

Sept 28, 1960.

Dear Dick,

FLIP ANALYSIS

You have understood me very clearly. We have given a name to our problem - egocentricity. You have this disease & I see you have it. I am the doctor and have cured cases before. So the thing to do is clear - cure it. And you "thank me for my efforts". And you say that prior to my last letter you "made statements" & my treatment consisted in saying "you are full of bologna". (a)

You make the widest (& truest!!) generalization: "The M. knows that one too", but IN DETAIL you are (probably of necessity, my poor friend!!) forced to act against your own words because you are, as we all are, self-conscious & so OBSERVING and so trying to watch the process of your own deliverance!

Hence the "analysis" like (a) above (knocking down all statements).

But IF WHAT YOU SAY WERE TRUE then any Tom, Dick or Harry - & in particular the "Dick" that is you, could set up in business as an A.P. (not Alfred Pulyan but "awakened person"!) and have an orgy of destruction, name-calling, epithet-inventing, ~~etc~~ & so forth, while looking hopefully to CURING his dupes. But, physician heal thyself!! It might not work. In rare cases it might! But, oh boy, what a mess... what a fight! However there are quite a number of people who do habitually act this way; in a mild degree Broncho Marx, Alexander King, Alexander Woollcott, - in fact most intellectuals, especially those just emerged from the egg - & even you with your "dialectical attack" & "analytical affront" on the fairer & pleasanter sex.

COMMENT

Everything above may be true & we may both know it. "The M. knows that one too" however means that he can thread his way with ease & assurance in the most god-awful tangle the ingenious mind can throw up!!

over
pleas