

May 17, 1961.

Dear Dick,

No, it is very difficult to solve the cosmic problem oneself, because for the "self" to abandon (even for a fraction of a second which is all that is necessary) its own proud assumption of being the ultimate decider is, as I have so often said, almost impossible.

This is because to "decide" not to decide is a paradox, like lifting yourself up. Of course if you hold onto a horizontal bar you can lift yourself off the ground & in the same way you must use an awakened person to "help" (like the horizontal bar).

A person who will patiently "work" with you without complaining, without hope of reward or desire for it, for years if necessary, must have something & it is rather over-sceptical to doubt it. No doubt there are a lot of goofy people who ~~they~~ think they are Jesus or God, but you can surely tell them pretty quickly & they are NOT the type to reason with you patiently for years.

If you will allow me to say so your scepticism is beyond the ordinary allowance even for an "intellectual" & verges upon the ungracious & unkind. As a mathematician & former auditor my standards of proof are very, very high & exacting, but I do not "hold out" when a sufficient level of proof has been reached. In a bank audit or the audit of a commercial concern we were always watchful but did not fall into pathological doubt-fancies. When doubt ceases to be a servant & becomes your master & you wonder if there is an octopus hiding behind the .04 stamps on my letter then you are in a bad way.

Now unfortunately doubt in itself is not evil, but allied to resistance it can go against the flow of life & I can usually tell by looking at a person or after a

OVER
PLEASE