

Dear Papa,

This is for you though I am not yet exactly sure why.

I went to Meeting this morning rather reluctantly; I have told you how much too big, too argumentative, and full of the tensions of many people with many problems it is; I would have rather gone uptown to hear Dr. Buttrick preach, but it was late, and I have ~~a~~ tremendous amount of work to get through before I can give my report in the seminar on Tuesday.

Very soon people began to get up and to talk about the problems of the world. The first speaker had only repeated a brief prayer of an ~~E~~ Eastern sect that went something like this; Oh Lord, in this perplexed world, help me not to add to the problems, but rather to be part of the solution. That was good, but as people continued to speak and to reason and persuade, I felt more and more tense, almost desperate. Here there was none of the wholeness and peace that I had felt at the Presbyterian church. At five minutes of the hour we were still being urged and persuaded. So this is what I said; Two statements come to my mind this morning. One a short poem: He drew a circle that shut me out,
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout,
But Love and I had the wit to win,
We drew a circle that took him.

And the other, from St. Augustine: One loving heart sets ~~the other~~ another on fire. Oh God, give to us thy ~~peace and~~ love and tranquillity that our hearts may be ~~filled~~ illuminated and filled with peace, and not despair.

You see even now so soon after I am not sure what I did say. I hope it was not too elliptical. I could not have explained and elaborated and also prayed. And prayer ~~was~~ what I needed and what I felt the Meeting needed. Though I was amazed at the steadiness and clearness of my voice, I was quite weak and trembly for the couple of minutes that remained before the end. A nice lady in front of me shook my hand and thanked me. Then I saw Mrs MacIntosh and was introduced to her brother. She couldn't decide what to say, so I asked her quickly whether she often came to that Meeting, and she said sometimes--that it was rather far away. Then I left, probably too quickly and rudely, and went upstairs to the library to return some books. Then I ~~came~~ came home. I think Mrs. MacIntosh probably felt as I often have--touched and moved, but also embarrassed. There seems to be so little room in Quakerism, modern Quakerism, as I have known it, for emotion. I have felt much more often moved and transformed by the services which I have attended at Dr. Buttrick church. I think that the book of Elton Trueblood's which we read this summer emphasizes ~~the~~ our need for more prayer in Meeting. At any rate, somewhere I have read something on the subject which has stuck in my mind. I know that I need it, and even more, ~~to~~ to learn individual prayer. I think I asked you for something, but that you misunderstood me, because I think what you offered me was ~~a~~ rather commentary. I suppose one can only learn to pray by praying, but I continue to feel that I need a pattern of formula as a point of departure. After Tuesday, I shall look for Dr. Johnson's prayers. Can you suggest anything else?

Now I must return to reading law codes and judicial cases. At four-thirty Mary Lothrop is coming to have tea in this terribly messy ~~apartment~~ apartment; then we are going to hear a New Friends of Music concert. Later, at eight this evening Leo and I will go to hear a lecture at Cooper Union on "The Linkage of Human Events". Its being ~~given~~ given by a man in the Columbia Dept of Philosophy whom Leo thinks highly. I notice from a Penguin book of Whitehead's essays on "Science and the Modern World" that Nagel is also ~~a~~ an admirer of Whitehead.

I hope you know that in spite of the pressure of the stream of ~~the~~ things and responsibilities with which I have complicated my life

that I think of you with love and gratitude, as well ~~as~~ as with ~~concern~~ concern, very often. I am sure that you do know it but it is something that needs repeating. I suppose that the principal reason that I tell you about Meeting is that I ~~wish~~ want you also to know that the things that mean so much to you ~~mean~~ have an increasingly greater ~~of~~ value and significance for me.