

1674 1/2 St.  
Benwood, W. Va.  
Feb 24, 1961

Friend. Al,

But how can I be sure you are a friend? For all I know it might be something entirely different writing...hiding behind the postage stamp....behind space... I would have liked to have been a little more scientific about your claims....investigated them first hand... But I recognized that while you might have something to fear or hide from a frustrated neophyte, I recognized the possible truth, that I might not be able to tell much actually from first hand analysis.

You are unfair... This by your own words... You resent and hint anathema at such trifling things as my caution and your style of writing is so vitriolic that I wonder that anyone could insult you. Yet I hesitated to say anything that might hurt your feelings... I have commented about the reasonableness of statements but there has been no intention to tell you off.

I am tempted though... Surely you are not so naive as to think that I should accept everything anyone says... and there is no point in threatening to tell me to go to hell just because I do not agree.

In fact those are the little things that cast the doubt in my mind, more than the wealth or lack of reason. I can understand that you would want to share an experience if you had something big, but when people get big they just do not have the urge to tell the less fortunate to go to hell. And I presume that is what you mean when you say you are tempted to say the obvious.

Almost grudgingly now you tell me that the mind lives undendingly. *How do you know?*

Why? How do I know that you know. What are jivan-muktis. You do a little name-dropping. If I thought anything could be deduced from reading about Jesus or Buddha (since they wrote nothing) I would not be writing to you. I cannot ascertain if they existed. The Catholics claim that their peccs run clear back to Peter, but that claim does not mean a thing to me. I do not have the time to prove it, nor to prove the true origin of the Massens....since I have no assurance that knowing the unbroken chain of heredity would provide any qualitative knowledge of the first link.

Sometimes I think you are just an evergrown beatnik with a Russian sense of humor. Do you mean that your wife does not believe in the magnitude of your nothingness? My wife (amazingly different) knows me to be hypocrite that I am. I keep telling her that I am but a mite of the Almighty

and I get the same reaction that I get from you. "You are just saying this because it sounds big to make a claim that cannot be evaluated." Who knows. Perhaps my wife is a Zen master in disguise.

Of course the same applies to you. You defy evaluation. I am not as yet trying to evaluate you as much as to get some material to use in evaluating.

So far a good picture of Atman and Brahma (Brahman?) Check me if I am wrong. Or is the the little individual mind merging with the universal mind? Now if this is the case, does the individual (mind or spirit) lose its identity upon merging? Does it lose self-consciousness?

If it does not, and preassuming you have attained the merger, why have you not been able to identify dead relatives? If you know everything, then why are you not able to discredit or explain other concepts and phenomena that lead men to believe other concepts.

What is the value of Kriya yoga technique. Is the Word of God (Logos) actually an audible sound.

Without asking for it I find that you find it fitting to again remind me that you would not want me to visit you. Now I ponder about this persistence. I realize that you all are transcendentalists and would have to run out and get a plumber to put in some plumbing to keep me from stinking up your place....no explanation is necessary. But then I also think (since I must be honest with you) that perhaps He is a little afraid that I am Tesla's pigeon...there is a light in my eye that you might not like.

You note that my correspondence is dull. At this point I note that you have the initiative.

What is a guru?

Sincerely,

Dick

Feb 27, 1961

Dear Dick,

EVALUATION This continues while the Universe awaits your decision! Naturally you will soon repeat yourself. I do not know what data would satisfy you. Metaphysical discussion is useless yet we keep bringing up such questions as "merger with the One" or "eternal life of the mind" that cannot be answered VERBALLY & require "experience".

(Incidentally I did NOT say the mind lives unendingly. What does GO ON; or better what does not cease, is better known by this same personal experience.)

"HIDING BEHIND THE POSTAGE STAMP" There is nothing "odd" or harmful here although your word "unusual" has some truth in it. Sometimes I am sad (for people like yourself) - but always compassionate. I have NOT got "big" as you suggest. What I have is in all of us. Those who seem famous like St Sermain, Capliostro might not be of much use to you when you had got behind the showmanship.

