

Konnarock, 12.11.55

Liebes Kind:

As Sunday afternoons go, this one deserves some distinction for its sadness, and my consolation is only that some inherent necessity seems to be exacting its due. I am glad for your sake that you are not here, because you would be lost between my parents who are in a turmoil as never before and myself though unable to work steadily ^{any} withdrawn into a retreat of classical reason and equanimity, which does not do justice to the terror and pathos of this situation. You would be playing with the dogs.

I would be foolish if I tried to outline for you the social and psychic dynamics of this conflict within and without my parents, because I myself must be entwined in it to a much greater extent than I am aware or can admit. There must be much injustice inherent in my striving to remain impartial, detached, just and virtuous. The paradox is that I cannot escape my role in this drama, no more than my parents can escape theirs.

The worst of it was precipitated by the Boards acceptance of virtually all my proposals and things are much aggravated by my inability to take the blame and the burden of guilt for the insufficiency of us all. But I, by making myself guiltless of the obvious become guilty of the inobvious. The secret is that being guilty, becoming guilty is the path to salvation. (That is why Christianity has done so well in so guilty a world) But I who will not be guilty am guilty in my not willing.

All this may pass away. Perhaps my parents will become reconciled to my presence. Perhaps I will not be so threatening to them after they get to know me better. Perhaps the army will take me. How obviously our suffering is related to the presumptive freedom of the will ! How it is dispelled by the knowledge that we are not in our own power. I would blame not God but our natures. I suspect that God ~~is~~ ^{isn't} not in his office on Sunday afternoons - playing Golf? - is the reason why our Sunday afternoons are so messy.

Now you, having some idea to which circle you will be buying your ticket may wish to spend some time in Philadelphia on your way. Whatever you decide will be well with me. Please be good and not sad. Give my regards to your parents. Unless I hear from you, I will meet the morning train in Marion on Saturday.

Dein

John