

Cambridge, December 12, 1949

PP1, 51.35D

Dear Margaret,

Thank you for your letter. ~~It~~ I will try to answer it briefly and I hope sufficiently. Aunt Priscilla says that it will suit her if you come any time, and you need not write her. ~~s--~~ Meanwhile Judy has come in and we have read the Gorgias for almost an hour, so that now I have even less time than before. - What I wanted to tell you was merely that you should do in this matter of coming whatever you wished, without regard of me. If you would like to come Sunday, come on Sunday, else, whenever you chose. I don't think my work need be in the way of your coming, because there is no reason for my not working when you are here. You could perhaps also find something to read, and we could be together without talking so much about things that are irremediable.

I must go out now to mail this letter, and so I cannot write you many of the things I had in mind. Besides I am always hesitant to write about my dilemma, which, after all, remains always the same. I must try in every way possible to overcome it, and yet so often life not only in the future but equally in the present seems such an absurd impossibility. That is why in many things, such as your coming, I try to be as passive as possible, accepting all things that happen as necessary, because as long as I am conscious of the contradiction, its pain exhausts the mind and paralyzes the emotions. I am still learning to be patient.

John

P.S. I am looking forward to your coming, and in whatever way you need me, you help me, - you give my curious existence a certain significance, and make me happy. —