Simple, unassuming people may be the true "knowers".

As for "what is a guru?" a teacher does not actually "teach" anything, but quietly persists like a mother until the child grows up with often no thanks & asking no reward.

KRIYA YOGA There is confusion here. Patanjali uses this as "preliminary" yoga, but Gogananda made it his main technique. In any case it stresses "union" when that means there are two things YET TO BE joined! It is the other way round. The ONE thing exists - & there is already "union", but you will not lose yourself in it, nor your self-consciousness, WHILE YOU LIVE. Words are of no help here.

TRANSCENDENTALISTS? We paint pictures, play the recorder, & oblige down the hill, but have no need to use silly words like the one in capitals ("TRANSCENDENTALISTS"). You are having nightmares - such talk is for those who have not attained or have not started to live. Does such talk help you at all?

ALL KNOWLEDGE? To answer a host of your questions I am no more learned than 'before', cannot levitate or do miracles, cannot speak with the dead, - in fact only a close friend could see any difference at all.

"THERE IS A LIGHT IN MY EYE YOU MIGHT NOT LIKE"

I didn't notice it. But you can always retire in a cloud of recriminations & say "these ~~few~~ fakes don't get very far with me". I have known this done before & it gives satisfaction no doubt to the person who does it (at least for a time).

As for me: "the hood gives & the hood takes away", one comes, one goes.

Or else you could "search" for ever, for searching's sake with (paradoxically!) no thought of "finding". Some fear to find.

I shall give you no testimonials however (those are confidential); nor paint glowing pictures of attainment or threats if you don't, nor promise marvels & magic (the beautiful thing in the world is the "order", not the "leeway" - which does however exist.)

Nor can I "beg" too much as this thing may not be debauched or debased and it would be undignified & twist our relations round. Usually the student seeks the guru & then does as he is told. How else can we tame ego?

SUMMARY

There is a remarkable disproportion between the low tone of our correspondence (bathrooms & plumbing are our top levels) and the drastic & final change in a person which should be our real theme.

This "awakening" is for the childlike, the simple at heart, but not necessarily for those either lacking in keen discrimination or in natural culture. "Wise as serpents, innocent as doves."

Nor is this work usually undertaken in a trivial, calculating way. It is the most important thing that can happen to any human being and appears to be the specific reason for existence of the universe. Lincoln discovered this on April 13, 1865.

Friend,

al.

March 3, 1961

Friend Al,

(As regards my quibbling or evaluation) You have forgotten that all you ask for is conversational fodder. I have been trying these months to find out what you want or want done and it boils down to --"Keep on writing and do not try to ask intelligent questions." What can ensue but drivel, and when the drivel comes there is no point in criticizing.

I am trying to follow the instructions. You said write, even if I recite "Mary had a little lamb." Do not take anything too seriously that I say.....never I would feel more uninhibited if you would answer some of my questions.

Naturally you agree that words and language are of some importance else we would not be using this medium of communication. And with these words we are constantly evaluating. Until we get in some peculiar rapport where words are superfluous.

In my diggings I find some least common denominators in or among the same and religious theory and implementation.

I asked you a few you did not answer. Is the logos, or the word of God, an audible sound? I am not asking this out of levity.

From your notes under kya yega, I presume that you mean that man at death loses self-identity, or self-consciousness, or awareness. I still would like to know why you find it important to this knowledge of oblivion. Yes, I realize that there may be a subtle kind of consciousness that might possibly survive unconsciousness, but then it is immediately in the category of self-consciousness.

The "low tone" of our correspondence has been set by you. You have in fact attacked me for being polite. I have quotes from your letters I could refer to....but you are aware of them. I cannot deduce then that you are as "innocent as doves".

How do you know Lincoln discovered it?

If the student seeks the guru, how will he know him when he finds him?

