hope I can continue to pass these tests! Here again I can see how necessary Hope it. Thank you for your Grace, dear P.B.

Your letter and news were most gratefully received! As were your thoughtful typing instructions. Please don't trouble yourself to make transcribing easier for me when it ought to be the other way around. Your voice comes through as clear as a bell. I don't know how to say how⁵¹ much I appreciate this work. I know it is a special treat and do regard it as such. Listening to your quiet, authoritative voice coming through the earphone is a strange and wonderful experience: it seems as though it were rising from the vast silent depths of my own innermost being. I like to think of it as corresponding to the Interior Word. Perhaps it is that.

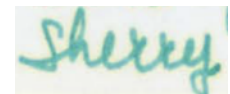
It's delightful to hear that you like Hawaii! - and we hope you will plan to stay long enough to absorb all its possible benefits!

Chris is ever so much better now. Thank you for thinking of him! He continues to show steady all-round improvement in spite of the very cold weather we've had recently, and he appears happy and cheerful. Every night he prays to you that he may become one of your students as soon as he can.

I'm very grateful for your interest in and generous comment on the Psalm-work. There are days and days when I seem to get nowhere with it and rewrite the same sentence countless times. It's an exhausting, but a revealing job. The results, aside from their accuracy and phraseology, really do not matter to me. But I am happy that they gave you pleasure - thank you for mentioning that.

Henry asked me to give you his best, an Pussy thanks you for your greetings (I held the ear-phone next to his ear so he could hear your voice: he was so pleased I had to do it three times.)

With affectionate good wishes from us all,



This letter is inexcusably egotistical. I do see it - and am attempting with everything I've got to overcome it. Will you please forgive me for being so slow and so trying?

L25.107

107 - 112

Letter from Sarira⁵²

965 Fifth Avenue, New York 21, N.Y.

8 March, 1955

⁵¹ Page 105

⁵² "W" is handwritten in the top right corner of the page.

Dear P.B.

Since it may be some time before Henry, the boys and I will have the pleasure of seeing you again, I wonder if I might try to put in writing something which might be quite unnecessary to say if I worked harder or if, by some miracle, you were at this particular moment sitting in the blue chair sipping a cup of tea and smiling your gentle smile that automatically melts all problems into forgetfulness if not oblivion.

Will you forgive me if just this once I write to you as if I were an old friend of both yours and Sherry's -- someone not involved but wishing to be of assistance? Sometimes when Sherry needs help I am called in as an impartial and impersonal observer. Ordinarily, it isn't difficult to diagnose the situation and transfer this awareness to her -- although, of course, her limitations are still a very severe handicap and there is little that I can do for her as yet.

She seems to be doing fairly well on the whole; that is, her intentions are good and she is industrious. However, her efforts are unevenly made, and she persists in following the dictates of her own will rather than her higher obligations. I have warned her repeatedly about this. She seems to realise where and how she errs but continues to fail the same tests. But recently this has shown some improvement.

Her response to the "unexpected little things" shows immature judgment and stubborn wilfulness which cannot come under the classification of forgetfulness -- although that, too, is a problem but perhaps not an unnatural one in view of her short apprenticeship. She realises that it is tremendously important for her to overcome her dictatorial and other unpleasant tendencies, and to be more considerate and attentive to others -- i.e., to lead a distinctly more selfless life.

Her problems are not so much serious as they are trying, but she makes them more serious than they are by her attitude toward and reactions to them. I don't know of any other way to help here except to keep on continuously reminding her that sooner or later she has to rise above her feelings and emotions -- and the sooner the better. Her self-control is poor. But at least she is learning to laugh at herself. Sometimes she bears an amusing resemblance to an amateur prize-fighter who wades into the prize-ring slugging in every direction but the right one and then failing to duck at the proper time!

She has so very much to learn that at times I'm almost⁵³ inclined to agree with a remark made by her husband last summer after she had asked him in all seriousness what he would do, if he were the Overself, in order to open an outlet through her: his honest and reluctant reply was, "Frankly, I'd choose another person." This was a blow that secretly knocked the wind out of her. However, once on the rebound again, she inwardly vowed that one day he would have sufficient reason to want to retract the statement. (Curiously enough, only last night he said some very kind things which although not related to the same subject were nevertheless encouraging.)

Some of her trouble -- although not as much as she thinks -- rises from her limited capabilities and inexperience. She prays for further experience, yet doesn't

recognise it when it comes! But her reflective and assimilative powers are in good order. If she learns the lessons of experience later than others, she also learns them fairly well. (The word "fairly" should be stressed there.)

Meditation still baffles her, although she appears to be slowly gaining some degree of intuitiveness. At present, she feels that her work and discussions with her husband, as well as her reflective-response to studies, music and practical experience, are the form of meditation for which she is best suited. However, she is also aware of not only her own intellect's limitations but of the eventual sterility of any approach which depends, as it does in her case, almost wholly upon the intellect.

She is still too immersed in the ego's and intellect's activities to willingly give up more than fifteen to thirty minutes to formal meditation -- and even this is done only spasmodically because she invariably falls asleep. Her excuses are the usual ones: (1) she feels she is doing it improperly, (2) she is unsuited to, or unready for, it, and (3) household noises and interruptions interfere to such an extent that, to hear her tell it, it would have to be practised elsewhere. Though there may be some basis for truth in her statements, the fact remains that she is neglecting this part of her development. Having tried various methods and exercises, all with a resulting feeling of futility, she has now resorted to simply projecting thought-forms of herself as identified with the Ideal -- and this, I may add, she does both ardently and forcefully.

Inasmuch as Sherry is still in need of counsel, and as she has no wish to impose on you or to interrupt your work, she has come to rely more and more upon me -- whom she calls Sarira.

The⁵⁴ foregoing is of no importance really and is intended only to humbly indicate a method which has been helpful by one student and which might possibly help others, also. I hope it meets with your silent approval.

I hope, too, that Nature's upheaval of itself on the island of Hawaii will have settled down by the time this reaches you! and that the accompanying earthquakes have not troubled nor in any way harmed you. In my heart I feel there is no cause for alarm, but still it must be an extraordinary experience to go through -- even for you.

Faithfully,



In "My Initiations into the Overself" I twice made the mistake of typing "not" instead of "now": first on page pencilled #11, in the sentence that reads from the left margin "...keep hold of the awareness in which I was now held" - and, secondly, on #20, half-way down in the middle of the paper where the new sentence begins "I could now see how..." For some strange reason I don't even see these errors until about the tenth reading. Could be I got carried away with the material! I'm awfully sorry.

L25.113

113 - 116

Letter from {Sherry Wesselman}⁵⁵
965 Fifth Avenue, New York 21, N.Y.
16 January, 1965

Dear P.B.

Thank you for sharing this deeply impressive and moving account of your experience and mystical initiation, what a very great privilege it is to hear these things spoken by your own voice on the disc! I am most grateful to you, P.B. Your message of the "necessity of hope - of never abandoning... the struggle" where both self-improvement and meditation are concerned has taken root in my heart. During the dark days I will remember this and find strength and courage.

Chris is better now! - both physically and mentally. He is coughing less and his morale has leaped up a full hundred percent. He seems much happier, more self-confident and is doing better homework too. I'm so very grateful for all of this. That you took time for so much kindness to a little boy is more appreciated than I know how to say. Thank you, too, for your dear letter, and for writing of the matters you knew were closest to our hearts.

The best news of all is that you find conditions in Hawaii beneficial! The exotic surroundings and more sensible pace of life out there do seem more suitable. Always before it was difficult to picture you in your surroundings for some reason: it was as if they weren't⁵⁶ right for you. But now there isn't that feeling, or to put it another way, there is a certain peace about your well-being as a whole which was there before. I pray this is true and will continue to be true.

The Oriental influence does add something, doesn't it! - or maybe it removes something else. At any rate, there are three new figures in the living-room now: an agate Kwan Yin, a smoke quartz one of Hoti and a bronze of Confucius (which is being put into a lamp like those to Lao Tse and the God-of-the-North) and these do seem to have a definite tranquillity effect on both room and thoughts. And from the mantelpiece, the fifth Panchen Lama motionlessly and serenely presides over all - symbolic of the witnessing, understanding, but impersonal, Spiritual Self. {illegible} matters interest me deeply these days.

I think there must be an "artificial resistance" where the Biblical paraphrasing is concerned, for I can't open to it as I can to Confucius' Analects or the Tao-Teh-King for example. (There is a feeling that the Bible is more suited to a specific group who still blindly follow a long-departed Master whose teaching was intended for still another group and time entirely; whereas a synthesis of the Long Path teaching of Confucius and the Short Path of Lao-Tse might be better suited to present religious needs.) But I think I partly understand why ...⁵⁷

⁵⁵ The Author is determined by the handwriting; "W" is handwritten in the top right corner of the page.

⁵⁶ Page 115

⁵⁷ The following pages are missing.

L25.117

117 - 118
Letter from Sherry⁵⁸
965 Fifth Avenue, New York 21, N.Y.
31 January, 1953

Dear P.B.

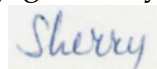
Thank you very much for checking off the answers on the post-card and sending it on to me.

It's wonderfully kind of you to go to the trouble of making discs that I can transcribe! - still it worries me that I'm the cause of this added inconvenience to you. I know you'd like to assist all your students like this, but simply haven't the time. I do wish you didn't make extra work for yourself on my account. It's perfectly understandable when you don't write, send word or work. I take it to mean "no news is good news," and do not worry.

Here are seven Psalms, plus the original 23rd and 100th which have undergone some slight changes. After some deliberation, I decided to start with Psalm 1, and do them in order, but skipping those which were too repetitious or baleful! Working on these is very interesting and illuminating. It's clearer to me now why you encouraged it. Thank you for keeping after me! Also, it's a kind of work made-to-order for my particular present capabilities - even to my living habits. It's childish, I supposed, but it never ceases to amaze me that instead of going out and finding work, it has to come to me. And it's work all right: there's nothing easy about it, which makes it all the more worth doing!

We're all fine here and deeply hop you are, too!

Ever-increasingly-gratefully,



L25.119

119 - 120
Letter from S.⁵⁹
31 January, 1953

Dear P.B.

Please substitute the enclosed for the version of Psalm 16⁶⁰ in advertently included with the others sent out to you this afternoon.

⁵⁸ "W" is handwritten in the top right corner of the page.

⁵⁹ "W" is handwritten in the top left corner of the page

⁶⁰ A checkmark and "done" are written in a different hand.

Also, I do hope that in the hastily scribbled note I didn't give the⁶¹ impression that I'm unappreciative of the work you can give me! Nothing I can think of could be further from the truth, as you surely know.

Henry is here and sends his best and thanks for the vote of confidence!

Sorry to bother you again,



L25.121

121 - 122

Letter from Catharina

Rijswijk

April 29, 1956

Dear P.B.,

At last I can send you the translation of the article about your latest book *The Spiritual Crisis of Man*, which has been published in *Mens en Kosmos* (Man and Cosmos). I am sorry I am late with it. I have been mentally very tired these last months, had hardly any energy to work in the evenings. But here it is at last and I hope it is what you wanted me to write about this subject.

As you will see, some parts of the article sent to you in 1953, have been used for this one.

The editor asked me to alter some things. To some of his suggestions I consented, but to some I had to say "no," in a polite and diplomatic way of course, as he wanted to insert some unkind and very personal things about you. I said I did not want to give in the article opinions about your person, only a rendering of some of your thoughts. He accepted that.

As the ones with philosophical insight I had compared Shri Aurobindo of the East and you of the West. But the editor said you could not be compared with Aurobindo. I had not called you a sage, but the editor evidently knew very well you were not a sage at all!! He wanted me to mention Shri Ramana instead so showed he did not know the difference between a mystic and a philosopher. But I could not use Shri Ramana here, as he had not said much about world problems. As, however, I did not like to be refused the article, I offered another solution and this he accepted. It was the only way to get the article in, though not so very satisfactory.

I have sent a reprint of the Dutch article with a letter to Her Majesty our Queen, because she is very much interested in the problems of to-day. I received a letter from her Secretary in which he told me that the Queen thanked me for my article, which she had read with interest.

Dear P.B., we do hope you will come to us this year as much as a visit is so very stimulating and helps us to be strong. We must stand as quiet rocks in this surging sea

of feverish activity and as we must earn out living we cannot escape modern life as much as we would. Our training, indeed, is a very hard one, which makes one very tired at times. So we hope the Overself will send you to us and bring us some spiritual refreshments.

With all my love as always.

Yours

Yours
Catharina

L25.123

123 - 126

Letter from Frank Clarke to Miss Lussi

7-12-76⁶²

Dear Miss Lussi,

I apologise for not replying to your letter of mid-year and I thank you for your good offices in mentioning my wife's illness to Dr Brunton. Her health is still very poor, but we hope for improvement in 1977.

Congratulations on your experience of expansion on consciousness, it must be a wonderful feeling to experience some measurable progress on the spiritual quest. I must confess to considerable envy of you as I myself seem to be marching steadily backwards, and each year to be further away than ever from illumination.

Please⁶³ give my respects to Dr Brunton when next you see him. My few days spent with you both in Montreux are often on my mind. I will be in Europe in 1979, and it may be that Dr Brunton will let me see him then. I hope so anyway.

Yours sincerely

Frank Clarke

L25.127

127 - 128

Incomplete letter from Bianca

Undated

...⁶⁴ I have since long stopped eating eggs, but now I cannot even take the little milk with coffee I used to drink in the morning before my tea to rise a little my low

⁶² "COPY" is handwritten at the top of the page.

⁶³ Page 125

⁶⁴ "6" is handwritten at the top of the page; previous pages are missing.

blood pressure. Even cheese is now heavy for me. Still I take every day a little with my lunch.

Please, Dear Sir, tell me if you want a second {Reflekta} Body Warmth {Tillor}. I have here one reserved for you. If yes, I will take it with me.

Mother and aunt are thanking you for your kind remembrances and greetings. They send you their respectful devotion and regards.

With infinite reverential Love and thankfulness from

yours devoted



L25.129

129 - 134

Letter from {Unknown}⁶⁵

Rijswijk⁶⁶

February 1, 1956

Dear P.B.,

At last the article about your latest book *The Spiritual Crisis of Man* has been published in the January issue of *Man and Kosmos* (*Mens en Kosmos*). I shall now translate the Dutch original and send it to you as soon it is ready.

As I did not hear from you when I had sent you the first one, about December 1953, it was, I waited for a very long time for your answer, but when it did not come I thought it wiser not to publish it. This summer I took it with me to England and showed it to Constance. She said it was good but too long and this was my opinion also. I had found it very difficult to express my thoughts in a shorter one. However, after my holidays I tried again and as it turned out satisfactorily, I sent this one to the editor of *Mens en Kosmos*. They kept it a very long time. Happily I had asked to give notice of alterations before publication, otherwise it would have been published with some queer remarks of the editor about you. However, all went well and some days ago it appeared in the journal. When I have the translation ready I shall explain too you why I said some things as I did. So far about the article.

As I had no special problems to write about I waited till now with a letter as your daily mail is big enough.

But now that I have to write about the article I may as well tell you some things about myself.

Well, these years have not been of the easiest but they have learnt me a lot. And just these last months there have happened a few remarkable things.

When you said to me in your latest letter (Sept. 1953) to reject that fear of which I had told you, which I had nearly every month, your answer was a very difficult exercise

⁶⁵ "K" is handwritten in the top right corner of the page.

⁶⁶ "c. de {Goede} de Koning Emmastraat 19, Z.H. Holland" is handwritten at the top of the page.

for me. The more I tried to overcome the fear, the stronger it became. It all is related to my physiological and psychological condition and when I found I could not overcome this fear I began to study it. I found out some psychological laws which I later read in the book about psychology but I had found them myself by experience. It seems that I have come to this world, in this incarnation, with a hyper-sensitive sympathetic nerve-system, probably inherited from my father as for the physiological part. As for the psychological part, I think I have tried to force my spiritual evolution in a former incarnation, I cannot see another cause for it. My clairvoyant doctor, whom you know, Gmelig Meyling of Bloemendaal, never like to talk with his patients about their condition, so I cannot get much out from him, but have to find things out for myself. It seems I have to do that always, no one can do it for me. It is not easy but it brings me at last valuable knowledge.

I think, the thyroid gland is forced to work too hard, and this has again a straining influence on the heart, it works too hard also Meyling says it would be better when I should be married. He thinks that the male hormone would stimulate the female hormones and would greatly improve my condition. This {as to} the physiology. Psychologically it {illegible} be very good too, but it must not be that time yet, otherwise it would happen. I cannot verify what he says and as my life is what it is, there rests me only one thing: to try to be as calm as I can and not to fear tensions but to meet them with detachment. Really it is the fear for the fear of tensions that hinders me and when I succeed in being calm in the presence of fear and in not⁶⁷ doing anything about it, letting it remain as it is, it often disappears. Humor is very good for it too but as my condition brings with it psychologically, what they call a "fear-expectation," because my nerves dread tension as they are so sensitive, the thing is not easy to overcome. However, I have courage enough and every time I begin again and go on. Have you some advice for me, the I should be very happy to get it, as you know it is difficult.

Some months ago my doctor told me that there was a fibroid growth in my uterus. I had always felt there was something wrong there. Is it because I had that fear that it came, or was I afraid because I knew for some years that it would come? I cannot tell. Mrs Beach who is the only one I told it, says that a Christian Scientist would say the first and an occultist the second. However, I have to accept the fact whatever is the cause. My doctor says he will try to get on with it till menopause comes. My doctor says he will try to get on with it till menopause comes, for these things sometimes shrivel up then and he does not like me to have an operation just now because I am so sensitive. I have poured out the whole thing to the Overself and leave it in Its hands as far as I can. I do not think much about it, which, I think, is a happy sign.

My type, symbolically expressed in astrology as Aquarius, can accept everything when it understands why things are as they are, but when it cannot understand then it cannot accept. Only faith, is very difficult for it, even impossible. Yet it shall have to surrender its life completely to the Overself, I know, even if it cannot see. May be, circumstances will bring this about. I often pray, "even if I have to suffer, let it be done, if it is Thy will."

I warn you P.B., this will be a very long letter for I have it in my mind to tell you all, but as you once wrote to me that you are always pleased to hear from me, I will say all, as this will be a great Katharsis for me.

My doctor said to me that when sexual tension should be high, I did best to relieve myself of it as it was very natural and he did not like to see me in high tension s this was so bad for me.

I must say I did that sometimes and was mostly not depressed after it because my type is not so sexual and very natural about those things. But it gave me thoughts about a husband, not only for that but also for a comradeship and for that second reason it made me sad all the same. It was very unsatisfactory and no solution of the problem at all. Now all has changed and I shall tell you about it later on in my letter.

