

Konnarock, Virginia
May 25, 1951

Dear Margaret:

I had expected your letter already yesterday, although I knew, of course, that impatience and worry about you and Jochen had caused my tense expectation, and that your lines could not arrive before to-day. Since the moment ~~when we~~ ~~have realized~~ that the letter was in our hands we have realized that it confirms what we had thought were the explanations for the present state of mind of both of you.

Let me answer your lines sentence by sentence and take into consideration that I am fully aware of the difficulties created by my poor command of the English language to properly express my thoughts and of the need for avoiding misunderstandings. It would probably have been best for me to go to New York and Boston and talk to both you and Jochen. This is impossible, however, because of my duties here, aside from the fact that it might suit neither you nor Jochen.

Don't regard me as conceited when I say that I believe to understand yours as well as Jochen's feelings towards each other; we cannot think of either one of you separately without the other being included. But all this is too hard to put into words in a letter, and I should prefer to talk to you personally about it. This much to-day: I believe I see your deep love to Jochen, and I also definitely know of the intensity of Jochen's feelings toward you. Jochen's love makes new demands every day, and it was a new climax in his expectations that he would have wanted you to come to Cambridge rather than to hear Bach without him. I realize that he was at the same time right and wrong: right in his desire that you could not, and would not wish to experience anything without him; wrong in that he was unwilling to concede the due place in your life to your love of your family and to the tradition of experiencing Bethlehem in their fellowship. It will need many years of ~~maturization~~ of growth into maturity to bring the measure of his feelings to the point where room is created for the justification of your love toward your family. At the present, there is nothing in his feelings and thoughts, but the disappointment and sadness that it was at all possible for you to experience without him what belongs to his soul and its vibrations as very few other things.

I also believe my affection to you to be stronger now than at the time when you came to Konnarock two summers ago. This is not to imply a judgment as to values: you have grown closer to me because of a similarity in thinking and feeling. And is not this creating love between individuals: that the object of our love is near us in spirit and dispells the loneliness and boundlessness of our feelings? This is, I believe, what Jochen tries to express when he speaks of his need for being alone: it is the longing for the full understanding by the object of his love, which he desires. And this pain of loneliness will remain in a person's life as he needs the balancing power of love for the stabilization of his emotional restlessness.

The imperfection of my attempt at expressing myself in a language which I do not master becomes more and more painfully clear to me as I go on writing; and I should be far less worried ~~if you should be so kind as to~~ about the possibilities of misunderstandings if you sat vis-a-vis of me and completed the sentence as I started to express my thoughts.

My wishes are with you for the successful completion of your work. I have to close for your and my own sake. Before I do so, this is my wish and sincere advice: try to convince Jochen that it is important for both of you and for the state of mind in which you both are right now, that you come together to Konnarock at the first possible moment. This is not only because I wish to have you with us (we all have this desire, indeed!), but also because I strongly feel that a period of

emotional and intellectual relaxation is of utmost importance for both of you. We shall fully understand if you both decide after a one or two weeks' stay that you ought to return to Philadelphia or Cambridge where Jochen can finish his work for Dr. Vietor. If you sensibly plan the trip, going by the Skyline Drive, this can also afford you much of the medicine you need: joy and relaxation!

Come soon! And do not let us wait too long! Give my regards to your mother and father, and feel the love we have for you.

Sincerely,

Marga Mayer

P.S. Not knowing where you will spend the week-end -I have considered all of the three possibilities-, I am sending a copy of this letter to Jochen's address in Cambridge and to that of your parents in Philadelphia.