Sincerely  
Rusha

March 6, 1961

Dear Dick,

"Conversational fodder" is apparently the best we can hope for yet. Actually a paucity of language such as yours does not reflect a difficulty of finding something to say, but rather shows a very high degree of selectivity among your no-doubt very numerous thoughts. You hand out to me the fewest possible scraps conveying the fewest possible indications as to you yourself. If I were a psychoanalyst (& I certainly am not) getting \$25 or \$30 per hour for your revelations I feel you might eventually feel that more cooperation would mean more money's worth. Yet no doubt many patients lie on the couch and keep mum for session after session, and to hell with economy!

If two people getting married asked "what shall we talk about?" I should notify my lawyer friend I had who handles divorce work to keep an eye on them!

Normally the procedure toward "awakening" goes something like this.

STAGE

1

Battered by the storms of life or driven by an interior compulsion or even some "experience" a person becomes dissatisfied with his or her current religion, (or the lack of it), and drifts and studies such things as Unity, Theosophy, Christian Science, maybe even Rosicrucianism, Zen, etc. Possibly they will read Huxley's ~~book~~ "Perennial Philosophy" & dip into Far Eastern texts now so easily available. They may get the idea that there is a thing called liberation or awakening or satori or realization, although it seems extremely vague and their passion for miracles & marvels gets mixed up with it.

2

Sooner or later the "master" or "guru" idea comes up since the student gets nowhere by himself or herself usually. To "pick" a master or guru, cold turkey, is not at all easy because there are not enough available for picking & choosing. However there are the correspondence courses, the Essene Society, the Brotherhood of the Light, etc etc (I make up names although I may have guessed

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an <sup>not actual</sup> name - it does not matter.)

I often wonder whether some of these are not genuine & could actually do the job! However, the attention one gets, needs to be far more individualized & personal because this is not "learning", it is partly a transmission through friendship or love. One does not usually sell these things. Then there are the Swamis of the Vedanta Society, very well educated & high-toned men indeed & they conduct yoga classes. There is a Zen Master in New York at the First Zen Institute. Here we touch more satisfactory gurus. The question of "how long" each of these takes is to be considered & of course these do NOT "work" by mail. Do there are genuine guru who does?

The student may meet by good luck (if that is the proper word) a master, such as a rare one in the Taoist succession or some other kind. [There are people in USA belonging to NO sect, cult or religion who "work" as I do, suiting my vocabulary to the student's habits. Again few work by mail if any.]

The student by now is getting a good idea (even though he is not "awakened") of what he wants & how to judge. Remember I am speaking of personal interviews. He may drift from guru to guru (all good) until he reaches one that really suits him.

Meanwhile it is assumed that the student has gradually become more & more familiar with the "Perennial Philosophy" or "Wisdom Religion" (or whatever term you use to describe what Honoré Moreau puts into the mouth & mind of her character Hincin.)

It becomes clear that "awakening" consists of realizing that we have come from & return to this One <sup>True</sup> (to speak crudely perhaps). At this stage the student is said to "dip one toe in the ocean" i.e. to accept the general theory or doctrine and be ready to accept "work".

STAGE  
3

I do not wish to go into the whole technique of work with a guru but one thing is clear.

The student realizes that "awakening" or "realization" will never come unless at least once the student has surrendered the "boss-concept" of ego or self, the idea that it is a Supreme Court in itself, self-sufficient, "Captain of My Soul" (as Henley boasts & poor Bertrand Russell squeaks after him) ---

Since the student is seeking to realize "that" to which he is subordinate, second-in-command, it is obvious he must lower his flag, admit his lower status, at some time.

It is extremely easy for one person even like you to hold the great "God" (so-called) of the Universe AWAY. One little finger suffices. Even a penny can hide the Sun. Thus without your active cooperation, & agreement to do as your guru says, there is not even a ghost of a chance of realization. If the student wishes to "win" he should not be a student because it is hard enough when both guru and student are eagerly cooperating! Such a "win" is a Pyrrhic victory - it is far too easy.

Thus in Japan the applicant must wait outside the gates of the monastery, a day or so. It is done rather symbolically now - once it was very real & the applicant was repulsed, treated roughly, told to go away & the gate slammed in his face.