There are and have been great problems with my director to solve in the library. I have had immense spiritual help. A lady, a spiritual healer I met at Mrs Beach's this summer and whom I afterwards sent a photo of my director, to ask what she thought of him, wrote to me that I must have helped him enormously during these years. I hope so, P.B, I should be very happy if he brings from this life some spiritual gain indeed. A good thing happened some months ago. He had planned a new organization-scheme for the library and he gave to me another task: the publicity department. This will be for the first time a one-man department and so I will be alone in a room for myself, which is at present just the thing that will help me to be much calmer. No longer every few minutes one to disturb you so that you have continually to concentrate on something else, which made me so tired in the evenings after such a day. And able to create my own atmosphere in that room, which may bless others too. I must say, my director wants to put people in the place where they can use their talents at their best, a good thing. A pity that the human touch is something in which he is not so successful, mostly. "He tightens the ropes too much and this gives much discontent. That is⁶⁸ where I step in if I get the opportunity, to try to make things better for our people and I must say that I am successful sometimes, mostly in the long run for he absorbs my words and after a time he has made them his own, very remarkable. So, if things are not easy at the library, they are useful and that is why I can accept my being still there. But how I would like another environment, you will guess. I have been there now 23 years in all and I think it too much. I want to see life, at least working life from another angle now, but how to come somewhere else. There is as yet no outlook on another kind of job. To go to another library would be easy enough, but that I do not like. I am completely "fed up" with "library" for this incarnation but I will have to wait and be patient. At least my new work is a great improvement. My room is not ready, yet, but it will be in a few months and I can fit it up after my own taste. I must be very grateful for this change.

Now I come to my spiritual life.

This summer in Dormy I sometimes went to the lovely little chapel of Our Lady adjacent to the Big Hall there, to meditate. It has an exquisite atmosphere. Before I went to Holland I put there all my problems at the feet of the Christ, so to speak.

You know that I am very religious, always to have been and severing my relations with the Christian Science church, however necessary it was, must have been inwardly a great shock to me, as I now can see. I have always loved the church, no wonder, as you told me, (do you remember the last time we met at the Hague in 1952,) I have been a monk on one incarnation. Well, I think, I must have been a church-lover in many incarnations and from 1948 on I could nowhere express that love, one could call it in a way Bhakti-yoga, just devotion. And in that highly intellectual, dry atmosphere of the library I could sometimes long for something, I could not express what.

A good friend of mine, an old astrologer and Rosicrucian, sometimes told me how good it would be for me to be in a society with other people but I thought myself I would never go again regularly to a church or another religious movement. I knew my friend thought of the Rosicrucian movement for me, but I did not like it. Instinctively I felt that it was nothing for me. Yet sometimes, though I am accustomed at being much alone, I longed for new spiritual friends and a kind of fellowship with them.

When I came back to Holland after my holidays in England this summer, Arthur, whom I told of my happy visits to Mrs Beach, wanted to go too, though he had said before I went that he did not like to go. He went and this visit was very good for him. He came back quite changed, but now most of the good effects have disappeared for the moment, it seems.

I must say he did things much more thorough than I did, he went to church and studied some works by Leadbeater. It had not come into my head to do such things, while being there. He told me all about it when he came home. I began to study things too. There is a wonderful book by Mrs Besant, Esoteric Christianity and this attracted me very much, also the Science of the Sacrament by Lead-beater, so much that I was amazed at myself. My "protestant" education had never brought me into touch with mystical rites. We call it the Dutch equivalent of "a Punch and Judy show," which was very prejudiced. I loved to be in the English cathedrals because of the atmosphere there but I knew not why. In Christian Science we had no ritual and only a trace of liturgy. In the Liberal Catholic Church they have taken out all expressions of fear for God and cringing and have put in some very beautiful words. They bring me very easy in the Overself region, still faintly but somewhat better than other exercises. It does not make me more emotional, but it refines my feeling. As you said in The Spiritual Crisis of Man that the religious feeling must deepen itself in our development of the intuition, ...⁶⁹

L25.135

135 - 142

Letter from Irene to Mr Krishnamoorthi

Madrid

April 8 1976

Dear Mr Krishnamoorti,

⁶⁹ The following pages are missing.

Here is the typed version of what we talked about. Please forgive the mistakes, I typed it myself. I beg you to keep in mind that these are tentative suggestions to be modified and improved upon by you and your associates. In the mean time I shall submit them to Professor Mahadevan who might bring them to the notice of His Holiness the Shankara of Kanchi if he sees them as suitable.

If these ideas appear as “laying⁷⁰ down the law” a little please forgive, this is not the intention. It is due to enthusiasm. The only intention is to be of some tiny service to a culture and country which has given me so much spiritually and humanly.

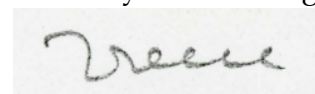
Warmest thanks to you and also to your dear wife for your kind hospitality. Please tell your wife that the one who should tremble is me because Indian ladies are unbeatable in the way they entertain their guests with such dignity simplicity and serenity. Being her guest was a rare treat which was most enjoyable. I⁷¹ am sure I speak for the other two guests as well.

Soon I shall be in India where I can once again merge with fellow aspirants and join them in their works and meditations. All of you will be in my prayers because your centre is a channel through which flows the blessing of His Holiness the Sankara Acharya of Kanchi.

We can keep in touch through Professor Mahadevan who's guidance and approval I will depend on as always. Not knowing how permanent my mother's or my address is I prefer to give you the⁷² Professor's because he will always know our latest residence. It is:

'Upanishad Vihar'
Venkatesapuram 70
Ayanavaram
Madras 23

All best wishes to you and for the wonderful work you are doing



P.S. The address of Professor Don Jose de Solas y Garcia is
Velazquez, 27
Madrid Spain
tel. 2259840

L25.143

143 - 150
Writing by {Unknown}
Undated

⁷⁰ Page 137

⁷¹ Page 139

⁷² Page 141

SPAIN

Professor Solas has introduced a new branch of study and research which he calls humanism. Under this he tries to harmonise all branches of culture: from religion to commerce through systematic thinking. He wants to show that there can be a common purpose to all human activity where everything can take on sensible proportions. Within this project he is organising seminars where representatives from all ways of thought can expose their subject. This gives the Spanish students a chance they seem not to have had before of seeing at first hand for themselves the various ideologies and thus formulate their own conclusions not so much influenced only by the church or only by whichever political regime is in power. However both church and government permit these seminars to take place. The different speakers are preferably genuine, for instance a lecturer on Buddhism should be a Buddhist, a lecturer on Marxism a Marxist etc....

Obviously Hinduism will be welcome in the near future. Two results would be hoped for:

1) That much miscomprehension can be cleared up as regards Western understanding of Indian thought.

2) Much can be offered by Indian thought which can uplift and improve the spiritual level of those who are to receive. That is: India's view that 1) All religions are "arches under one bridge of spiritual aspiration and knowledge" (this is quoted from a speech of His Holiness the Shankara Acharya of Kanchi.)

2) Realisation of Brahman.

3) The role of Dharma.

ENGLAND⁷³

To make a week dedication to "Sanatana Dharma" is as is now done for Islam. Purposes:

1) To inform the Western world of the true meaning and purpose of Indian culture and its benefits.

2) This to be reflected back to India, that it, the attention Sanatana Dharma is getting. Thus inspiring those who are trying to preserve India's spirit and especially to remind those so called progressive modern Indians of the importance of their heritage and that its principles are not only applicable but necessary for the future of India. A combination of the inborn inherent spirituality and modern material development is useful. To shrug off the first would not only be a pity but impractical.

Under item 1

a) Lectures studded by occasional ones from Professor T.M.P. Mahadevan.

b) The arts.

c) Expositions.

d) Collections of the best picture-books (art-books) and other ones representative of the past and present spirituality of India)

e) The media: Interviews and features on prominent Indians. Those no longer living like Shankara, Ramana Maharshee, Mahatma Gandhi, Ramakrishna, Vivekananda and so many others could be given prominence as well.

Under item II

a) Some arrangement could be sought by which all this interest and Western attention be reported back to India in a vivid way. Again the media could be used.

b) Reports and practical suggestions could be sent home about the latest developments in the West such as the return to nature in agriculture, organic nutrition medicine etc... Also what could be reported are⁷⁴ the dangers of pollution, over-industrialisation, the problems experienced by transport (for instance, the output of too many cars resulting in traffic congestions, pollution of the air) and the latest thoughts on improvement. Such studies would save India many years of effort to “catch up” with the one-sided blunders the West is still suffering from. In this way she could avoid losing time. India could thus “cash in” on the conclusions and methods reached by the West and modify them to suit her own conditions and possibilities. The same principle could be applied to social problems and aspirations. India could benefit by the experiments that the West has gone through saving herself the trouble of ploughing through unpleasant consequences of having repeated the mistakes we here are still suffering from.

Long build up and preparation can be undertaken in order to safe-guard interest and success of the plan:

I) Private meetings and acquaintances can be made with people who can help. If and when Professor T.M.P. Mahadevan comes this way he could be asked to give a couple of lectures even before the “big week.” Since he is so highly regarded by His Holiness and since he is a recognised authority on Indian philosophy his advice is and acceptance to help will be a great blessing.

In addition to this, the extraordinary little family that has collected around the Professor could be asked to contribute in their own natural intimate way. First I give you their background and then how they can help up.

Padma:

At the age of 18 she saw a picture of Ramana Maharshee and dedicated her life to him. Was married but with some difficulty managed to free herself and go to Tiruvannamalai. Professor T.M.P. Mahadevan in the meantime becomes a devotee of Maharshee. Maharshee passed away. Padma sees the same qualities in the Professor and as guided by a dream or vision dedicates her life in service to him. Long ago he almost succumbed to diabetes. Her husband in the mean time in his incredible tolerance and magnanimity offered to “take her back” and together as brother and sister to serve the Professor by running his house etc... Her strong musical vasana and gift has been offered to devotional singing such as hymns dedicated to Ramana Maharshee, Shankara and the Devi. Shankara’s Saundarya Lahari, his Shivananda Lahari, his Lalita Trisati and the Lalita Sahasranama are among the works she and a small group of lady devotees sing at auspicious occasions. She spends her few free moments teaching

devotional songs and slokas to the children of the neighbourhood and at festivals they perform to the delight and upliftment of the devotees at Shankara Vihar (Professor Mahadevan's private centre.)

Gita:

Padma's sister dies leaving a baby girl in the care of Padma. Since babyhood Gita "adopted" Professor as her master and whenever invited by her grandparents or father to stay with them would get upset and even run away to be with her Guru. Agreement was reached that she stays with Padma and her husband under the Professor's care. The father comes and visits and is no longer regarded by her as a threat to be taken from her Master. Gita is blossoming into an admirable young girl and expresses her devotion by dancing Bharata Natyam.

For the initial stages of our project we could look into the possibility of bringing Padma, ladies, children and Gita to share their sadhanas with an intimate public, which could include some of my relatives. Thus a sympathetic atmosphere could be created among key people who could help as well as benefit from it all. Who knows what implications can follow. This could all help the preparation of the big week as well as promote India's spiritual and cultural message to the world. If we can we shall try to involve the attention of sympathetic Greek shipowners who could lend their room for performance. Also intimate performances could be at Bharata Vidya Bhavan?

L25.151

151 - 152

Incomplete letter from Catharina
Undated

...⁷⁵ I find that for me it is very good. To kneel was very difficult for me at first but it broke some stiffness and proudness in me, and helped me to surrender. The general effect of going to that church is that some knots in my subconscious are being untied, some things seem to straighten out and that gives sometimes an intense feeling of satisfaction. And what a wonderful devotion those people have. Of course I am not blind to the shortcomings, but I do not expect to find a perfect church as in my C.S. days I expected, and of course was sometimes deeply disappointed in them.

It is very difficult to be completely conscious of what is happening in the region of the subconscious, but one effect of it is that sexual tension is so much lesser than it was. At this moment it does not give me any difficulties. One has to bestow one's feelings somewhere and when this cannot be done, they {lay} havoc and go where one does not want them. After all, it is very plain.

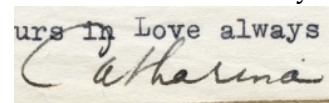
By some curious happenings I came to visit the Bishop (of Holland) and we had a delightful afternoon. He showed me everything in headquarters including the very beautiful vestments and was so very kind to me. He gave me his blessing. I thought of the Master Mahesaya who gave his blessing to you when you asked for it. He is a very

⁷⁵ "4" is handwritten at the top of the page; previous pages are missing.

good, old man. They have no dogma's at all. There are Theosophists, Freemasons, people who were formerly in the Roman Catholic church and others. Free spiritual development is what they like and I must say I feel very much at home with them. I have already made some new friends. A priest whom I paid a visit just to chatter with him, had seen my first article about you in Theosophia, he remembered my name and he asked about you. I was very happy to be able to take away some prejudices and misunderstandings. He would very much like to see you, he told me. Their services are very beautiful. When in {illegible} {Constance} sometimes {illegible} to me: They have such lovely services but then I would not go. A very curious thing happened a week ago. A week after I had paid my visit to the Bishop, now and again a slightly sad feeling crept in my heart, just as if someone was going to die. At first I thought of the old Bishop, but one day when sitting after dinner in the evening in an easy chair and falling into a kind of half-sleep, suddenly I saw before me in my dream an old man in the rosy purple cassock of the Liberal Cath. Bishops with the big cross of gold hanging on his breast. His hair was white and he looked at me very earnestly for some moments, then he vanished and I awoke. "Who is that," I exclaimed. "It is a Bishop." It was not Leadbeater, or Wedgewood, nor "my own" Bishop. I was completely at a loss and forgot all about it. That Sunday after I went to the Church and there was a Requiem, which is absolutely no sad service in this church at all. It gives happiness, for they all know about reincarnation and the stages in which the dead are in between. Only at the middle of it I remembered my dream for it was held for the English Bishop, the President of the Church, Frank Waters Pigott. A priest whom I told my dream after the service, described him to me and there is no doubt it was Pigott whom I saw in his last night on earth and when he was dying. There must be some link out of the past between him and his church and me, no doubt. I cannot see further, but it is very remarkable.

P.B. there is no more to tell you. I am happy to see in Netty, Arthur and Tiny new things coming up, other things than in me of course, but that is self evident. We should be very happy to see you one day but must leave that to the Overself. It will say to you one day but must leave that to the Overself. It will say to you when it is time to come. We do not know the right time.

Yours in Love always

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, which reads "Catharina". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. Above the signature, the words "Yours in Love always" are printed in a small, serif font.

L25.153

153 - 154
Incomplete letter from {Unknown}
Undated

...⁷⁶ one of the devotees of G.D., in Cohasset, a nurse, saw your picture on her shrine in Calif., and said she wanted to write to you directly because yours was the face she saw in her dream, or it might have been in a mystical experience she had. Did I not write you this from {Cohasset} last year? I did not give her the London one to give Wendy, whom I have met, as Savitri told her to get Kenneth's address from Mataji and to write to you through him. Wendy, is a very concerned devotee about Rest Homes and hospitals where they abuse the elderly. She has risen to denounce them upon occasion and is a fighter for the elderly though she is young - not out of her early twenties... I certainly liked her. She keeps a job on the outside and lives in the Ashram in Cohasset. Mataji is taking her with her to India when she goes in October of 1979. It is wonderful to see a young woman taking this kind of interest in the old, unwanted and very much abused people who have so little done for them and who cannot express themselves adequately or strongly enough to demand and get, attention. They need a champion. Wendy has championed them --- I believe she quit or was asked to leave the last hospital nursing home she served - but she did not go before she called the papers and complained about its practices -- that's the kind of material she is. Wendy is her Christian name - she has an Indian one, but I cannot recall it.

L25.155

155 - 156

Letter from Roy A. Burkhart⁷⁷

The First Community Church, 1320 Cambridge Boulevard, Columbus 12, Ohio⁷⁸

May 8, 1953

Mr Paul Brunton
Box 34
Cooper Station, N.Y.

Dear P.B.:

How good it is to have a letter from you. I have read your last book and was deeply interested in it. It was like talking with you in a sense.

I am glad that you are back in New York. I am dictating this in Boston and I wish I could see you.

The first time I come to New York I will certainly see you. I have made note of your address and telephone number.

You have been greatly in my thoughts.

I have been pressed into a movement called World Neighbours, for the time being. I think it has tremendous possibilities. The purpose is to link the resources of people in America with the people at the village level over the world so that they can

⁷⁶ "2" is handwritten in the top right corner of the page; previous pages are missing.

⁷⁷ "B" is handwritten in the top right corner of the page.

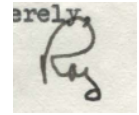
⁷⁸ Address appears in the letterhead.

learn how to help themselves more effectively and at the same time come to a new spirit and a new mind.

I would like to talk it over with you, and I would especially like to be with you to share.

With deepest regards, I am

Sincerely,

A small, square, black-and-white image of a handwritten signature. The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, textured background. It appears to be the name 'Roy' followed by a surname, possibly 'Burkhardt', though the latter is less distinct. The word 'Sincerely,' is visible above the signature.

RAB: rw

L25.157

157 - 158
Newsclip of Dr Roy Burkhardt
Undated

Extract: None

L25.159

159 - 160
Letter from {Unknown} to {Paul Dukes}⁷⁹
20 III 62

Dear Paul,

Thank you for taking the trouble to write me about the recent visit to Wellington of, apparently, the first Maharishi from India! I don't recollect any previous one coming here.

He came to Auckland too, covered the town with black-bearded powers, and departed for Australia. I wish your letter had arrived here before he did. He sent his committee of Inner-Circlers to me with a request to meet him privately, which out of curiosity and courtesy, I did.

After lengthy accounts of his work in different parts of the world, and after answering my questions as to what his teaching was about, he asked me to write about him I told him that I had started a book summing up my conclusions at this ripe old age, and putting in some references to contemporary teachings and teachers to illustrate them, so I might put him in among them. But I could not devote an entire book to him as he wished.

⁷⁹ Determined by context.

Anyway, I discovered that he had nothing new to give the world, that his technique is simply Mantram Yoga. It may be that the West is unfamiliar with it and may regard it as quite new.

I asked him what Mantram he was using, since I thought I knew most of those used in India. He gave it and asked me to meditate on it, which I did, with very small result. He asked me next day to come and meditate with him again, but I did not go. Instead I telephoned that I did not wish to get personally involved in his movement, although sympathetic to its aims in a general way. He decided to return to Auckland on the 27th of this month and stay a few days, and requested me again to meet him privately then.

I do not feel inclined to do so, nor to write anything about him. However I don't want to be discourteous to him. But I dislike his publicity methods, especially the newspaper advertisements, and feel that he or his lieutenants want to use my name to assist this, {publicity.}⁸⁰ So I feel it is best to stay away. He told me nothing at all that I did not already know.

He charges would-be disciples a week's wages here.

He⁸¹ may do some good work among beginners, but his claim that Mantra Yoga is sufficient of itself to lead to full realization of the Goal, is unacceptable to me. Nor did I feel any of the sublimity and grandeur which, when he was plunged in meditation, the Maharishi of Arunachala always manifested.

Our visitor pooh-poohed Hatha Yoga, when I questioned him about it. It was obvious to me that he really knew little about it firsthand.

