

Prescott, Arizona
Dec. 29, 1973

Dear Jim:

We're glad you received our gift and were able to make use of it, in other words eating it. We had a lively time here, first with Warren and his daughter and then with Douglas and his family. Unfortunately Warren and C. became very ill with a stomach upset the day after they arrived here, having caught something on the way here. They spent a day or more in bed and were limited to gruel and such instead of the food I had prepared for an early Christmas. We did enjoy a full meal on their last evening here and they enjoyed being here in spite of their misfortune. Warren thought we had a nice place and lived in a beautiful area.

All 3 of the children of Douglas are teen agers and were not too keen on coming here in the first place, but I guess before they left they were fairly well satisfied. They are all very active and our quiet was too much for them so they were off bowling, shopping, seeing the sights much of the time and finally settled down to play crocon on the last day. Douglas thought we were too isolated from the life he likes where there are a lot of people and much activity. Each to his own.

You asked about my writing. I kind of hesitate to say too much about it, because I feel that would be premature. I hope to have a book eventually and I have about 155 pages of rough draft written now- type written and double spaced. It's sort of a novel and is based on the experiences I had in getting to the top in my profession. I hardly could have gone higher because I think I was at the top level of my competency, if I had strived any higher, I would have been at the level of my "incompetency". In a way it's a women's lib book, but refutes the methods used by today's women's libbers, who in many ways are defeating themselves and their cause.

You also wanted my response to your book. I thought it would be sufficient to get your dad's reactions. Well, here they are in a very disorganized and random fashion.

I would think first that you have written booklets, rather than books. The format is very interesting, attractive and well outlined, clearly indicating by the heading in each chapter, and sub-division what your topic is and the content you are writing about. It makes for easy reading, even though the content is anything but easy.

The scope of your readership will probably never be large, because it requires quite a lot of intellectual ability to be able to follow it or even to be interested in finishing the booklet. But after all that does not make one superior to the other, or another inferior to the other, because even Paul says that we have different talents and all together we make the whole.

I think many people during the course of their lives go through the periods of "Angst" and "Welt-Schmerz" that you purposely experienced. Dr. Menninger is saying too that many mental ills are due to sin, or alienation from God. Although I don't think it would be correct to suppose that all mental illness is due to that.

You suggest in your p'stscript that other people do their own experimenting

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"to think about your own existence a little more clearly."

But thank God there can come a time in a person's life when it is no longer ^{or necessary} to experiment but one can reach a stage of calmness, inner peace knowing that God will not desert a person and allow him to drown in his miseries and desperations but will give him strength to carry his burdens when such a request is made to Him in all sincerety.

I don't agree ~~that~~ with you that because a person has formed his own convictions that he is necessarily bound by rigid dogmas. It may be that he has overcome his human predicament, as you call it, and it has led him to a faith that can not be shattered by every new idea that comes along. Or that because he no longer experiences those "Angst" feelings that he has become complacent in his faith and religion.

Neither your dad nor I feel that our lives are meaningless, empty, purposeless. We are not bored, depressed, lonely, anxious, nor do we feel despair, guilt (although there are some things one wishes one had not done during the course of a lifetime), insecure etc.

Rather we understand the emotions of the Psalmist when he observes the majesty in the mountains and in the other works of the Creator. We see it all around us here in the mountains, in the beauty of the sunsets, in the clarity of the stars at night, in the ferocious rainfalls, in the lovely wild flowers that spring up in the desert where seemingly there is nothing to sustain them.

We put our trust in God and whether we live or whether our days are numbered, our turbulent days of anxiety become fewer in number as we accept everything, knowing that God will not forsake us.

I am very sorry that you do not consider yourself a Christian any longer, and I am even more sorry if you are drawing other people away from Christianity and urging them to follow you. It seems that you are trying to form a new religious sect of your own, which includes a universal spirit, God, perhaps, but which is mostly formed within the confines of your own brain.

I regret that I cannot use all of my knowledge and talents in service any longer, since I retired. But my service now is to your dad who needs me. I am also pursuing the possibility of teaching a course at the local college here on concepts of preventive medicine and practical implications for a healthy life.

Wishing you the best in the new year 1974.

Mom.