

Oct 23, 1960

Dear Dick,

Call the object of our discussion the "One" if you like - it has nothing to do with your frenzied semantics. All the people you mention have only a fancied referent & must be completely disregarded. If they are cuckoo there is no reason for you to be. I thought I had dealt with "God"!

Do not concentrate on the high-colored (& rather delightful) stylization of Zen. Beneath that there is serious "work" done.

As regards "experiences" Bucke mentions many of course. That type may have differing results. One person may guard it as a jealous secret all his or her life & as the most wonderful thing. On the other hand Sir Julian Huxley, who is a high-type "humanist", may have several such experiences and regard them as purely subjective.

They are not rare. They are "valid" (not subjective) but having one does not enable one to prove their validity. Sir Julian Huxley is an obvious case in point. They can come to anyone.

They are discussed fairly often, but there seems almost a conspiracy of silence about the "understanding" we are dealing with in these letters - because for one thing it is quite rare - and for another the words "an experience" do not properly describe such a fundamental revelation and discovery. Have you read what the Jpanishado for example say about it? (There is a pocket-book on them)

I am not "threatening to drop your case" but rather aware that you do not even show verbal desire for this thing - and many do. Further you must believe that, without any desire to press this upon you, I am actuated only by consideration for you, because life can be rough. If there is nothing in you that wants it you cannot blame me for the obvious realization that we would not get anywhere, except to acrimination & that is undesirable. All through the ages misguided followers of "awakened" men filled with zeal have endeavored by assertions of miracles & marvels to boost their masters' reputation - and actually such things are beside the point.

Zen says that to desire miracles is to try to put another head