Our friend HJK has been impressed by the advertisements (and perhaps by the Beard!) and wants to meet the gentleman and asked me to take him along. This is a responsibility which I cannot assume, for reasons which I shall tell you in person. I tried to get Frank Goodey to assume it but he too will not do so. (he went to the public lecture, and also met the disciples from wellington who are spreading the gospel here)

Nous verrons!

If you have any time when you come here later, I shall certainly enjoy another meeting.

With all Peace, and Well-Being to you and Diana,

L25.161

161 - 162

Letter from {PD}⁸²

c/o A.N.Z. Bank, Lambton Quay, Wellington.

15.3.62.

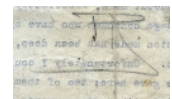
Dear P.B.,

⁸⁰ This line runs off the page; only "publicit" is visible in the original.

⁸¹ Page 160

⁸² "Sir Paul Dukes" and "(ARCH" are handwritten in the top right corner of the page.

The self-styled “maharishi” Mahesh has made his rather theatrical debut here, excellently stage-managed for external effect by his back-stage henchmen who have spared no expense, but I do not think the impression made has been deep, certainly not lasting. It is too transparent. Unfortunately I could not attend any of the three public lectures he have here; two of them clashed with my own class evenings and the third with a dinner party at the H.C.’s which I didn’t wish to miss. But several of my students gave me reports. I advised them to go if they could and form their own judgment. Some of them may be reserving judgment but most were negatively impressed (a) by his assertion that no physical exercises of any kind can be of any assistance in his “easy method” of meditations - especially harmful is hatha yoga; (b) it is equally harmful to incant “OM;” (c) the only mantra that can be of any avail is the “secret sound” which he will reveal only to each applicant separately, and under a promise of secrecy. His publicity quotes him as saying that this “secret sound” is never the same for two persons, but several friends of mine in London who asked my view of the value of his teaching revealed to me the “secret sound” administered to them, and it was in each case “Rama!” Both my London friends and those here were equally put off by the demand put forward by the maharishi’s” bodyguard that before they can have a private interview with him they must donate three days’ salary or earnings (of their husbands in the case of married ladies) - which they naturally regarded as a rather obvious device for finding out what their income was, for future reference! 3 days salary is apparently a {“sadu price”} - in London it was one week’s! For the rest, what I heard him put forward as his “teaching” in London and repeated here is a very commonplace presentation of the simpler interpretations of the Gita coupled with moralistic injunctions about working for world peace, and the infallibility of the “easy method”⁸³ he has “discovered” for solving all internal psychological and spiritual problems. Are you intending to go and hear him? If so, I shall be very interested to hear your impressions. We are coming up to Auckland toward the end of this month and shall look forward to seeing you. Don’t bother to acknowledge this. We may be moving from the guest cottage in a few days, hence the back address for reference. Hope all goes well with you. Diana joins in sending you a cordial namaste.



L25.163

163 - 164

Envelope to Madame Gray
1 Palais de la Mes, Monte-Carlo, Principante de Monaco
Undated

Extract: None

L25.165

165 - 168
Letter from Natasha
Hotel Excelsior Montreux, CH-1820 Montreux/Suisse⁸⁴
Sunday 11 Oct. 76

Dear Mr Brunton,

I promised to let you know about our visit to Monsieur {Amost} -

We both found him very sympathetic and interesting - As he wasn't free until midday, and had patients coming at one thirty we just asked him for one consultation and then he and his wife joined us for lunch in the restaurant below so that⁸⁵ we could talk - {illegible} I don't think that she gives any treatments, they {form} a pair.

I found that they used to stay {in at} a family who live just near my mother above {Mendon}, and the {mother} of these people used to work for my parents tenants!

{M.} {Amost} has a very far-reaching mind - and I think that if you had need you could go to him in confidence - They are both very warm-hearted and good people, and he is very intuitive and knowledgeable. He speaks a little English -

His⁸⁶ address is

45 rue du Simplon - Vevey

Tel. 51 16 19 -

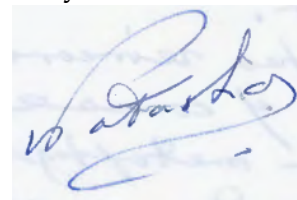
The entrance is between a shop called the 'Bon {Genie},' and a Restaurant which is on a corner.

He takes reincarnation as a matter of course and is very apt for metaphysical enquiry. He is not a vegetarian -

We much appreciated your visit to us, and ours to you - and thank you so much for bringing the {illegible} -

We⁸⁷ shall leave Geneva as soon as the car is returned to us {from} the garage - and move down to the vineyards -

Affectionately from us both,⁸⁸



P.S Madame DENTAN's address is
60, Avenue de {Bethusy}
7072 {Lausanne}

⁸⁴ Address appears in the letterhead.

⁸⁵ Page 166

⁸⁶ Page 167

⁸⁷ Page 168

⁸⁸ "(Gray)" is handwritten by the signature in a different hand.

Tel. 32 44 76

L25.169

169 - 170
Letter from Natasha Gray
26-10-76

Dear Mr Brunton,

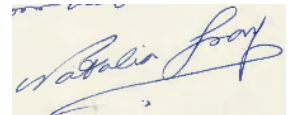
We have arrived safely at the vineyards -

Have just opened a catalogue from {Gretz} and see that they advertise the {DR19-DRICYA-VIVEKA} ({Coment} {illegible} le spectateur du spectacle) attribute a {Bharatitirtha}. Version anglaise de Swami Nikhilananda - Tr. fr. {sons la direction} de Swami Siddheswarananda - 20,000F.

You mentioned it to us the other day, and might be glad to know that it exists in French - Centre Vedantique Ramakrishna. 77220 {Gretz} (c.c.p. Paris 8.885.31A.)

We shall soon be back in {N.C.} I expect.

With our best wishes,



L25.171

171 - 172
Letter from {illegible}
06570 St. Paul de Vence
March 18th 77

Dear Dr Brunton,

Dorothy and I have just returned from England where we spent six days, visiting the children at their schools and talking to their masters.

Although at present their academic and social progress is not very assured, I feel that they are all getting on well and developing great toughness to overcome considerable difficulties.

These have been difficult days because, empirically speaking, I feel at a loss with the School-teachers, who are learned and superior, - and yet inside me I know that we are all the same and that progress in human beings cannot only be measured by outer behaviour and academic standards.

I am getting more detachment from the children and I feel that my love for them is stronger, and the help I am able to give them more useful. This applies especially to my son Christopher who is now seventeen. The link I have with him is entirely and inner one, it is very good and getting stronger all the time. If it were not for that I would never have any contact with him at all.

Sending the children off to Boarding School has proved more difficult for me than I had ever imagined. The night before they left I had a dream that I was offering a living part of my body as a sacrifice to His Holiness!

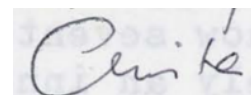
Only for him it is possible!

We thought and talked about you, and how you had lived and worked so long in that amazing country that I love so much and feel so close to; - no amount of France was able to change that feeling. Dear⁸⁹ Dr Brunton, I do hope that you are better now and that this cruel cold will slowly give way to mild weather and spring, and that you will be able to enjoy the sun again and the flowers.

The daffodils were out all over Hyde Park and from our Hotel room we saw Officers and elegantly dressed people riding in the "Row" in the early morning. It might have been a hundred years ago. -

The reason for writing is that I would like to ask you if I may know the address of Wei Wu Wei? I was very impressed by his book about the Owl and the Rabbit and would like to have the opportunity of meeting him, unless he objects to seeing people, which would be understandable.

I feel I {owe you} too much and that for {some} {mysterious} reason you have been {helping} me {illegible} since {ages}. I cannot really express my gratitude because the extent of {the} {help} is not yet fully experienced. -



Please forgive {me} use of the type writer. -

L25.173

173 - 174

Letter from Natasha

Palais De La Mer, Monte-Carlo, P^{te} De Monaco⁹⁰

12th October '79

Dear P.B. -

I have tried several times to ring you but it is difficult for me to do so at a time when you are in your room -

Mr Masson told us you had to move earlier than expected and we do hope you find another home quickly -

Terence was tired when Patrick Brennan was here, owing to a homeopathic⁹¹ treatment but he is in good form again now - We liked Patrick, and hope to meet Dr {Chan} another time.

⁸⁹ Page 172

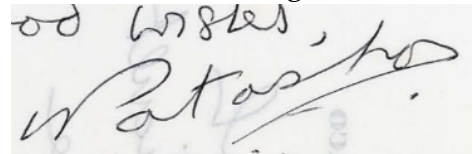
⁹⁰ Address appears in the letterhead.

⁹¹ Page 174

Our very nice English couple, who you have never met, are leaving in order to join their children in South Africa, and we are still looking for someone to replace them - We hope to go away for a short period before the end of the month - probably not further than {Vence}.

I am enclosing an addressed envelope and hope that you will send us your next address -

With our affectionate good wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Natasha Gray', with a horizontal line drawn through the name.

L25.175

175 - 176

Envelope from Gray

1 Palais de la Mer - Monte-Carlo - Monaco

17.10.79⁹²

Monsieur Paul Brunton,
Au des Alpes 107
1814 La Tour de {Teils}
Vaud
Suisse⁹³

L25.177

178 - 182

Letter from Natasha Gray

1 Palais de la Mer - Monte-Carlo - Principality of Monaco

Easter Day 1979

Dear PB,

We were so glad to have your letter of Jan. 18th, and trust that you took good care of yourself through the long winter. I hope that, at last, the weather is improving and also that you are comfortable in your new apartment.

We plan to go to the vineyards in the Rhone valley in May -

I have been working hard on the genealogy of my father's family (from the {Caucasus}) which needs more time than I have available.⁹⁴ When we were first married Terence, who is a genealogist, did very valuable work on the family history, and this is a great help.

⁹² Postmarked date.

⁹³ "Hotel Europe Montreux" is crossed out by hand and replaced with this address.

⁹⁴ Page 179

We were glad to learn that Princess Irene was able to come and see you. I wonder whether she has had an occasion to visit Sri Nisargadatta (in Bombay)? It would be really sad if she missed him -

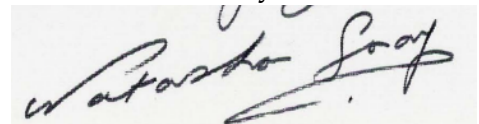
I {have} my sister and brother in-law from Geneva coming to have lunch with us to-day - It is fine enough to be out in the patio, which is looking very pretty with roses and tulips in flower.⁹⁵

I will ring the Massons soon and hope to see them before {we} leave - But there is a lot of demolition work round us now so the week-days are noisy (and dusty!) and not good for entertaining -

Mme {Chabame} helps us still - but she has a lot of problems with her daughter and she herself is very discouraged at Times -

If we manage to get to Switzerland we will let you know as it would be such a pleasure for us to see you.

Affectionately from us both,



L25.183

183 - 184

Letter from Terence J.S. Gray⁹⁶

1, Palais De La Mer, Monte-Carlo P^{te} De Monaco⁹⁷

22nd July, 1965

Dear Dr Brunton,

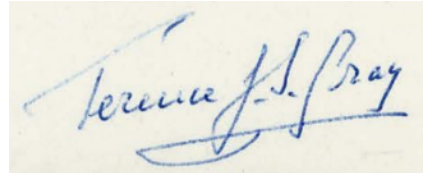
It is indeed kind of you to send me those few lines. Coming from you the appreciation is of great value. As you say, something of the kind is certainly needed but I hope there are and will be others who will do it much better than I can. If you will do me the honour of accepting a copy of my later book called "OPEN SECRET" I will have one sent to you in due course from the Oxford University Press when they arrive in London. If you would care to have it, perhaps you would be kind enough to let me know if the address on the back of your envelope, to which I am sending this letter, is a permanent address or merely temporary.

With kindest regards,
Yours sincerely,

⁹⁵ Page 181

⁹⁶ "G" is handwritten in the top right corner of the page.

⁹⁷ Address appears in the letterhead. "Ruelle St. Jean, Monte Carlo, Monaco (30-72-39)" is handwritten in the top right corner of the page.



L25.185

185 - 186

Letter from Natasha Gray and Terence J.S. Gray
1, Palais De La Mer, Monte-Carlo, P^{te} De Monaco
6th January, 1970

Dear Doctor Brunton,

It is a year since we had the pleasure of seeing you here. We hope that 1970 will be a happy year for you, and that you will let us know if your return to our coast, and that meanwhile you have found somewhere warm and peaceful to stay.

We were very glad to have your lovely card from Italy in June. We also⁹⁸ were on the Lago Maggiore - just above Ascona at the Monte Verita hotel!

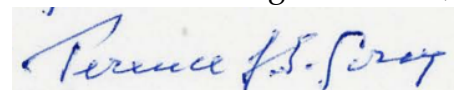
Thank you for your good wishes for our {illegible}. 1969 should be a good year, and now we are just back from the vineyards, where we were busy looking after things while the head-vigneron and his family were laid up with {flu}. It was very cold indeed - and we were lucky to find some lovely sunny days on our return here.

Yours very sincerely,



{etre} {me}, perhaps, the Presence, phenomenally absent, in which occurrences occur?

With all good wishes,



L25.187

187 - 190

Letter from Natasha
Signal De Chexbres, Hotel-Restaurant - 1604 Puidoux-Gare - Lac Lemman/Suisse⁹⁹
12th August 1980

⁹⁸ Page 186

⁹⁹ Address appears in the letterhead.

Dear P.B.

Just too let you know that we have been up to Tharpa Choeling - We were received by the gentle American lama, Arnie Possick - and met {Geshe Rabten} and assisted at the Pooja in the Temple -

I have brought back some books and we have begun to read Gest {Geshe Rabten's} biography -

They have asked, in response to our offer, for Wei Wu Wei's books for their library, and I will send them on our return.

I¹⁰⁰ do not think that it is practical for them to visit us for work, as it is too far, and they are very busy.

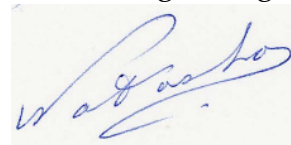
{Dureen McCandlers} has left now for Paris, and to-day we had the visit of our interesting and sympathetic young woman who is completing her studies in child psychology in Paris, and is now on holiday - She has travelled in the Far East and is keen to work with Terence - She will begin next week -

I hope that you have found the time to see your¹⁰¹ doctor?

I am so glad you were able to come while the weather was still fine, and it was such a pleasure for us to have you here -

I hope that your work advances well ---

and with our affectionate greetings,



P.S. They are planning 'stages' for traditional Tibetan medicine at Tharpa Choeling - and Lama Possick said that, contrary to what I have read, acupuncture is sometimes used.

L25.191

191 - 192

Letter from Natasha Gray

1 Palais de la Mer, Monte-Carl, Principality of Monaco

Sunday 23.1.77

Dear Mr Brunton-

We hope you are busy and well and happy =

My life is still very interwoven with our healer-friends, and the {Philipine} methods seem to be developing spontaneously over here now - more anon about this -

We have just been lent "Many Lifetimes" by Joan Grant and Dr Denys Kelsey - {Gallant} 1974 - I will read it and then ask you about it -

¹⁰⁰ Page 188

¹⁰¹ Page 189

I sent you Terence's 'Unworldly Wise' and also Douglas Harding's little book, which I hope, arrived safely - but don't worry about writing - We will see you, I hope, in the {illegible} -

We are glad to learn from Diana Masson from Hong Kong just recently -

M. {Amort}, the healer at Vevey, is very tired at the moment but friends are helping him and I hope he will soon learn to free himself from his patients ills - He and his wife are such nice people, and deserve all possible help.

With our love and best wishes for many years to come,



L25.193

193 - 194

Letter from Natasha

1, Palais De La Mer, Monte-Carlo, P^{te} De Monaco¹⁰²

12th August 1978

Dear P.B.,

Your letter is very welcome and we had been thinking of you since you left in May and worrying that the bad weather in Switzerland might have caused you some more bronchitis. Actually you don't mention your health and we hope that all is well.

We would love to come and see you when we can.

Our 'inaction in action' has taken the form of tumbling down steps and stairs, and has to be seen to be believed!

Terence began it by coming down the steep stairs from the 2nd floor on his back. No bones broken, but a very uncomfortable few days and some big bruises. A guest had just arrived for tea and I had gone down ahead to receive her, and we heard an awful crash which was hard too for her. She had brought a young Swiss boy with her who was suffering from a budding nervous breakdown, and I think that his experience was the last straw for him!

I followed-up just recently by twisting my ankle, and then by slipping and landing with a dreadful bump on my tail on a hard step.

I am reserving the results of our joint performances for a healer friend who will be on holiday down here next week. He has been warned, and so far he hasn't made his holiday plans!

In a way I am glad to have been here this summer, as it is the only time of year that we really enjoy the patio. In July we were without the couple who were on holiday, which was rather peaceful because of the freedom from their timetable and being able to leave all doors open. Also I enjoyed going down early into the patio, which I don't do normally because of disturbing the housework, etc. Terence, however, found it rather a trial after the first couple of weeks, which is normal. Mme. Chabanne

¹⁰² Address appears in the letterhead.

was here quite often which was a great help, and we also had a Frenchwoman who had been married to a Japanese painter who died in Pnom Pen, who came and helped in small ways.

Terence's¹⁰³ book was published, but as we didn't see the proofs there are a number of printer errors, also Mme. Chabanne isn't so pleased with some of the publisher's alterations to the French, so we are making a list of corrections for the 2nd edition (if such is forthcoming.)

The publisher is now beginning to translate another of T's books, OPEN SECRET, and he has promised to send us a few pages every two weeks, which will lighten the burden.

Just recently we had Holmes Welch to stay for a few days. You may have read his book on Taoism? He also did two splendid vols. on the history of the Chinese monastic system. He is American (from Boston), and is an old friend of ours from when we were in Hong Kong. Your son will probably know about him, as he is connected with Harvard.

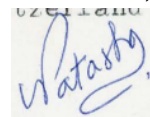
We have had an interesting visit from a pupil and friend of Jean Klein. He has been doing healing work, and also gives seminars for Kashmiri yoga. He was talking of treating via our more subtle body (not the etheric nor astral), which is beyond time and space and which removes the idea of 'distant' healing. He will be giving seminars in London in the autumn, and also goes to Geneva. I didn't ask him to treat us, because of our friend coming next week.

I am enclosing an article by our friend Rex Bontoft, who is a retired ("heretical") parson, and a powerful healer. Please don't feel you must send it back, otherwise I shall never be able to send you other copies!

If I knew of someone who could help you install yourself in the new flat, like Mme Chabanne, would their help be welcome? As you don't wish to become involved with Jean Klein's group, it would have to be someone quite independent of them. If Mme Chabanne was in Switzerland, would you care for her help, or is she perhaps a bit too hasty and 'nervy;' she can be sometimes, depending on her state of health.

We expect to be going to the vineyards as soon as possible after the August rush of holiday makers, and hope to come up to Switzerland before the winter.

With all best wishes from us both,



L25.195

195 - 196

Letter from Natasha

1, Palais De La Mer, Monte-Carlo, P^{te} De Monaco¹⁰⁴

¹⁰³ Page 194

¹⁰⁴ Address appears in the letterhead.

4th April '78¹⁰⁵

Dear Brother Brunton-

I call you like this, as our good friend Ganesh at Ramanasramam calls me 'sister!'

I haven't rung you, because if you have had a number of guests, you will now be feeling the need of peace and quiet -

Nevertheless I would like you to know our plans, and I will ring you if there is a chance of us coming over before we leave - We¹⁰⁶ will be here at least until the 16th. Soon after that we must go up to the vineyards -

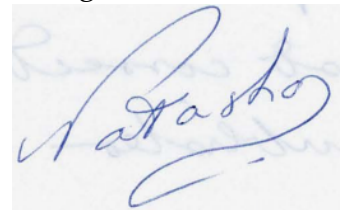
The last corrections have gone off to the publisher - and I am now continuing a genealogical job that had been left unfinished, while Terence¹⁰⁷ works with Mme Chabanne -

Soon we shall have the {grapes} to {reach.}

I am distressed at having so little time to communicate with our friends - both metaphysical and in the healing 'world' - but it is my own fault as I spend a good deal of time making untidiness, and Tidying it up again!

I hope, of course, that all is well for your {illegible} - If there is anything Mme Chabanne can do to help you, please let us know -

With best thoughts from us both,



L25.197

197 - 198

Letter from Natasha

Geneva

16.10.76

Dear Mr Brunton,

Our car has taken a little longer at the garage than was expected, and so we are still here.

To-day we called in at the '{Freres Chinois}' - {the} Swiss wife of one of them was in the shop and she volunteered her husband's medical troubles.

He has had a bad cough for about five days. and finally decided to go and see a doctor, who gave him codeine to take - This medicine however has made him feel so ill

¹⁰⁵ "10am Train. Butler meets it arrives 11am WED." is written at the top of the page in a different hand.

¹⁰⁶ Underlined in a different hand.

¹⁰⁷ Page 196

that he is in bed to-day. He suffers from¹⁰⁸ diabetes, which might have something to do with it?

I am telling you all this in case you know them well.

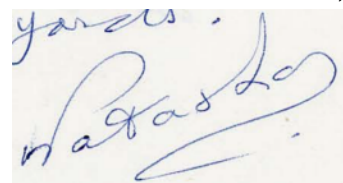
If you were able to obtain a photo of the one who is ill - I could get him treated - or you might be able to ask Brother {Marchus'} help?

There was no need for his wife to tell us anything - but as she did, there is perhaps something that should be done?

I suggested that he might be wiser to try a homeopath or a naturopath, but she looked blank -

We were sorry not to see him, but bought some good tea and look forward to drinking it when we get to the vineyards.

With our best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Natasha', with a flourish underneath.

L25.199

199 - 200

Letter from Natasha¹⁰⁹

1 Palais de la Mer - Monte-Carlo

2 - December 1978

Dear P.B.

This is just to let you know that we didn't manage to go to Switzerland -

We left here rather late and by the time we arrived at the vineyards, the roads further north are already foggy. So we stayed there for 3 weeks and came straight back here.

I spoke to Jack Masson who said that he would be seeing you, of which I was glad.

And I think your son also came to stay?

We hope that the sudden cold¹¹⁰ hasn't started up your bronchitis again, and wonder whether you intend to spend the winter in Switzerland this year.

We also hope that you like your new flat - and have managed to {illegible} your manuscripts -

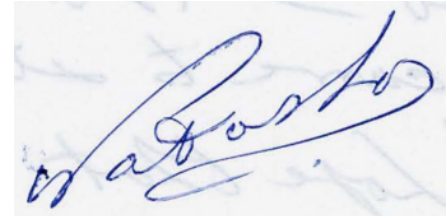
Perhaps we shall have a sudden call from {Cannes} to say that you have arrived here again - that would be very nice indeed!

With all best wishes from us both,

¹⁰⁸ Page 198

¹⁰⁹ "G" is handwritten in the top right corner of the page.

¹¹⁰ Page 200



L25.201

201 - 202

Letter from Natasha Gray
1, Palais De La Mer, Monte-Carlo, P^{te} De Monaco¹¹¹
30th June 1977

Dear Mr Brunton,

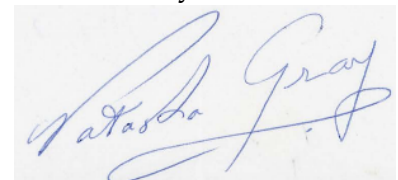
Thank you for your letter of the 13th. We were distressed indeed to learn that you had to move from your very pleasant home in Blonay, and we hate to think of all the trouble that this must have given you.

I quite understand about your wishing to remain withdrawn from public activity and this was why, via me, no one obtained your address, inspite of pleading!

We expect to be leaving for the vineyards in the Drome next Monday and to spend most of July up there. We are not yet sure of our plans for August, but may be going to Ireland.

We look forward to hearing from you in the autumn, and wish you the best of luck in finding a new place in which to settle.

Affectionately from us both,



L25.203

203 - 204

Letter from Terence J.S. Gray
1, Palais De La Mer, Monte-Carlo, P^{te} De Monaco¹¹²
14th June, 1966

Dear Dr Brunton,

I am so glad to hear from you again.

¹¹¹ Address appears in the letterhead.

¹¹² Address appears in the letterhead.

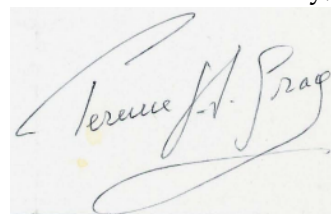
Indeed it never occurred to me to think that it was rude of you not to answer my last letter, nor does it appear to be odd that anyone should not want to read one of my books, particularly yourself! But since you are kind enough to express a wish to do so I have instructed the Oxford University Press to send you a copy.

We may have to write books whether we like doing it or not, but do we have to read them? Perhaps. But they simulate a lot of unnecessary thought. And perhaps a little less - undesirable intuition? I really have no news on the subject; have you?

An odd point is that the public seems to be fonder of reading them than publishers are fond of printing them: they go out-of-print - and that is that!

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,



L25.205

205 - 206

Letter from Terence J.S. Gray¹¹³

1, Palais De La Mer, Monte-Carlo, P^{te} De Monaco¹¹⁴

24th. Sept. '66

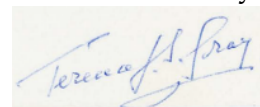
Dear Dr Brunton,

It was most kind of you to let me know of the sudden death of Mr Fander. We did not know him intimately, but we had met him a number of times, has corresponded with him, and he was extraordinarily kind when we were returning from Japan via the N. Pole. He met us at Copenhagen at 5 ocl. in the morning, took us to breakfast, drove us round the city and district and, after lunch put us in the 'plane for Geneva. It will always be a very happy memory. We are happy to know that you were with him, and that it all happened so rapidly.

Books? Are they a help or a hindrance? Certainly both? But where the balance is to found might be difficult to guess! Does one tire more easily of writing them than do others of reading them? At best I only say the same thing just a little more clearly or obscurely. And you? Greatly appreciated, I am happy to say.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,



¹¹³ "G" is handwritten in the top right corner of the page.

¹¹⁴ Address appears in the letterhead.

Dear Dr Brunton,

I was very happy to have your interesting and kind letter, forwarded by Princess Irene of Greece who, I am sorry to say was not able to come to Monte-Carlo in present circumstances. She says that she hopes to come on a future occasion. She gave me no address but, if you should be writing to her perhaps you would tell her how glad we would be to see Her Royal Highness and to discuss these matters? Apperceiving as such may not be plural, but its incidence has multiple aspects which discussion may encourage.

I am distressed to hear of your long illness and delighted to know that you are restored to good health. One hears very little about Sri Shankara of Kanchi, and nothing significant beyond what you told us long ago. I have spent little time in India where metaphysics tend to be 'positive,' except in the higher degrees of Vedanta, which few people appear to reach. Mahayana Buddhism, on account of its Taoist element (i) is surely the most direct of the ancient teachings? That of the Maharshi was only superficially 'positive;' when he spoke to those who could understand he taught the 'negative' way, occasionally in the same words as those to T'ang dynasty masters of China, of whom he may not even have heard.

I wonder if there is really anything whatever to understand? Is it not almost entirely a matter of relinquishing the ubiquitous untruth of relativity? When that begins to wear thin - the sun begins to shine through? Could anything relatively 'positive' be true anyhow? Is there not an almost universal tendency to concentrate on the vehicle or metaphysical understanding who, if he is a genuine vehicle, knows his own nullity? If, in a sense, he is his message - then so also is whoever is receiving it! I have known a number of highly qualified monks and abbots in the Chinese far-East, and one Master, and I recognised the difference at once: the former were (relatively) 'present,' he was (relatively) 'absent:' they answered questions, he asked - and he extracted 'the answers he wanted to hear - from where they needed to come from! Is not that less dialogue than communion?

Since you are so kind as to take an interest in my books - the last one is now in the Press (Hong Kong University at usual.). Don't you think that anything really worth saying can best be said in a dozen words? I am ever more inclined only to do that. My last book I have called "Posthumous Pieces." You will know, words being tombstones,

¹¹⁵ "G" is handwritten in the top right corner of the page.

¹¹⁶ Address appears in the letterhead.

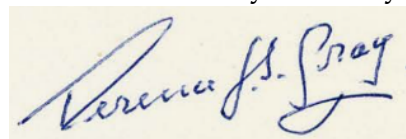
¹¹⁷ "5 Jan 69" and a checkmark is handwritten in the top right corner of the page.

and books cemeteries, also since I never claim authorship, wherein lies the posthumous element!

My wife and I often think of our mutual friend Fander, to whom you were so kind, for which also we are grateful, as for your interest in what I attempt to do.

Wishing you the perfect equanimity which is available to all of us even while extended in space-time,

Yours very sincerely,



P.S.¹¹⁸ Holmes Welsh has a charming story in his recent great work on Chinese monasteries. In case you don't know it: a monk taking him round a monastery, happened to refer to the monastery-stoker as a bodhisattva. Seeing Holmes' look of surprise, he remarked "You don't have to sit in meditation all day in order to become a bodhisattva, you know! It is enough to have an undivided mind!"

(i) Religions in general tend to be somewhat phantasmagoric compared with the original Taoism, which goes straight to the point - and just stays there! And is not what is implied the basis of all religions?

L25.211

211 - 212

Letter from Terence J.S. Gray

1, Palais De La Mer, Monte-Carlo, P^{te} De Monaco¹¹⁹

9th. March '69¹²⁰

Dear Dr Brunton,

My wife and I both appreciated your kind letter, and we are grateful to you for your two visits of which we have such happy memories.

As I think you imply, and will probably agree, one can discuss endlessly any of the relative aspects of "the matters that really matter," and perhaps - sometimes - advantageously, and indeed I am nearly always willing to do so, but I rarely take the initiative except occasionally with visitors who obviously wish it. Absolutely, is there anything to discuss? Conceiving, how could I conceive conceiving - whoever says it? Was that now why the greater Masters of the T'ang dynasty turned away from relative language and resorted to gestures? What could there be to say? Phrases may be suggestive to the 'young' and my inspire ap-perceiving, but they cannot possess or convey what is not transmissible. Is not virtuality too simple to be expressed in any manner soever? Perhaps only the complex can be described in duration? Is it even a

¹¹⁸ Page 209

¹¹⁹ Address appears in the letterhead.

¹²⁰ "PC sent from {Stresa} 7 June 69" is handwritten in the top right corner of the page.

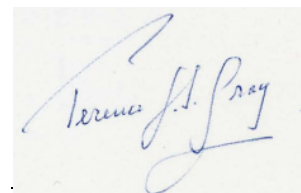
'knowing,' let alone a 'saying?' Some of the old Masters burned all their books, and how many of them wrote any?

I have always been interested in what I seek to describe as 'non-objective relation,' which is intended to suggest that, in our absence as 'me,' apparent 'others' are present as I, but that is not an experience-subject-to-temporality, and is not necessarily cognised. I believe that both ancient and modern sages have known it and applied it; indeed I have such occasion so to have experienced it in the presence of one such. Perhaps you also - with the Maharshi? Too simple for there to be anything dramatic about it! Really too natural for it to be normally recognised by us.

A passing thought concerning "matters that really matter."

My wife and I earnestly hope that the charming Riviera del Pontente and the grace of what remains of old Genoa (down by the harbour) will give you deep enjoyment and physical good health; and we both keenly look forward to the next occasion of personal encounter.

Cordially Yours,



L25.213

213 - 216

Letter from Natasha

1, Palais De La Mer, Monte-Carlo, P^{te} De Monaco¹²¹

6th January 1980

Dear P.B.,

Thank you for sending us your change-of-address, and we hope you are finding your new flat comfortable and peaceful, and we very much hope, of course, that your health has been better.

We have received letter, communications and poems from Peter Chou, as you will have done, and his visits to you are very important to him.

We have also heard from Patrick Brennan. We are very glad to have met him and shall remain in correspondence with him.

The autumn and early winter have passed quickly here. Madame Chabanne, who came to help you at Cannes, has moved to Angers, and we now have a very nice Englishman who works with Terence. He is actually partially Irish and they share the same sense of humour and have a good time translating texts together. We keep in regular touch with Mme Chabanne, who needs moral support over her children and problems.

¹²¹ Address appears in the letterhead.

We had a Heaven-sent English couple from April to December, who were such a help when Terence was unwell. They have just moved on to South Africa and we now have just the young couple we need; she is half Vietnamese and he is from the Drome, where we have our vineyards. They are not trained but are learning fast, and share our preference for natural foods, etc. They are adapting very well too as we have noisy work round us now and have to take a lawyer and go to Court owing to possible damage from the explosions.

Neither Terence nor I suffer from these, but it is hard on Mr Kirsch our manager, who is a heart case, and on his little dog who is terrified, and who we all rush to comfort when the minitrumpet sounds! The builder is immensely powerful here and calls himself the King of Monaco and I hope that our friends will help to protect us from his bad thoughts! It is rare that people stand up to him I think.

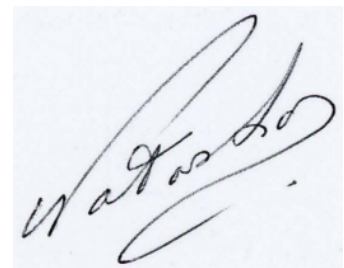
We ¹²² had a visit recently from Mr and Mme Arthur Amort, the healer/practitioner I once told you about, from Vevey. He seems to be in much better health again, i.e. his nervous system is no longer giving him such trouble. He was happy to have a copy of Wei Wu Wei's 'La Voie Negative,' and I hope that he will find his way to the Tibetan monastery in due course, although he wants to remain free and feels drawn to Ch'an and Zen. However he could have some helpful conversations with the European followers to the Tibetan abbot perhaps.

I will soon be ringing the Massons to see if they are back from South America, as we did not see them this autumn.

We received recently the second volume of the more worthwhile of contemporary publications.

I hope that at last you have been able to work on your book?

Terence joins me in sending you our affectionate good wishes for health and joy during 1980,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Terence Gray', written in a cursive style.

L25.217

217 - 218
Letter from {PB}¹²³ to Terence Gray¹²⁴ from
Rome
18. May. 68.

¹²² Page 215

¹²³ Author determined from the content of the letter.

¹²⁴ "To Terence Gray, Monte Carlo" is inserted by hand at the beginning of the letter.

It does not seem possible, dear Mr Gray,

that a year and a half have passed since I welcomed and read your last letter. Having retired from active life I let correspondence pile up into vast arrears, and then belatedly energized myself into writing. The situation was worsened this year when I had to go into hospital for nearly two months in a half dead condition.

This letter will be handed to you if possible, by H.R.H. Princess Irene of Greece, whom I have seen today and who told me she was visiting Monaco this month to stay as the guest of Prince and Princess Rainier for a few days. I have known her for several years and she is very much interested in the higher philosophy of Truth as expressed by Zen, Maharshee and Shankara Acharya etc... She is travelling together with her married sister H.R.H. Princess Sophia of Spain who is also interested in the philosophy generally. I happened to mention that you might be in Monaco at this time and H.R.H. expressed a wish to meet you and your wife if possible for a talk. She therefore kindly offered to hand you this letter if it proves possible.

I agree with your statement that books can be both a help and a hindrance, and that it all depends on finding the right balance. For instance, how would you and I have come to know about the existence of Zen and Vedanta if no books existed on the subjects at all! The Divine would of course, have found a way to make them known to us. But the views expressed so admirably and forthrightly in the book which you so kindly sent me in 1966 are so unfamiliar to the ordinary reader, even to the serious one, that every additional statement you write becomes a further means of helping him to understand them with greater clarity: while, of course, it also becomes a means of giving more people more chances to become aware of the very existence of the higher philosophy.

In¹²⁵ the book I wrote about forty years ago -- "A search in Secret India" -- there was a chapter entitled "The Spiritual Head of South India." It described a meeting with His Holiness Shri Shankaracharya of Kanchi (not to be confused with the other four or five Shankaras now existing in North, South, East and West India.) He made a very deep and favourable impression upon me. About the end of 1966 H.R.H. Irene, together with her mother Queen-Mother Frederica, visited India, and they were able to take the opportunity to meet His Holiness; and it is not surprising that the same impression was made upon them. We all three believe him to be a Sage, not merely a yogi, and the truest one known to, and accessible by, the public in India. Nor is he a guru in the ordinary sense, as his duties preclude such personal relationships -- which should satisfy Krishnamurti!

I mention him partly to show you how earnest the ladies were in their interest, and partly to suggest that if your travels take you near South India a single meeting with him -- which is probably all the time he could spare -- would be worth while. Her Royal Highness Princess Sophie, being married and having children, did not have the opportunity for one, but she is just as ardently interested in the higher philosophy, and in living it!

Please accept my kindest thoughts, and may The Peace be with you!

Sincerely,

L25.219

219 - 220

Letter from Iris E. Edwards
6, East Usk Road., Newport-Mon., NPT 7AG.
5/5/69

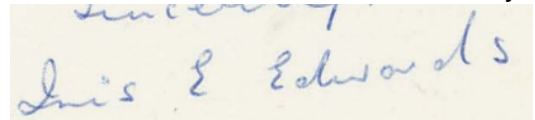
Dear Mr Brunton,

When {Mr} Walkins of the {illegible} cross book shop, told me that you were still around - I could not let the opportunity pass of writing to you - to thank you for all the help which is in your books.

To have been given the chance to study - learn and work is to me the miracle. - There is a lot of work that has to be done, the unexpected glimpse has shown that.

Thank You.

Yours Sincerely.

A photograph of a handwritten signature in blue ink on a light-colored piece of paper. The signature reads "Iris E. Edwards". Above the signature, the word "Sincerely" is partially visible, also in blue ink.

L25.221

221 - 222

Letter from {Diwakar Prakash Singh}, Yuvaraj of Kasmanda¹²⁶
Windsor Lodge, Ali Asker Road, Bangalore.
9th of October, 1936.¹²⁷

Dear Mr Paul Brunton,

I am glad you kindly promised to give letters of introduction to some saintly personages and Rishikesh and to some Bengali lady also leading a saintly life over there when my wife the Yuvarani of Kasmanda met you as Mrs D.P. Singh at Tiruvanamalai. Now the time to go back to our place to the North is drawing near. I hope you will kindly send those same at your earliest convenience to facilitate our seeing those notable personages and thus to derive all the possible spiritual advantages by their associations.

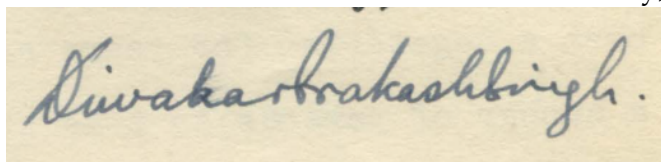
Down here in the South we want to remain incognito so kindly keep our identity only too yourself. Pain and suffering do make one wiser and we have learnt this only now after our eldest son's death. We want to devote ourselves to spiritual uplift as best

¹²⁶ "K" and a small triangle are handwritten in the top right corner of the page.

¹²⁷ The entire letter is crossed out with a handwritten "X."

and as far as we can. May God help us. I am thankful to you for the kindness and regard you showed to my wife and apologise for preying on your precious time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink on a light-colored rectangular piece of paper. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style and reads "Diwakar Prakash Singh".

Yuvaraj of Kasmada

L25.223

223 - 226

Letter from {Diwakar Prakash Singh}¹²⁸
Kasmanda House, Park Road, Lucknow.
4th April, 1937.¹²⁹

My dear Mr Paul Brunton,

I thank you for your kind letter of 25th March, 1937.

May I request you not to address us as Highnesses. We are not that and although I take it as blessing coming as it does from such a personage as yourself, we will prefer not to be addressed that way.

I am sorry you will be leaving our country for yours towards the end of this year but I do hope you will come again. Surely you won't leave India for good when you feel so much for it. We need personages like yourself. Would it be possible that we are given the honour and pleasure of meeting you on your way? If it is possible we request you to stop with us.¹³⁰ We do so much want to see you. If you come till October, we will be at Mussoorie and thereafter here in Lucknow.

Time is a great healer and I must say we are feeling more resigned to circumstances. Our contact with Shri Maharshi and Shri Aurobindo last year helped us a lot and we know we have their protecting and uplifting hand over us still. Much as we would like to run down and do their Darshan still I don't know if we will succeed this year. My wife is patently and steadfastly following the practices of surrender and self-enlightenment. I too in my humble way, though I confess, not so steadfastly, am doing what I can. My time is too much taken up with the affairs of the world and they become a nuisance but as I have said I try to detach myself, may be even for a very short time. My wife has scored over me there but I don't grudge it, in fact I wish her all the more success.

I have not been able to hit upon any good but inexpensive translator for the Search in Secret India. We wanted the translation particularly for our own relations

¹²⁸ "K" and a small triangle are handwritten in the top right corner of the page.

¹²⁹ "Wrote {May} 21" is handwritten in the top left corner of the page. The entire letter is crossed out with a handwritten "X."

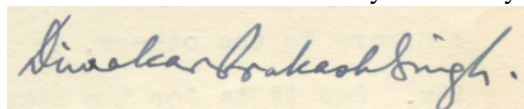
¹³⁰ Underlined by hand.

who know only Hindi but since October is not very far off when as you say the translation of the book will be ready as the work must be progressing well, I think I will wait. I hope the translation is in Hindi. I will request you kindly inform me of the publishers so that I could get as many copies as are required.

My wife has asked me to remember her to you and to tell you that Miss Aldwinckle has gone to Shri Aurobindo's Ashram.

With our devoted respects,

Yours very sincerely,



L25.227

227 - 228

Letter from Paul Brunton to Miss Craig
Los Angeles, Calif.¹³¹
April 15th, 1947

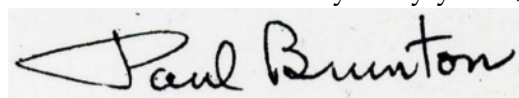
Dear Miss Craig,

I shall be arriving in San Francisco on Thursday, April 17th, and will be available for interviews from 3:30 p.m. on that date until 10:00 p.m. Saturday, April 19th. I shall be leaving the city early Sunday morning.

My address will be: Maurice Hotel, 761 Post Street. ORDWAY 6040 -

Should you wish to see me and be unable reach me by telephone owing to the strike, I will endeavour to keep any appointment you make by telegraph.

Very truly yours,



L25.229

229 - 230

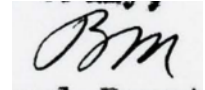
Letter from Bm for Paul Brunton
April 16th, 1947

I regret that in the letter sent you yesterday there was an error about Dr Brunton's address during his visit in San Francisco.

The correct address is: DRAKE WILSHIRE HOTEL, 340 Stockton Street.

Yours truly,

¹³¹ "Box 34, Station D New York 3, U.S.A." appears in the letterhead.



for Paul Brunton.

L25.231

231 - 232

Letter from Paul Brunton to Miss Craig
Box 34, Station D, New York 3, U.S.A.¹³²

June 9, 1947

Dear Miss Craig:

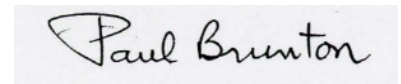
I wish to express my regrets at not having been able to meet you at the promised interview in April when I visited your city. I was called out unexpectedly and returned three quarters of an hour late.

Before I left, I gave a letter addressed to you, explaining the situation, to the hotel clerk and asked him to hand it over to you when you called. However on my return I found that he still had the letter and had not delivered it to you.

In that letter I asked you to return if you could within an hour. Please accept my apologies.

Thank you for your appreciation of my books. It is encouraging to learn that they have been helpful to you.

With this letter I send you my peace.



L25.233

233 - 234

Letter from Paul Brunton to Miss Craig
Box 34, Station D, New York 3, U.S.A.¹³³

June 30, 47

Dear Miss Craig:

I was so pleased to learn from your letter that the failure to obtain an interview with me was a disappointment to you and not at all in any way due to any fault of your own. What probably happened was that as there were two hotel clerks, one failed to inform the other, although I had requested him to do so.

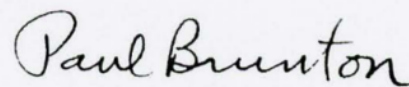
However, I will make it a point to be sure, that when I next visit San Francisco, possibly next winter, you will be advised well in advance of my arrival and a firm appointment made.

¹³² Address appears in the letterhead.

¹³³ Address appears in the letterhead.

What you say about the advertising business is quite correct and if you can find some inner peace in its midst, you will indeed have something much more worth while than it would be in most other environments.

With my peace,



L25.235

235 - 236

Note from P.B. to Patricia

Sunday 4/1/48

I rejoice in your own finding of yourself, your true self, Patricia. It will lead you to true happiness, Let God work for you, henceforth. You won't have to reach out.



Thanks



L25.237

327 - 240

Letter from P.B. to Patricia

Rancho las Palmillas, Route Two - Box 559, Tuscan, Arizona.

March 23, 1948.

My dear Patricia:

Thank you for your letters of January 5, 31, February 9, 15 and 28, and March 12 also the Valentine greeting and the poem by Doris Hagemeyer which I enjoyed very much. Thank you also for the two photographs of Abdul which are gratefully received; I am glad to have them. Incidentally, whilst on the subject of the kitten, we are wondering what to do with him when we leave Tucson next month. Of course, I should like him to go to a good home where he will be looked after, but this appears to be somewhat difficult to obtain. I should like to keep him myself, but unfortunately this is impossible owing to my travels.

Your work has been excellently executed and I am very pleased with your efficient typing: the contribution you are making is well worth while and is of considerable assistance to me in my work. Enclosed is a further batch of material. This comes under the classification of (XI) and is subdivided into the following letter: A, B, C, D, E,

There is no need for you to return the original written notes after coping them: I trust you to destroy them afterwards. I am happy that you enjoy typing the notes and that you find them interesting. That makes us both happy!

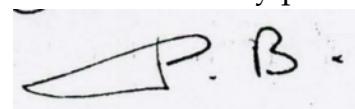
We are under very heavy pressure here at the ranch trying to clear things up before we leave next month. I expect to depart from Tucson between the 15th and 22nd of April, and it is possible that I shall spend a couple of days in Los Angeles. I do not know yet, however, although it seems certain that I shall be unable to visit San Francisco this spring. But upon my return from Europe I shall spend the whole of next winter in California, starting mid-November.

I will always be happy to hear from you, to hear what you are reading and how you are getting along with your studies, even though I am unable to reply promptly. I take the opportunity to send you my very best wishes for your inner welfare and encouragement in your efforts along the quest.

I¹³⁴ am sailing for Europe on Ma 14 from New York. I intend to visit several European countries during the summer and early fall. This will be my first visit to that continent for ten years.

Would you care to carry on with some typing work during my absence in Europe? Or would you prefer to leave it over until my return to America? If you would like to do some whilst I am away, I can leave you a quantity of work which you can execute at your leisure, and then return to Mr Jacques Masson, who will take care of some of my belongings and papers during. m absence, that is, Jacques would forward the work to you in instalments and you would return it to him in the same way. But please do not feel it necessary to do this if you would rather have your summer free.

With my peace

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'P.B.' with a stylized flourish to the left.

L25.241

241 - 242

Letter from P.B. to Patricia

One, Observatory Drive, Croton on Hudson, New York

May 2, 1948

Dear Patricia:

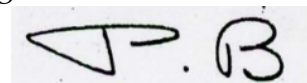
I am glad to note from your letters of April 16th and 22nd that you fully understand the directions for dealing with the typing work.

I am most grateful for your assistance with this work; it is a help to me. However I would repeat that you should take our time over it as you have all summer and doubtless you will be busy with other activities also. The experience you relate is

not uncommon. Nevertheless it still belongs partly to the psychic realm. The main thing is to rise above the psychic phenomena and to aspire after the true Reality.

If you finish Cap. XV in time to mail it in San Francisco not later than May 9th then please mail it to me at the above address. In this way I can deal with it before I sail: if later please send it to Mr Lindsay as previously directed, to 100 Prospect Street, Summit, New Jersey

All my best wishes for your inner welfare and spiritual progress, Patricia,



L25.243

243 - 244

Letter from P.B. to Patricia
Box 34, Station D, New York 3, U.S.A.¹³⁵
May 10, 1948.

Dear Patricia:

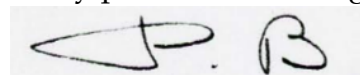
Your letter dated May 7th together with the completed work on XV, sections (a) to (e) arrived safely this morning.

Congratulations on securing such an important position with the National Broadcasting Company! As you say, your last job had ceased to offer you any advantage and it was wise of you to resign when you perceived this fact. You should not feel too frightened of your new post because it will call forth your latent resources. You must accept its responsibility and you should be able to cope with the demands made on you, provided you make the necessary efforts. It was certainly a good idea to go into retreat for a short period beforehand. This will enable you to make a break with the ties of the old job and prepare yourself for the new one.

Moreover it helps you to get correct guidance for the proper future handling of this opportunity.

On leaving for Europe this week I want to send you blessings for your future on both planes, spiritual and physical.

With my peace and blessing



L25.245

245 - 248

Letter from P.B. to Patricia
P.O. Box 34, Station D, New York 3, N.Y.
November 16, 1948

¹³⁵ Address appears in the letterhead.

Dear Patricia:

Your two letters of June and October were read with interest and mentally answered at the time.

I have only just returned from Europe where I was kept so busy with interviews and travel that I could neither get on with my book-writing nor with correspondence. Hence my inability to write you earlier.

Everything went very well otherwise in Europe and a great many seeds were sown which will doubtless come to fruition during the next decade.

I remain in New York at this hotel until the end of the year, after which I shall turn westward, visiting Kenneth in Dayton on my way.

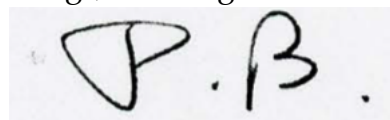
Incidentally, he seems to have made an excellent position for himself in the advertising business and to show quite a flair for it. I have not yet engaged a house in which to live, but will attend to that matter after my arrival in Southern California where I am eager to plunge straightaway into the new book and complete it there sometime in the Spring.

I quite understand how our work keeps you busy and makes you tired and therefore you have made little progress with the notes. Could you send me to this Fifth Avenue Hotel address all that you have already completed except, of course, the last unfinished page of each category. Please do not send anything to Mr Lindsay as I am now back in the States. If you send me both the originals by Registered Mail it will be quite all right to send the carbons by ordinary mail.

Regarding the remainder of the work, if you think you could complete it within three to four months, it will be in order for you to continue with it. Otherwise, if the strain would be too heavy for you, please discontinue the work and mail me the original Ms.

I shall be interested to hear about your professional work at the Studio when we meet in San Francisco, which I hope to visit sometime during my Stay in California.

With peace and blessings, and all good wishes

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of the letters 'P.B.' followed by a period. The 'P' is stylized with a loop, and the 'B' is also stylized. The signature is written on a light-colored background.

L25.249

249 - 250

Letter from P.B. to Patricia

C/O 4026 Woking Way, Los Angeles, 27

March 14th 49

Dear Patricia,

Your notes of December 31, January 10 and March 7:

I am sorry you were unable to get away for a visit three months ago but I quite understood that it was not practicable at the time. It is needful to keep balanced and render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's So please do not blame yourself.

How did the osteopathic treatment for migraine result?

Kenneth seemed to have made much headway when I last saw him. He has acquired greater poise and peace, more self-control and balance, better manners!

I have been doing a little exploring for a future possible residence and settlement but found nothing quite suitable. However I know a lot more about South California.

The work on Chapters X to XVI arrived safely and thank you very much for it. It is so nicely done as usual. Please send the carbon copies now to complete the records.

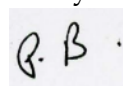
Please don't apologize for your difficulties with the work; you have quite well done considering your circumstances.

About meeting you on your vacation: I would like to go to San Francisco but it seems better to wait until the end of the summer or beginning of fall, when I would have much more leisure for an adequate visit. So if you are able to visit the South this April (next month) you would be sure to meet me. The best time is April 11th, and not the 16th as you suggest, for there will be less pressure on me then and also I may have only a short time available in L.A. after the 16th.

It is most kind of you to call me 'your chosen guru' but alas I consider myself only a fellow-student. I keep on telling everyone that. In fact a few months ago, in New York I had a few hundred circulars mimeographed to explain this and to clear the misconceptions, as well as to apologize {for} my inability to enter into regular correspondence.

I shall be interested to hear more about your work when we meet. May He bless us!

Peace be with you



L25.251

251 - 252

Letter from P.B. to Pat

New York City¹³⁶

Jan 30 1950

Dear Pat

I have your letters March 20, Nov 20; your card from Missouri and the Greetings at Christmas. It was very lovely, the greeting cards by the excellent artist, and I enjoyed seeing them, those you sent. Thank you for them. However this Xmas I did not send any greetings to anyone, not having the facilities - no secretary, no time of my own

¹³⁶ "Box 34 Station D New York 3, U.S.A." appears in the letterhead. "D" is crossed out in the letterhead and "Cooper" is inserted by hand.

Last year I spent spring in Chicago, Summer in Pennsylvania, fall in New York, where I still am.

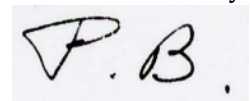
Kenneth is still in a job at Dayton, Ohio. I believe he is getting on well but I have not seen him for a long time.

My own life has gone through a great change. I was forced to come to a grave decision last month, to choose between two roads, and there is not the time energy or facility to do more. So I have given up from January 1st the correspondence with students, giving interviews to {enquirers} and having meditation with students. Thus ends a whole cycle of my life. I go into retreat for an indefinite period

In March I sail for Europe where I shall be for most of this year.

You are remembered, however, as an earnest aspirant and one who came to me with the friendliest spirit. My kindest thoughts and blessings go out to you.

Cordially



L25.253

253 - 254

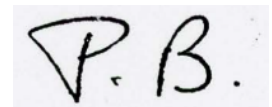
Letter from P.B. to Patricia
545 Fifth Avenue, New York 17, N.Y.
February 8th, 1950

Dear Patricia,

This is to introduce my friend, Doctor Kieffer Frantz, who is paying a brief visit to your city.

I thought you and he, having a common interest in the spiritual quest, would find it interesting to meet during his visit.

With all good wishes.



L25.255

255 - 256

Letter from P.B. to Patricia
C/O Allen's Service, 545 Fifth Avenue, New York 17, U.S.A.¹³⁷
February 13, 1951

Dear Patricia,

¹³⁷ "New Permanent mailing address:" is typed in front of address.

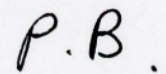
It is most kind of you to offer your services for a couple of weeks during your vacation.

However, I can not give you any definite answer at the present. First, because I do not yet know when I shall arrive on the coast, although the early spring seems quite likely. Secondly, I want to start immediately upon my arrival on a new book which must be finished this year and, consequently, do not want to devote my mind towards correspondence, which would be the only work where secretarial help would be desirable. Therefore, I am leaving this matter entirely open and undetermined and will accept the inner guidance for dealing with it later when the need of decision becomes urgent.

But whether or not you do any work, I shall be pleased to see you this year and have a talk again.

I am glad that you keep in touch with the Massons, for I am sure they are good friends to you.

With my peace



L25.257

257 - 258

Letter from P.B. to Patricia

545 Fifth Avenue, New York 17, U.S.A.¹³⁸

Dec. 21. 51

While I was in Mexico this summer and fall, I got two letters from you, Patricia.

I remember their contents very well but I would like to have had them before me as I usually do when I write anyone. Unfortunately a box of my papers and belongings was left behind in Mexico (as I came here by plane) for despatch by train, and it is not here yet. So rather than wait I send these words, although I believe I wrote you a letter from there.

The experience you had with the lecturer will now fall into better perspective

This is to tell you that I propose to spend the winter in California. That I am in the throes of trying to make a deadline for the publisher on my book. That I want to enquire whether you have any spare time available for rush typewriting work upon it, consisting of copying MSSS.

Please let me know.

When the book is completed I shall have to tackle a quantity of letters which could not be written under the pressure of the past year, when I was mainly in retreat for spiritual research. It may be finished in February; in fact it must be. I can see you at any time in Feb or March after its completion

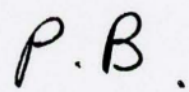
¹³⁸ "After January 1st: Box 34, Cooper Station, New York 3." is typed at the top of the page.

I am staying for the Christmas season with the following gentlemen where you may send your answer: c/o Mr Edward Spicer, 1050 East Foothill Blvd. Altadena, California.

But on January 2nd I shall move into Jacques and Diana Masson's house to spend the winter.

Kindly keep my residential address and the matter of this typing work strictly confidential, except of course for the Massons.

With Christmastide, I send you my upholding thought, peace and blessing



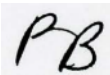
L25.259

259 - 260

Letter from PB

31 Jan 52

I have to withdraw certain Material from Chapters II and IV, including the chapter IV now in the post; So the numbering of the pages will be altered. Perhaps the best solution would be for you to return to me at once Chap. IV when it arrives, for alteration; and for you to erase the existing numbers in Chapter III, whose text remains unaltered. Meanwhile I will post you tomorrow the revised Chapter II for retyping and renumbering. After that you could insert the new page numbers in III.



L25.261

261 - 264

Letter from P.B. to Pat

c/o J.V. Masson, Hollywood¹³⁹

11 Jan 52

Dear Pat,

It is something of a coincidence that you wrote to me almost exactly a year ago to ask if I needed any typing done. Now at last I have some to send you! Here it is.

I need not tell you how important it is, since it is the first book I have written for publication since ten years ago. I feel that I can entrust it to you for satisfactory performances as well as to keep it strictly confidential, allowing no one else to handle it.

¹³⁹ "Box 34, Cooper Station, 545 Fifth Avenue 3, New York 17, U.S.A." is typed at the top of the page.

Now I am living with the Jacques and Di Massons again and at last have a comfortable home and the diet I prefer.

I send only the first chapter, which is a short one, so that all the questions and uncertainties about how it is to be done may be cleared up with it. When it is returned, I shall send you my comments, along with the second chapter.

Meanwhile any queries will be answered by return mail.

You ask whether paper of the size and quality used in your letter of December 22 will be satisfactory. Yes it will; for the U.S. original copy. But I need also a copy to send to England and 2 copies the Continent and a copy to keep with me for reference. These further 4 copies should be done on thin airmail paper of good quality, or else a thin lightweight strong paper.¹⁴⁰

Since these are the final copies for printer and translator, I need only margins of the following widths; they are approximate and you may vary by a 1/4 inch or so: TOP: 1 inch. LEFT: 1 inch. BOTTOM: 3/4 inch. RIGHT: 3/4 inch.

The lines are to be SINGLE-SPACED.

Paragraphing is to follow my Manuscript, but certain places I have broken up existing paras into two; this is indicated by the letters "NP" (new para) in margin and a sign where the new para is to start.

When returning finished work, send only the original chapter, together with a single carbon copy, and my manuscript. Hold the 3 remaining carbon copies and send them a day or two or three later. This is to ensure safety in case anything goes astray.¹⁴¹

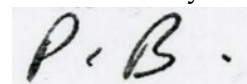
As¹⁴² regards page numbering, create your own new series as you go along.

I am working under such pressure of other matters that I would be grateful if you made a list of any faulty English, grammatical or syntax mistakes; or of suggested improvements, so that I may examine your suggestions or the errors, and improve the work before sending to printer.

As soon as the book is done, probably the 1st or 2nd week in March if you could come here either for a visit or, if you want to spend a vacation working on correspondence, for longer, I shall be glad to see you.

Thank you for the Xmas words: they are very kind.

May Peace be with you!



PS Dianna received your 2 letters and also asks me to say she will write soon

L25.265

265 - 266

¹⁴⁰ "(ORIG + 4CC's)" is inserted in a different hand.

¹⁴¹ "RETURN: ORIG + 1cc + {Mss} - 3 DAYS LATER: 3 REM CC'S" is inserted in a different hand.

¹⁴² Page 263

Letter from P.B. to Pat
c/o J.V Masson, 2534 Park Oak Drive, Hollywood 28
Jan 21. 52

Dear Pat,

Your work on chapter 1 is here. It is excellently done. In the whole chapter I found only 2 tiny errors, which I have corrected, an 's' instead of a 'c' and an 'f' instead of a 'g'

The paper for the original and carbon is exactly right. So are the margins.

Therefore we can go ahead with the subsequent chapters. Enclosed you will find chapter II. Within a few days Chapter III will follow, and the 4th very soon after; thus about 2 chapters a week but after chapter 5 it will go slow again. Anyway I will send all the material I have in hand ready for you, and you can keep it by you to work on at your convenience Take your time to do it properly.

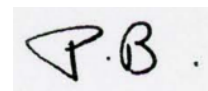
As you finish each chapter, please send it me in the same way as #1, one original, one carbon, and the mss; by a later post the other carbons

There is no need at all to send the finished work Special Delivery, as such urgency is not needed and of no benefit. Furthermore there is no need at all to use airmail for finished work; ordinary train mail will serve equally well. When urgency develops, I will inform you.

However I repeat my request that if you come across anything that is grammatically or syntactically incorrect, check it with somebody else if you are in doubt or go ahead and correct it if you are not. But believe me I do sometimes make mistakes, owing to the pressure under which I labour. So don't let them pass by false modesty, please.

When the book is done and we meet, whether for a talk or work, I will be glad to review general principles with you, so that you may find something useful and helpful to apply to your personal situation as it is at present.

Accept my gratitude for this service,



L25.267

267 - 268
Letter from P.B. to Pat
New York, U.S.A.¹⁴³
29 Jan

Dear Pat

Chapter 2 is finely done. I have received all the carbons of Chapter I also. Thank you.

¹⁴³ Address appears in the letterhead.

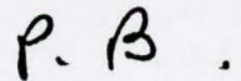
Here is Chapter IV.

Need I say how delighted I am at the good news of your return to NBC? Kenneth wrote me some weeks ago about the deplorable situation at the previous job with the chronic alcoholic and it saddened me. That kind of environment is not for you. So I thought a lot about it, And wished you well!

My future movements after March are uncertain; whether I remain in California for April-May is not known now.

I am so pleased that you feel happy doing this work for The Work! It is so kind of you to help me out in my problem.

Peace be with you



L25.269a

269

Note from PB

17 February 52

The number of the last page of Chapter IV is 32, so please start your first page of Chapter V with number 33.

PB

Glad you are feeling stronger. Continue to take extra rest.

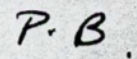
L29.269b

269 - 270

Note from PB

22/Jan

In yesterday's letter, I forgot to mention that the page numbering must now run continuously throughout. Therefore the first page of Chapter II will be #8, not #1, and so on



L25.271

271 - 272

Letter from PB to Pat

C/O J.V. Masson, 2534 Park Oak Dr., Hollywood 28 Calif.¹⁴⁴
26 February 52

Dear Pat,

Yesterday I sent you Chap. VI.

It is undoubtedly practical wisdom for you to concentrate the work over the weekends and not to attempt it on the weeknights, to conserve health and strength.

I find it necessary to make a major alteration in Chap. VI. for which I will require the return of the entire chapter.

Will you please return it to me as quickly as possible by airmail without attempting to type it?

Thank you.

My peace!

P.B.

L25.273

273 - 274

Letter from PB to Pat

8 March 52

Dear Pat

Here is Chap. IX.

Since I still do not know what the correct page numbering will be, please repeat the same system that I recommended for you to use for Ch. VIII and I will get the numbers filled in here.

If I am sending too much work for your present strength, please let me know so I may adjust the quantity to what you can do.

Regarding the paper which you kindly offer for the sharing-out of the work, please send a supply.

An Indian consulate was recently opened in San Francisco. Please phone (you may have to get the number from Information) and enquire whether a visa is needed by a British-born British citizen residing as an alien in the U.S. I know a visa is needed for Americans. Please be sure not to mention my name.

In Upholding thoughts

P.B.

L25.275

275 - 276

Letter from P.B. to Pat

¹⁴⁴ Address appears in the Letterhead.

C/O J.V. Masson, 2534 Park Oak Dr., Hollywood 28 Calif.¹⁴⁵

March 11 52

Dear Pat

I am so sorry about your health condition continuing but as you say I too believe it is an outer manifestation of something from the past which is better erupted and cleared out of the way.

Your doctor's advice is reasonable so you must compromise

I shall send you no further work then until you ask for it, and will arrange elsewhere meanwhile.

You may now begin to insert page numbers. The first page of Chapter VIII will be numbered 95, so you can count from there and actually type from the page you are actually working on. That is, there is no need to type in the numbers on pages whose text is typed, since I can get that done here and save your strength. But where you have yet to type unfinished work, the numbers can be inserted as usual without effort.

Thank you very much for the India information. I plan to leave here early next month, by which time the mss must be finished. It is putting me under very great pressure, since I have to compress work in a few weeks which needs 2 or 3 months

There was a page and a quarter left over from Chapter {I}¹⁴⁶ IX sent you last week. I enclose them now to complete it.

Maybe after you finish Cap IX you will feel better I forgot to mention a few minutes sunbath helps too, if at all possible. There is healing value in the rays if not overdone

With all upholding thoughts, and my peace

P.B.

L25.277

277 - 278

Letter from PB to Pat

C/O J.V. Masson, 2534 Park Oak Dr., Hollywood 28 Calif.¹⁴⁷

March 21 52

Dear Pat

I am really sorry about your health. Try also the naturopathic doctors. They use more natural methods of healing. Any health food store would know of some.

I am sorry too about the work but it can't be helped. The work I gave to another typist was delivered yesterday with my instructions misunderstood, it's all wrong. What a contrast with the perfect work you produced! Now it will all have to be done again so I shall get a local office to do it, where I can supervise personally.

¹⁴⁵ Address appears in the Letterhead.

¹⁴⁶ Typing runs off the page; one or more words may be missing.

¹⁴⁷ Address appears in the Letterhead.

Yes, time is pressing fast. I want you to send me airmail special delivery the untouched Chapter IX, so I can allocate it locally at once. As regards Chapter VII if you think you can complete it in time to put it in the mail to me (airmail special delivery) Wednesday March 26th please continue and complete it. If not, do what you can until Monday 24th and send me both the finished and unfinished portions.

The heavyweight paper rough draft of Chapter VIII copied portion may be returned by trainmail.

Further changes in the book necessitate this speedier return. But all these happenings have made me turn night into day for along with the pressure I myself got a couple of bouts of ill health -- old tropic maladies which I thought cured. But I can handle them by strict dieting. I had to give up my delicious tea!

Kindly accept my grateful thanks for the service given.

With my peace and blessing

PB

L25.279

279 - 280

Letter from P.B. to Pat

C/O J.V. Masson, 2534 Park Oak Dr., Hollywood 28 Calif.¹⁴⁸

Monday 52 24th MAR

Dear Pat

I have Chap IX from you.

Do not be worried about the inability to complete the job; I am glad you were able to do part of it. It will work out well for you in the end.

Yes, I could use that balance of paper still left as there has to be some retyping of the work done incorrectly by the other person. Thank you.

With my peace and blessing,

P.B.:

L25.281

281 - 282

Letter from PB to Pat

c/o JV Masson

Feb 4

Dear Pat

¹⁴⁸ Address appears in the Letterhead.

Here is Chapter III again. I found that no withdrawals were necessary from the typed portions, and that none were needed in the untyped work either. I had already made the excisions, it seems. However in Chapter IV, which is still in your possession, although no withdrawals are needed there, a few words will be affected. Kindly make these slight changes yourself. They are:

Page number of the Yellow MSS:

66: Line 2: Delete POLITICO-ECONOMIC

" " 7/8: Delete POLITICO-ECONOMIC

" " 10: Delete THEIR

71: Line 5: Delete -ECONOMIC

" " 19: Alter TOTALITARIAN to MATERIALIST

I am returning Chapter III to you, so that you may be able to alter the page numbering and also complete the chapter itself, from the unfinished yellow MSS

Towards the end of this week I shall send you a new chapter -- V.

Yes Kenneth has developed fairly well from the petulant childish boy he was a few years ago. He is becoming more mature balanced and self-disciplined.

My Peace
ancy t
P.B.

PS I have taken a fancy to the airmail labels you use, like attached. Can you send me some, please? Thanks

L25.283

283 - 284

Letter from P.B. to Pat

c/o Masson 2534 Park Oak Drive, Hollywood 28 Calif

9 Feb 52

Dear Pat,

Your previous job certainly seems to be partly responsible for the let-down in energy you have been feeling and the mental relationship with the boss there probably carried the leak. I advise you first; to try to forget him utterly as if he had never existed -- for the present anyway. Second, to take a tonic for the physical body and nervous system. Third, to cut out evening work for several days and get extra sleep. It won't be long before you will catch up with my work again, because I will be sending it at longer intervals later.

You will find it useful to practice intermittent relaxation during the working day at the office. Drop everything for two or three minutes and let the body go utterly limp. If alone, lie on a couch; if not do it in the chair.

Thank you for the stickers.

Here is Chapter V for copying.

Peace and Strength

P.B.

L25.285

285 - 290
Letter from P.B. to Pat
Friday

Dear Pat

I'm sorry to hear about the setback

Try deep breathing exercises, even in bed. Breathe slowly and deeply and rhythmically. Imagine with each intake that you are drawing in the life-force from the universe and that you are storing it in the solar plexus (nerve-junction in the pit of the stomach) Repeat during day as often as you remember the exercise. Imagine too with each exhalation that you are casting out weakness and illness. Be as intense and concentrated in this as possible.

I shall split up Chapter VI when received (returned) from you into two separate chapters. Meanwhile I send herewith Chapter VIII for typing.

Since we do not know how many pages VI and VII will come to, it will be necessary for you to leave VIII un-numbered, and I shall fill in the page numbers later on. You may keep the pages clipped together in the correct order, and perhaps also lightly pencil a single set with the numbers, so that they can be erased. I can get the numbers typed in here and thus save your time for the more important work of copying.

May-you-get-better-soon!

Peace and strength

P.B.

If¹⁴⁹ you have psychic trouble at night, or if you are going into conditions or situations where you suspect things are not kosher, here is a sealing-up process which I have use to excellent advantage. I used to go through this routine every night, going down first and then going back up. You might try it. It is a 'form' of prayer, but a very practical and scientific one. You no doubt know somewhat of the different 'centers' of the body. They are the seats of the glands, all of which must be in perfect working order for spiritual development. The process I will give you seals these centers against invasion by the dark forces, which is what often causes one to have psychic troubles.

I seal the top of my head with Light that I may be receptive to ideas of Truth and Light.

Seal my eyes with Light that I may be receptive to visions of Truth and Light.

Seal my ears with Light that I may be receptive to words and whispers of Truth and Light.

Seal my lips with Light that I may always speak words of Truth.

Seal the palms of my hands with Light that they may be receptive to vibrations of Truth and Light

Seal my breasts with Light that they may always be able to give spiritual help and nourishment to those who need it.

Seal my naval with Light so that no force of darkness may enter

Seal my loins with Light that I may conceive only Truth and Light and that Truth and Light only may come forth from me.

Seal my knees and the soles of my feet with Light that I may always follow the path of Truth and Light without faltering and that I may never lose my way.

(Ask Divine Mind to do this for you. It completely envelopes you in a protective shell which should be effective in keeping 'things' away from you at night or at any time you think you need protection. Use it when you are not feeling well, and it is a good plan to use it during menstruation, particularly if there is much blood involved. That always draws 'things.'

I mentioned the vibrations of India as compared with those of America. Here is some more about that. I have notes at home with the name of the book and author pages, but I didn't think to bring it with me.

India has had more Masters live on her soil than has any other country. Their vibrations are so powerful that they extend over quite a bit of territory over and around the particular spot where they happen to be. There have been so many of them there over a long period of time and in all parts of the country that the whole of India is steeped in spiritual vibrations. Naturally, these same vibrations are absorbed by the natives. Over the centuries and centuries, they too are born into those vibrations, are raised in them, and therefore are able to¹⁵⁰ hold up and flourish under the peculiar Yoga regimens practised there. Their physical and astral bodies are conditioned from birth to those vibrations.

The general vibrations of India are conducive to spiritual growth. On the other hand, America is a comparatively new country in all ways. Countries, like people and races, have their Karma, and periods of growth and development on all planes. America is in the Material, Mental stage of her development or the extreme materialistic period which India went through and completed untold ages ago.

This difference in vibrations is why occult work must have a different technique in America and Western world than it has in India. Spiritual growth is exceedingly difficult in a materialistic setting, but not impossible. But the mixture of spiritual and materialistic forces causes acute discomfort to those who try to employ Oriental methods any place but the Orient. It is like oil and water --- they don't mix. The only place in America where it is possible to follow the Oriental regime is up in the mountains at least one mile above the earth. The astral plane extends that far up. Places in the desert, such as where you went, are excellent but not quite as good. Their acceptability is due to the fact that the deserts are sparsely populated and there are not as many human vibrations to cause discord.

For the Master's Degree which must be taken in India, I believe that too requires that the person go up in the mountains above the one mile limit.

India's atmosphere is conducive to the heights of spirituality, or its opposite --- the lowest degeneration, both mental and physical. I imagine it would be hard to keep on an even keel there. The worst dregs of humanity, and most highly developed specimens of humanity live side by side, on its soil. The higher spiritual potentiality a person has, the greater is his potentiality for evil --- if he mis-uses his spiritual powers.

The above reasons are why I made the serious suggestion that you consider discontinuing all contacts with Orientals or those trained by them. You are accustomed to studying their scriptures and feel at home mentally in them, I realize. But I would also suggest a gradual weaning away from them and getting into the books written by Westerners for the Western mind. It would be a great protection for you.

L25.291

291 - 292

Letter from PB to Pat

Feb 25

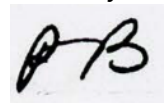
Dear Pat

Here is Chapter VI.

I am pleased your strength has returned and you feel your normal self again. This for your sake. But also for the books sake, as from now on it will be needful to work under pressure to finish it quickly. So please put whatever speed you can into it now.

What is the name of the fancy new typewriter in the executive office? Its work is just like print.

Peace be with you



PS. A slight change in mailing procedure. Both originals and carbons, as well as mss, to be returned here by train mail: air mail is not at all necessary.¹⁵¹

L25.293

293 - 294

Letter from P.B. to Pat

c/o Masson 2534 Park Oak Drive, Hollywood 28

Undated

¹⁵¹ Some illegible notes are handwritten in the bottom left corner of the page.

Dear Pat.

Following my postal of yesterday I herewith return Chapter II. It is from this one that the most withdrawals have had to be made.

Every passage marked in the right margin with a vertical pencil line is to be retained: all the others removed.¹⁵² To assist you I have added in the text itself, lightly, a short pencil stroke to mark the beginning of a retained passage¹⁵³ and a double stroke to mark its end.¹⁵⁴

Pages 12 and 14, being wholly retained, need not be retyped; merely renumbered Page 13 also, provided you cut off top paragraph and paste a blank strip instead

Where in doubt as to whether a new paragraph is to be started with the revised material, it will be OK to start it and thus be on the safe side

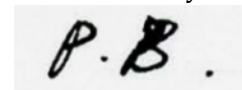
Since yesterday, I find that some withdrawals will have to be made from Chapter III also, but Chapter IV remains untouched.¹⁵⁵ So I have to ask you to return Chap II for such revision and probably page numbering.¹⁵⁶

Meanwhile I suggest you type the Chapter IV in your possession but do not number its pages;¹⁵⁷ (lightly pencil a b c etc if you like, but a firm clip to keep them in order might suffice.) Then when I send back Chap III¹⁵⁸ you will be able to get the correct serial numbering for continuity.

Such drastic changes are most unlikely again in future work: I had to wanted to make them before sending to you but omitted to do so because of pressure of other matters, mostly research

I am sorry you had to spend wasted effort.

Peace be with you.



PS For security reasons I am sending one of the carbon copies of Chapter II by a later post¹⁵⁹

PPS I had made a very small changes in the original text, which please incorporate in the carbon copies. Also change the title of Chapter II to:

NO BETTER WORLD WITHOUT BETTER MEN!¹⁶⁰

¹⁵² Underlined by hand.

¹⁵³ Underlined by hand.

¹⁵⁴ Underlined by hand.

¹⁵⁵ Underlined by hand.

¹⁵⁶ Underlined by hand.

¹⁵⁷ Underlined by hand.

¹⁵⁸ Underlined by hand.

¹⁵⁹ "(ch. Pg 14 to "12" and add to carbons of II to go -)" is inserted in a different hand.

¹⁶⁰ "Retype II Return III Type IV" is inserted at the bottom of the page in a different hand.

Sri Aurobindo Letters:

The True Foundation of Love: To bring the Divine Love and Beauty and Ananda into the world is, indeed, the whole crown and essence of our Yoga. But it has always seemed to be impossible unless there comes as its support and foundation and guard the Divine Truth -- what I call the Supramental -- and its Divine Power. Otherwise Love itself blinded by the confusions of this present consciousness may stumble in its human receptacles and, even otherwise, may find itself unrecognised, rejected or rapidly degenerating and lost in the frailty of men's inferior nature. But when it comes in the divine truth and power, Divine Love descends first as something transcendent and universal and out of that transcendence and universality it applies itself to persons according to the Divine Truth and Will, creating a vaster, greater, purer personal love than any the human mind or heart can now imagine. It is when one has felt this descent that one can really be an instrument for the birth and action of the Divine Love in the world.

Beyond Emotion: The Mother did not tell you that love is not an emotion, but that Divine Love is not an emotion - a very different thing to say. Human love is made up of emotions, passions and desire, -- all of {them} vital movements, therefore bound to the disabilities of the human vital nature. Emotion is an excellent and indispensable thing in human nature, in spite of all its shortcoming and dangers, -- just as mental ideas are excellent and indispensable things in their own {field} in the human stage. But our aim is to go beyond mental ideas into the light of the {Supramental} Truth, which exists not by ideative thought but by direct vision and identity. {In the} same way our aim is to go beyond emotion to the height and depth and intensity of the Divine Love and there feel through the inner psychic heart an inexhaustible oneness with the Divine which the spasmodic leapings of the vital emotions cannot reach or experience.

As Supramental Truth is not merely a sublimation of our mental ideas, so Divine Love is not merely a sublimation of human emotions; it is a different consciousness, with a different quality, movement and substance.

Love in Sadhana: I And first about human love is the sadhana. The soul's turning through love to the Divine must be through a love that is essentially divine, but as the instrument of expression at first is a human nature, it takes the forms of human love and bhakti. It is only as the consciousness deepens, heightens and changes that the greater eternal love can grow in it and openly transform the human into the divine. But in human love itself there are several kinds of motive forces. There is a psychic human love which rises from deep within and is the result of the meeting of the inner being with that which calls it towards a divine joy and union; it is, once it becomes aware of itself, something lasting, self-existent, not dependent upon external satisfactions, not capable of diminution by external causes, not self-regarding, not prone to demand or bargain but giving itself simply and spontaneously, not moved to or broken by

misunderstandings, strife and anger, but pressing always straight towards the inner union. It is this psychic love that is closest to the divine and it is therefore the right and best way of love and bhakti. But that does not mean that the other parts of the being, the vital and psychical included, are not to be used as means of expression or that they are not to share in the full play and the whole meaning of love, even the divine love. On the contrary, they are the means and can be a great part of the complete expression of divine love, -- provided they have the right and not the wrong movement. There are in the vital itself two kinds of love, -- one full of joy and confidence and abandon, generous, unbargaining, ungrudging and very absolute in its dedication and this is akin to the psychic and well-fitted to be its complement and a means of expression of the divine love. And neither does the psychic love or the divine love despise a physical means of expression wherever that is pure and right and possible; it does not depend upon that; it does not diminish, revolt or go out like a snuffed candle when it is deprived of any such means; but when it can use it, it does so with joy and gratitude. Physical means can be and are used in the approach to divine love and worship; they have not been allowed merely as a concession to human weakness, nor is it the fact that in the psychic way there is no place for such things. On the contrary, they are one means of approaching the Divine and receiving the Light and materialising the psychic contact, and so long as it is done in the right spirit and they are used for the true purpose they have their place. It is only if they are misused or the approach is not right because tainted by indifference and inertia, or revolt and hostility, or some gross desire, that they are out of place and can have a contrary effect.

L25.297

297 - 298

Letter from JC to KH

MON 30 MAR 87

Dear KH...

CM informs me that 2 recent developments have taken root in your expanding activities:

(1) The opening up of a new field of service: lecturing on PB's life and thought. No one is in a better position to perform this much needed service, none so well qualified since your valiant efforts in past lives have won you a reward of well-deserved merit: rebirth into the house of a sage!

(2) The good news - no, the best news yet! - that work is in progress and going forward in earnest on PB's biography, a monumental task. To what was just said about your activities as a lecturer must be added the fact that this work is eagerly awaited by all devotees and a worldwide readership. I send you thoughts of high courage and strong determination to do justice to this great challenge as well as the indispensable stamina to see it thru to completion.

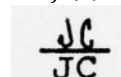
As you will certainly need all the help you can get for this worthy task, this is the time to place PB's correspondence with Pat in your hands. Characteristically, she left it all in good order. His letters to me will follow in due course.

I am so happy to correct my earlier impression that this assignment was only in the planning stage but has since become a serious effort to move into its execution on paper.

Therefore, I look forward in anticipation to reading the finished work. Destiny has placed a sacred trust in your capable hands.

With best wishes for your successful completion of this most meaning and much needed project,

jc/JC



P.S. If the winds of Destiny should waft you to SF, what a treat it would be to hear you tell PB's life story! It was he who recommended that I come here to live way back in Tucson in 1947! I shall always be most grateful for that recommendation.

P.P.S. Congratulations on your new house!

L25.299

299 - 300

Duplicate of L25.227

Extract: None

L25.301

301 - 302

Letter from Annie Cahn to Devon and Tim

Paris

September 7th, 1988

Dear Devon, Dear Tim,

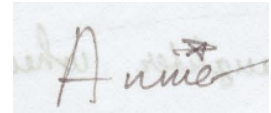
Please find herein the copy of PB's curriculum which I received from the Lugano Archives; PB had to write this CV when applying for swiss residence; I don't send you the Italian version because it is an exact translation of the English CV; however the German version is different, so I send it also to you. Please find also the copies of six letters from PB to Subrahmanya Iyer, which were given to me by S. Iyer's daughter when I met her in Salem, South India, in July 1986.

I think you will show this to Randy, and I trust you will make the best use of this information, making it available to many people (I believe Avery would be interested by PB's letters to S. Iyer, because he helped me a lot understanding Iyer's teaching.)

I do hope to see you both in Paris next spring. If you come for two weeks, you need not go to a hotel = you might stay in my apartment (1 living-room and 1 bedroom) as¹⁶¹ I could live with my sister (she is also in Paris) for the time of your stay. That would allow you to save money, and also would be more pleasant, I believe. My flat is very close to the subway station and is only 10-15 minutes from the centre of Paris. There is no problem involved in my staying with my sister for such a short period, so you should feel free to accept this offer if it appeals to you. Only let me know in advance about your plans.

Meanwhile I thank you both again for your help and kindness to me.

Bien amicalement,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Annie', with a small flourish at the end.

Annie Cahn
11 rue Delouvain
75019-Paris

L25.303

303 - 310

Foreign language document: PB's application for a residence permit
20. octobre 1969

Extract: "My¹⁶² name is PAUL BRUNTON. I was born in London, England, on 27 November 1898. My nationality is British; the passport number is C 608072: it is valid until 1978.

My father's name was Rubin Isaac Hurst (he died in London 1840.) My mother's name was Fanny Kossof (she died in London 1911.) To explain the change of name: in my profession as a writer I used the nom de plume, Paul Brunton, and eventually continued it as the legal name by Deed, inscribed at Court of Judicature, London. I had no brothers and no sisters.

I was educated at Central Foundation Secondary School, London; in evening classes at St. George's College, London; by correspondence study courses with McKinley-Roosevelt College, Chicago; and by private tutors. I got a doctorate in philosophy.

My first marriage was to Karen Augusta Tottrup in 1922, but we divorced in 1928. A son was born in 1923 named Kenneth Thurston Hurst, who is now manager of the international department of Prentice-Hall Inc., educational textbook publishers in U.S.A. My second marriage was to Evangeline Young in 1952, but we divorced in 1958.

I began my career in the Civil Service, Government Patent Office, London. It was interrupted by military service, 1917/1918. I then worked in the Municipal Libraries office of W & G Foyle, Ltd., book company in London; and then in various positions with various employers, studying journalism and writing during spare time. I then went to India to write a book about

¹⁶¹ Page 302

¹⁶² Page 306

the country; I next did the same in Egypt, gave lectures and did further literary work in U.S.A. I continued researches in India for several years and then lived in U.S.A. for several years.

I went to Australia in 1960 and my last place of domicile was Auckland, New Zealand. In 1964 I returned to Europe to seek a place for permanent retirement for the rest of my life as I was then more than 65 years old. With this purpose I visited Greece, England, Portugal, France, Italy and Switzerland -- and finally decided to apply for Swiss residence.

My book publications were titled:

Are You Upward Bound?

A Search in Secret India

A Search in Secret Egypt

The Inner Path

The Quest of the Overself

A Hermit in the Himalayas

The Inner Reality

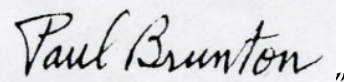
The Teaching Beyond Yoga

The Wisdom of the Overself

The Spiritual Crisis of Man

I have never been convicted of any crime anywhere, and submit records covering my longest residence, twelve years in the U.S.A. As I have been travelling these last few years, and visited so many different places for such short periods, it is difficult to get Police Records.

The following gentlemen who know me well are pleased to act as Personal References about me: Herr Walter Daubenmeier, Chef de Reception, Dolder Grand Hotel, Zurich. Mr Edmund Luescher (Swiss) Manager, Sigma Machinery Co., 2 Park Avenue, New York, U.S.A.



L25.311

311 - 316

Letter from Paul Brunton to Mr Iyer

R.M.S. "Queen Mary", C/o Thos Cook & Son, 520 West Sixth Street, Los Angeles,
USA¹⁶³

April 24. 38¹⁶⁴

My dear Mr Iyer,

I had your letter of February 15 and thank you for it. I have spent some weeks in Paris where I met Mrs Brunton and cleared up most of our misunderstandings. However she prefers to live apart and refuses to return to me. So that is now settled as far as I am concerned. I shall take steps to divorce her for desertion in 2 years' time, under the new English law. I have to wait that period legally. However we have

¹⁶³ "(or C/o Cooks.. London)" is typed below the address.

¹⁶⁴ "Conard Whitestar." is typed at the top of the page.

parted the best of friends and with promises of mutual help. She now corresponds with me.

However a new problem has arisen – my health. I have had bronchitis ever since I returned to Europe! It got worse during the winter and became a constant nuisance of endless coughing and bring up phlegm. Two months ago I began spitting blood and then I had a thorough medical examination. The Doctors told me that my lungs are threatened. My mother died of tuberculosis at an age near my present one and so my chest weakness is heredity. The doctors have ordered my quick removal to the climate of Californian where I can live in the mountains for 6 months in a day-warm air. They say the damp cold air of England would kill me soon in my present state.

So here I am, after much difficulties on board the ship Queen Mary, bound for America! I hope to get well again within this year and to revisit Europe next April. My bodily strength has greatly diminished and I was forced to suspend work on the book which I had projected on elementary Vedanta.¹⁶⁵ I am making occasional notes and will begin work seriously as soon as I settle in California. The doctors wish me to rest a good deal too.¹⁶⁶ I am confident that I shall recover, I am very keen to write something, however feeble and faulty, to spread the grand truth, of Vedanta in the West. But the task will be the most difficult job of writing I have ever done. It is a great pity I had to leave Europe so soon as I was invited to give some lectures at the Royal Oriental Institute in Rome and would have had the opportunity of an interview with Mussolini through a mutual friend in Italy. However the opportunity will remain open for next spring, I believe, when I shall return to Europe.

It may interest you to know and perhaps surprise you, that the judicious intermixture of Vedanta in the talks on Yoga, which I gave in Czechoslovakia has resulted in a regular weekly meeting of a group of 70 strong in Prague, which studies the Gits, Upanishads, Vivekachudamani,¹⁶⁷ Panchadasi and Mandukya. They have thrown previous beliefs overboard. I am sure you will be as delighted to learn this as I am.

I have to thank you for suggesting that I deal on a fundamental point, in my new book the question of “How do you know that your experiences, thoughts etc reveal truth?” I certainly intend to cover that questions, because it is so vital but Swami Siddheswarananda advises me not to make it the chief point at present but to reserve its development for any further work I may write, He fears that the large public I have secured, who are interested in Yoga, may have their faith shattered, if I deal with this point over much and that would undo a lot of good which has been done, as many of them are unready for Vedanta. He suggests I go forward gradually and I am inclined now to agree with him. He has already met with similar difficulties in his classes of instruction in Paris and Geneva. (By the way I have arranged with large groups in Belgium, Czechoslovakia and Hungary to invite the Swami to come and teach them).

So this is a point I shall refer to but not stress. I hope you will see the advisability of this caution, because we want to do the widest good to the widest number. Anyway

¹⁶⁵ “Vedauta” in the original.

¹⁶⁶ Page 313

¹⁶⁷ “Vivekachndamani” in the original.

I fear that in the present state of my health it will be impossible for me¹⁶⁸ to publish a book until next spring i.e., in one year's time as I have not the strength.

In New York, where I shall spend 10 days, I will call on Swami Nikhilananda, if he is there.

My plan is to rent a cottage or bungalow in the secluded mountains of California and live quietly if possible until my health is fully restored.

Well my dear Mr Iyer. I hope you are keeping the best of health and that your good work spreads its influence in India. Please send me an further article you may publish there, as I should value it very much. I have the hope your country will awaken to the great contribution you have made to an understanding to its real wisdom and hope you are honoured accordingly whilst yet in the flesh.

I will send you from California for your criticism or suggestion, a list of chapters and subjects which the proposed book will cover, and the lines in which they will be worked out, This I have not yet compiled, but made several drafts tentatively.

Please give my best wishes and happy remembrances to their Highnesses the Maharajah and Youraja and accept my affectionate regards for your goodself, May your health be excellent!

(sd)

Paul Brunton.

L25.317

317 - 318

Letter from PB to Mr Iyer
Los Angeles, California
December 10-1938

My dear Mr Iyer and teacher,

I have your letter of November 3rd and was so pleased to hear from you. I am sorry not to have written more frequently but the pressure upon my time during this year has been immense and I am tremendously in arrears with all correspondence and other work.

With regards to my plans, I am sailing on the 23rd of this month, via Japan and will arrive in India the second week of February. I will necessarily have to spend the first two or three months with the Maharishee, and after that I am going to Mysore to spend at least three months in that state and I fervently hope that it will be possible for you to be with me for all or most of the time. If His Highness, the Maharaja,¹⁶⁹ would let me have a bungalow (to whom I have also written) at Kemmangundi or Fernhill, it would be a great assistance, as I am not so strong as formerly, will suffer from the heat, and I have a great deal of literary work to accomplish during my stay there. Please try to spare time for me because I am devoting 1939 to the work on the true Vedanta which

¹⁶⁸ Page 7

¹⁶⁹ "Maharajah" in the original

is so urgently needed by the West of your co-operation will be of inestimable value – and I hope you will do me the honor of accepting the dedication of that magnum opus when it is completed.

Next month there will be published in America and England my book of lectures, where in I have introduced a good leaven of the higher truth to prepare the way for the more important book, which is not to follow.

Yes, I have met Swami Prabhavananda and would say that he is doing excellent work, although, unfortunately the field of influence is rather small.

As regards the legal affair, it is still undecided, but there will be a hearing shortly.

You¹⁷⁰ will be pleased to hear that I had a long interview with Dr Millikan and he himself finally expressed the view that science was beginning to cooperate with the strange and philosophical teaching of the East.

A great deal of work has been got through this year, despite my ill health, and I have a great deal to tell you when we meet.

As you write about the situation in Europe, the need of truth and spiritual light is more important than other, because that done will soften the hearts of the ignorant.

With all my earnest wish for your continued physical well-being, and with deep respects and affectionate devotion.

Sincerely yours,
Paul Brunton

P.S. I have written a thesis on “Early Indian Philosophy and Modern Western thought” which will be published by spring of next year. I was submitted to an American College here and I have the honorary degree of Ph.D.

Mail address up to January 20th c/o Thomas cook and son P.O Box 38 - Hongkong¹⁷¹ - China

Mail address thereafter: - c/o Thos, cook & son P.O Box 171 – Madras India

L25.319

319 - 320
Letter from PB to Mr Iyer
Bangkok, Siam¹⁷²
February 7/1939

My dear Mr Iyer,

Since I last wrote you there has been a little change in my plans. I was delayed at Japan owing to severe storms in mid-Pacific, consequently our ship arrived {3} days

¹⁷⁰ Page 318

¹⁷¹ “Hongkong” in the original

¹⁷² “Mail; c/o Thos. Cook & Son, Postbox 171, Madras” is typed at the top of the page and marked with an asterisk by hand.

late and I missed the connecting steamer. I decided to make use of the change to study Zen Buddhism on the spot. Then in China I also studied the Tao school of thought.

Now I have just arrived in Siam and will investigate the Hinayana philosophic school of Buddhism here. I arrive in Colombo on the 21st of this month and will spend a few days in Ceylon visiting the sacred places in the interior. After that I go to Tiruvannamalai or Madras and arrange about engaging a secretary, cook, etc and house.

My health has been fair, good and bad by turns, but certainly very much better than last year. I was rather glad to get away from America, as life there is rather of a strain and buster, and I am not strong enough.¹⁷³

The Thesis of mine which is being published in about two months' time in England (and probably a separate edition for India) will be called "INDIAN PHILOSOPHY AND MODERN CULTURE" I thought it fitting to dedicate the book to you, for the subject covered is that into which you directed my mind.¹⁷⁴ Accordingly I enclose a copy of the dedication and trust it meets with your approval. If however there is anything which you desire to alter in the dedication, please notify me at once, so that I may write to England. But I hope it will please you.

I trust you are keeping very well. It is so pleasant too be back in the Orient again. I feel I belong here, where with all its defects, at least there is more sensitivity to the higher quest.

I look forward with pleasure to resuming the studies which were interrupted, so that we may continue. The West needs Truth more than ever, but its "superiority complex" over the Orient needs to be shattered before it will really listen. Therefore I believe the events of to-day are bringing this about.

With a deep respects and kindest thought
affectionately yours,
(sd.) PAUL BRUNTON.

P.S. Did I tell you that the superior court of California granted an annulment of my marriage just before I sailed from America?

L25.320

320

Dedication to V. Subramanya Iyer for "Indian Philosophy and Modern Culture"
Undated

To V. Subramanya Iyer
formerly Registrar, Mysore University, India

Venerable Sir,

¹⁷³ Underlined by hand.

¹⁷⁴ Underlined by hand and an asterisk is handwritten in the left margin.

This thesis is dedicated to you with much affection and much respect in remembrance of the jewelled time we spent among silent jungle-covered hills far from the haunts of me.

There you unfolded to me the higher wisdom of your land, expounded its most ancient books and explained its most imperishable philosophy. I was indeed fortunate to have the privilege of your instructions for you yourself were an initiate in the esoteric tradition of the great Sankara.

The contact with your razor-keen mind sharpened my own until I perceived the folly and futility of those spiritual and intellectual illusions which men everywhere hug fondly to themselves.

In these pages I yield gladly to your request that the West be reminded of the close parallels between the findings of its best modern thinkers and the still more profound findings of India's early sages. I have also touched on your favourite theme and shown how our latest discoveries merely begin to conform the oldest discoveries of India's antiquity: that the soul of the world is ONE, a sublime Unity wherein the differences and antagonisms of Orient and Occident disappear, and wherein all science, religion and philosophy find their reconciliation.

L25.321

321 - 324

Letter from PB to Mr Subramanya Iyer
35 Tiruvadal Street, Tiruvannamalai, North Arcot District
March 12, 1939

My dear Mr Subramanya Iyer,

I have just arrived from Ceylon and the Far East and find your letters of January 21 and February 16 awaiting me all my mail had to collect and await me here in India, owing to the uncertainties of my route, hence the long delay in replying to you.

Thank you for your kindly interest in my health, which is fairly good now a days despite a recurrence of chest trouble suddenly after I had left Straights Settlements and which I have successfully treated with an injection air mailed from England. However my strength is not what it used to be, although my appearance is better than ever because I have been eating heavily these last two months.

The programme you suggest certainly seems better and more sensible than my own. Had I arrived in India six weeks ago, as I had hoped, the latter would have been alright. But I got caught up with researches into Buddhism enroute and was led from one thing to another in China, Siam and Cambodia so that it is now late in the season. However my studies were fruitful and will be valuable for the better understanding of Oriental religion and philosophy.

It is certainly very hot now and will be worse as the season advances. Moreover there is a drought locally which has made Tiruvannamalai dustier than ever. I would like to do as you suggest and come to Mysore after a few days here. However there is a situation at the Ashram here which I must deal with first and then I shall leave. I

estimate it will take nearly three weeks to handle the matter to my satisfaction, and after that time, I would gladly start for Mysore or the Nilgiris¹⁷⁵ or wherever you will be. In the same mail I have also received a letter from His Highness proposing the suggestion that Ooty would be more suitable now and not during the Monsoon, and very kindly inviting me to stay there as on the last occasion. If therefore it is at all convenient for you to be in Ooty from the beginning of April (next month) I should be delighted. Or if that is inconvenient to you I could go there after April 1st and perhaps you would be able to come later. Anyway, please let me know what you think regarding the situation.

The reasons why I must remain here till the end of the month are, first and least important, that I have to secure a competent secretary and shall have to interview applicants either in Madras or here; second and most important, that there is a highly deplorable situation in the Ramana Ashram which represents the culminating crisis of a degeneration which has been going on and worsening during the last three years. I dislike to wash dirty linen, so shall not go into lengthy details.

Suffice to say that the Sarvadhikari (Superintendent) is at the root of the trouble, All the long standing disciples of the Maharishree have either been expelled or have left the Ashram of their own accord. Yogi Ramiah was the last to go a few months back and only I am left; the S has gathered a crowd of new comers around him whose main interest is their material upkeep rather than spiritual growth.

My turn for removal has arisen and the S has created tremendous propaganda against me. I shall tell you details when we meet personally. His abuse and slander have caused me considerable annoyance however and I feel it incumbent upon me to remain here for a couple of weeks in order to teach him a lesson and put him in his place. It may be that a complete Crisis will develop and that the Maharishree will leave¹⁷⁶ the Ashram for good or it may be that I shall have to sever my connection here, I do not know yet.

However it is a duty to myself and to the persecuted disciples who have suffered from him, for me to take a strong stand against this wretched man who I find, has succeeded in making his own legal private property all the lands and buildings belonging to the Ashram and donated with the idea that the contributors were being made to a public institution. I propose to remain here till the end of this month and then leave immediately for Ooty.

Your letter published in the latest issue of {"Philosophy"} was read by me with eagerness, and you have certainly put most effectively our Indian (may say so) concept of Truth and Philosophy.

I wrote to you about six weeks ago, either from China or from French Indo-China and enclosed a copy of the Dedication to your good self which I propose to include in my forth coming volume entitled "Indian philosophy and Modern Culture." This book will be going to press in the near future, It contains, the thesis which I had to submit for my Ph.D. I then enquired whether you were willing to have this dedication appear as

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written, or whether you desired it altered in any particular. So far you do not mention this point in any of your letters. Duplicate herewith.

I trust you have been keeping continued good health, so that your valuable life may long be spared to us for the sake of us all. I look forward with very great pleasure to our meeting soon and beg you to accept my sincere devotion and respect.

Affectionately yours
Paul Brunton.

P.S.¹⁷⁷ You will be pleased to hear that Swami Siddheswarananda's mission in France has been most successful and he has earned high compliments for his personal character and spiritual helpfulness to others.

L25.325

325 - 328
Letter to Mr Iyer and Reverend Guru
Trivandrum
December 25th

My dear Mr Iyer and Reverend Guru,

It is a pity you were unable to come to Travancore as I believe you would really have enjoyed this tour; Sir C.P. has been extremely nice and considerate towards me and made me most comfortable. He has placed the Director of Archaeology at my disposal to accompany me on the tour, as a guide to the most interesting places - not thereby the archaeological sites. Consequently I have gained some insight into the national and individual life of Travancoreans, as well as their historic, agricultural, industrial and artistic sides; thus perfecting my knowledge of India. The thick forest scenery is very beautiful and inspiring, too.

Tomorrow will be spent at Cape Comorin as it will be full moon night and I want to sit in meditation there (Please don't bring out Hat!) not by imagining what is not there but by simply harmonising my thoughts with the grandeur of the environment.

Later I shall go into the wild animal reserve and hunt the beasts with a camera. Sir C.P. also offered to arrange for Sadhu-Shikari¹⁷⁸ but I emphatically declined! However I shall finish up my week here with a pilgrimage to Kaladi¹⁷⁹ and spend a night or two there, to reflect on what I have learnt of Shankara's teachings.¹⁸⁰

You will probably have seen the "Sunday Times"¹⁸¹ article and I hope I have correctly interpreted your advice. The Associated Press correspondent here also came for an interview and I made a statement carefully which will perhaps help to define my position more accurately and my do some good to offset the prejudices aroused by the

¹⁷⁷ Page 324

¹⁷⁸ Underlined by hand with an illegible note handwritten in the left margin.

¹⁷⁹ Underlined by hand with and illegible note handwritten above the line.

¹⁸⁰ Underlined by hand.

¹⁸¹ "Sunday Times" is circled by hand.

Ramanasram - inspired propaganda¹⁸² it will probably be "Syndicated" to newspapers throughout¹⁸³ India. The hint that Yoga alone is not enough, that philosophy placed on a rational basis and synthesised with science is also needed,¹⁸⁴ has been dropped in the course of the interview.

I have discussed Yoga and philosophy with Sir C.P. at length and generally speaking confirmed my earlier impressions that he has a sane and sensible outlook towards these subjects, considering that he has not made a special study of them.

It might amuse you to learn (for I am sure you won't take it seriously) that the principal of Pachaiappa's College, Madras (Mr D. Sharma) whom I met at tea with Lady Bateman's (in Madras last week) and whom I had given some introduction to Western publishers to give his primers on Hindustan some circulation there, said that he had attempted to read your articles in Magazines but had given up the attempt because they were not clear but confused!! If there is any single quality in your writings - and as a former Literary Critic and reviewer for several years, I ought to know something about the matter - which has impressed me, it is the perfect clarity of your style and the Cohesion of your sentences and Paragraphs Consequently this proves that even the Heads of Colleges can talk unmitigated nonsense; What hope for their poor students? Incidentally after poor Lady Bateman has spent the next three weeks at Pondicherry and Tiruvannamalai, she will hardly be in a fit mood to benefit by your teachings, when she arrives at Mysore. I told her frankly that she was a collector of opinions and not a seeker after truth, and finally she admitted it, but pleaded that meeting all these holy and learned men gave her much satisfaction and might even be her way of seeking.

I have avoided meeting the gentleman from Mysore who teaches philosophy as the local University in Trivandrum as I do not want to waste time in useless discussions; not having read science he deprecates etc.

May¹⁸⁵ I take this opportunity to tell you how much I miss the Advaita Class? The surgical operations which you have been performing on us have cut away some of the film of cataract in our eyes. We are not so blind as formerly. We are able to evaluate ideas and things more correctly. And you have so constantly held before us the ideal of doing some service to humanity before we die, that we must be very poor material if we do not respond to your teaching so my gratitude goes out towards you.¹⁸⁶

I forgot to tell you that the night I had dinner with M.I., he said, "I suppose your mind must be very confused now, what with your doubts about Yoga and religion."¹⁸⁷ I replied "I have never before known such positive clearness of thought and never before had so few doubts as now. Since taking reason as guide, there is much less confusion and much more certainty."

With affectionate regards and respects
Paul Brunton.

¹⁸² Underlined by hand.

¹⁸³ Page 327; page 326 is an incomplete duplicate of page 327.

¹⁸⁴ Underlined by hand.

¹⁸⁵ Page 328

¹⁸⁶ Underlined by hand.

¹⁸⁷ Underlined by hand.

Letter from PB to Mr Iyer and respected Guru
Fern Hill, Nilgiris,
4th May 1940¹⁸⁸

My dear Mr Iyer and respected Guru,

Your kind letter of the 28th to hand. I am glad to hear the change to the hills has benefitted you and that H.H. the Maharajah is keeping fit there.

H.H. The Yuvaraja¹⁸⁹ is staying here now and is giving an "At Home" next week. I have had walks with Justice Nageswara Iyer and Dr Narasimha (from Travancore) I agree with you that it will be better to discuss the M.S.S¹⁹⁰ personally, so we shall leave the matter for the present and I will continue with the work on further chapters.

In reply to your query when I shall be able to leave Ooty, I would like to remain here, if permitted until it is time to go own to Mysore¹⁹¹ for H.H. The Maharajah's Birthday Festivity next month. My health has been immensely benefitted here, but what I care for most is that I am able to do twice the amount of work here than I can do in the plains and better work too. therefore I want to make the most of this visit and give my book a good start off.¹⁹² Moreover I feel I am getting weaker every year and the reserve of strength I can lay in here, will be a good standby in the plains.

We are getting rains daily now but in strict moderation, with variations pf pleasant sunshine. It is quite delightful on the whole.

I have been having an interesting correspondence with an old friend at Simla concerning Drg Drshya Viveka.¹⁹³ He complains that the arrangement of the book is greatly tangled and repellent, however he is determined to get at its full meaning. He is most intelligent, has combined Yoga with philosophy for years, is a Sanskrit Scholar and lived long in Europe. He wants to buy Brahmananda's and Anandagiri's commentaries¹⁹⁴ on Drg Drsya Viveka but can't get them in the North Do you know if they are published elsewhere.

Since writing the above. I have seen Mr Sadig shah. He has discussed the date of my return with me and suggested that owing to the difficulties of accommodation during the great rush of visitors and the inconvenience to which I would I would have to be put amongst them, that it would be better for me to come down a day or two after

¹⁸⁸ "VI" is handwritten in the top left corner of the page.

¹⁸⁹ Underlined by hand.

¹⁹⁰ "{(1st copy)}?" is handwritten in the right margin and "M.S.S" is circled by hand.

¹⁹¹ Underlined by hand.

¹⁹² Underlined by hand.

¹⁹³ Underlined by hand

¹⁹⁴ Page 330

the Birth day. I asked if H.H. would mind and he said no, as it is not like Dasara. So we settled on 18th June¹⁹⁵ for my return.

Dr Robinson told me that he has read a new book on Hitler which mentions that after he invaded Austria, he met an Austrian lady who is an amateur fortune-teller and that he took her back to Berlin to act as adviser. If his wars are to be directed by female emotion masquerading as intuition, I think there is some hope that she will lead him into disaster before long! The more I study Vedanta the more I realize how I have wasted precious years in having regarded Yoga as a stop and not a step!

With all my affectionate regards and respects.

Paul Brunton.

L25.331

331 - 360

Letter from Irene to Dr Brunton

Undated

Dear Dr Brunton

Please forgive the lateness of this "material." The magazine was late in coming out. Then, every time I want to write to you things develop and what would have been news is already old stuff.

The Professor has been kind enough to let me contribute to the magazine by my also going through the proofs in order to {catch} any printing mistake which might have escaped him or his helpers whoever they are. When the magazine was ready it was taken to His Holiness who went through it page by page. It took Him one hour and a half! All that time we were standing¹⁹⁶ - how the Professor did not collapse having just got up from his awful illness is just incredible. I am wondering how your eyes are and your health is generally. I suggested to Sophie to find out as also what exactly you said to Mama but she hesitates not wanting to disturb you. I know that feeling so well because although you are always so kind and readily accessible it takes overcoming one's inhibitions to call on your attention.

Her problem continues sometimes acutely, othertimes less... We have both agreed that the best tactics is not to bother about the other persons who give us trouble but¹⁹⁷ simply go on with our respective occupations, tell them quietly once or twice a suggestion as calmly as possible and then get on with our business avoiding resentment as best we can. This is easier said than done but we shall persevere. She is now in Columbia for a week on an official visit, then comes Paris (also official), when they are busy things improve. She rings me up from time to time but lately the need for it seemed less.

¹⁹⁵ Underlined by hand.

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The summer in Majorca where all the family and children came together was a difficult one. Mama's insistence on {pinning¹⁹⁸ Tino} and Anna-Marie down as to when exactly the children will come to India has caused obstinance and frustration as to have been foreseen. Instead of being a bit more patient in order to have their willingness also for future plans there was struggle. They will come because it has been established now in one of Tino's outbursts of frustration that he is devoted to the professor and he will come with or send the children soon this month or the next and that he is aware of the importance of things but her constant "pushing" is just unbearable. I suppose that by the time this letter reaches¹⁹⁹ you we might have heard from him. It makes one so sorry because in her haste Mama becomes the cause of delay for the children. By now even a postcard would seem to the parents as an attempt to push! All that seems left for one to do is pray.

The Professor is allowing me to stay long this time and we agreed that unless there is an emergency and need for me in Europe I can continue to live here for the time being. For you I would be more than willing to come if ever I am required for whatever service I can render, as you know, at Sophie's bidding also.²⁰⁰ As you predicted the stay is much more enjoyable! The cottage in {Geetha-hotel} to which I shifted is most enjoyable with its porch and terrace above. Of course the problem is not over as I had hoped but not being continuously under "fire" since I live on my own peacefully, I am in a better position now to concentrate on purifying my heart and mind. It is more an inward effort than one to try and please outwardly which I had proven futile. If I am pure in heart and mind then I will improve naturally also outwardly and not by force, I feel. There have been occasional²⁰¹ tiffs during which I protested in front of the Professor. Now that all the bottled up grievances have been "coughed up" I shall not argue with her anymore but ignore the negativities as advised by Professor who says this and also that arguing with her does not help. In front of His Holiness the other day I mentally admitted that in thought I am not non-violent but that I want to be. I feel the help very gently and subtly but it is there. People may be unfair etc... but I see now that to resent is caused by impurity in one's own ego, also negative thinking of²⁰² a person, however justified it may seem, is also a form of relationship and if one wants to be rid of possessiveness this negative attachment must also drop off. It strikes me only now that indignation of the sort I have been pestered with is also attachment. Theoretically all this is marvellous but in practice it is so difficult. However these theories are becoming a feeling also and for this I am so grateful to all of you for the patience and help you are giving. One other very potent antidote is the chanting of the 1000 names of the Goddess. We did this with Padma and her friends ten days running because the Goddess was being celebrated. The text consists of epithets describing her war against evil (as found in the legends,) then a description of her form which has yogic esoteric significance (chakras and kundalini, it makes me think of those wonderful days in

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Psychiko where you told me about these things) finally arriving to Advaita teaching. The idea, text and the music are most powerful. It is like mental and spiritual {illegible}! Since their gradual dawning of a little more common sense I am feeling much better and the deliberate support from the Professor is deeply gratifying.

Things are better also for Padma and that family. When Mama is here one sees less of them, unfortunate though this may be one is grateful for their sake that they are more able to lead their own lives now. The Professor is like a "Master Juggler" in how he handles our regrettable personality-problems. Your sympathetic awareness of also their suffering is materializing into a better situation for them.

Another "bonus" from the Professor²⁰³ is an invitation to go with him to Malaysia where a World-Hindu-Council-Conference is taking place at the wish of the Junior Shankaracharya. The purpose is to concentrate on Hindus abroad their problems and how to encourage their adherence to Dharma and spiritual living. the Professor is presiding this project. (There seems to be a large Hindu population in Malaysia.) Also he is giving a series of lectures at various universities. This should take place in late December. I hope to be able to relieve him of much unnecessary travelling - bothers like handling tickets, hotels etc... His²⁰⁴ health seems alright again.

I am reading the 'Wisdom of the Overself' again. Needless to say how helpful it is! Also there are weekly talks on Gaudapada and the harmony of the two is just what I need and am getting thanks to the Grace. Peace-feelings are ample, sometimes more than what the mind can handle. What I mean is that instruction does not always come with them. Maybe this is because it is more on the application-level that instruction is given.

You probably heard about poor Gina's sudden death. In fact I am not so sure that she is "poor" Gina because I have been getting²⁰⁵ the most inspiring and happy thoughts about her quite often. She must be reaping her good karma earned by the loving service on earth. I am in touch with Alec her husband who is so brave, understanding and devotional. In his letter to me he writes that he spent some days in meditation and is dedicating his energy in the immediate future to making charitable institutions in her memory and that he hopes to come to India to learn from His Holiness and the Professor. I understand that he does not want to come at once. When one is deeply sad one prefers to have worked out the immediate shock and pain before learning from a sage. Such humility, as he shows in his letter which was loving and full of faith in God was deeply moving. I am keeping in touch with him by mail and also prayers and meditations are offered for him as also for those many people who depended on Gina so much. Her sudden death seems to have been a spiritual promotion for all concerned also for me. Your advice and help in the relationship with her as well as your prediction that all would be finally alright has been a great blessing for me. The loving gratitude is best expressed in the silent meditations²⁰⁶ daily offered to you as also to the other Two.

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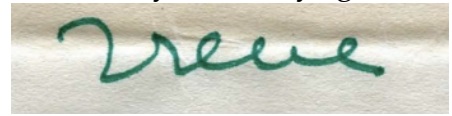
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Having delayed what should have been sent to you long ago I had better stop this communication on the writing level.

All devotional love from your always grateful

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read "Veeve", on a light-colored, textured background.