But nowadays with Ipana toothpaste with Hexa-Hexa-Hexachlorophene & innumerable detergents competing over TV Little Richard wants to be wooed, gently persuaded, urged to enter - and the \$1,000,000 bill must be washed & ironed & handed on a silken cushion before he will accept it.



TECHNICAL  
SUMMARY

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However you are not in Stage 3 of course.

You are not even in Stage 1 since you have no active interest apparently in the subject under discussion & throw down a couple of languid lines (like a bone for the dog) to keep our dragging correspondence going for a few more staggering steps (like a drunk collapsing against a friendly lamp-post).

Fortunately some have said to me "hight a Fire under me". Some have said "my daughter says my face has changed". And so on & so on, but I will give you no testimonials or references & you will have to make your own decision (and pretty soon, because this letter is completely explanatory of the whole position)

A man once asked "How much is this yacht?" The salesman said "If you ask that you should not have one!" So "how will you know your gun?" If you ask that, you will never know --- in fact the whole subject is not very pressing to you now. (If he levitates, however, sell him to a side-show.)

ANSWERS

Is the "word" of God an audible sound?

Some people have strong visualizing abilities, some can "imagine" sounds very well. Some go further & have hallucinations or delusions. These are interesting faculties & can even be annoying if excessive. They are dealt with in numerous books & articles everywhere, as in "Search" up to "To Morrow". "Search" dealt with such "sounds" recently. If you are not telling me that you have such "voices" why not tell me straightforwardly?

However "awakening" or satori or realization of God is like seeing a joke, or jumping to an explanation, and nothing involving the senses occurs at that time. — at least not in the way you mean!

Since realization is among other things increased sanity (health of body & mind) colors may get sharper, appreciation of beauty in nature & art more intense, health may improve --- One may even "see" (BUT NOT WITH THE EYES REALLY) how the One shines through the Many, but this I will not discuss as it will confuse the issue.

Thus nobody "sees" God or "talks" with God in the normal ~~sense~~ sense of those words, unless it is something that has not come to my attention (& ANYTHING can happen it seems --). Open up & be franker please.

### ANSWERS (cont.)

Why is it "important to spread the knowledge of oblivion"? It may not be oblivion as you say, but those who surrender the base-concept of ego ~~to~~ may have experiences in which ego desires nothing so much as to EXIT.

The average person who happens to get a horror of revolving his few memories for 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 years (& then realizes that he hasn't made a dent in revolving time!) & seeks an EXIT may be frustrated, since to kill the body, or commit suicide, according to current beliefs only starts him off on the wrong foot in the next world. Thus the 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 years might as well start as happily as possible!

The Theosophists hold out "rebirth" in other lives as a prize, the Orientals regard it as a curse, as being "bound to the wheel". Those who "know God" are eager to find the way back, to find the way home. This particular personality compared to that "open", lovely Thing is seen as dreadful indeed.

But to "wake up" to God is NOT oblivion. When your dream-self "wakes up" in the morning, you have not

(6)  
ever spared one thought for your poor dream self !!  
It reached "oblivion" when you wake up.

So what do you do?

You break your breakfast egg, toast your bread  
& laugh at your dream adventures.

Quite heartless, you see!

Do you think you could be a little more  
human & a trifle less verbally constipated?

Letters such as you have so far favored me  
with are not promising. I have explained why.

It is not for me to "play God" but if you  
can get anywhere by such tactics then

I am a monkey's uncle !!

Friend,

Al

Penwood, Va.  
Mar 10, 1961

Friend Willy,

Concerning the volume of conversation.... I do not know what  
it is this thing is about and you do. Consequently you are  
the one with the foot on brake or accelerator. You have  
convinced me that my own knowledge is insufficient (you and  
many years of experience.) and if I have no intellectual tri-  
bits to offer, what is the use of verbiage? But you need it  
you tell me to implement something that you cannot explain to  
me.

I am not fascinated with the need to say 25 or 30 anything  
to a psychiatrist. My studies along those lines indicate that  
they are laboring under and belaboring the public with some  
very erroneous ideas. By organization they have managed to  
cement themselves into a sinecure, and like most professional  
men they cow the layman with a solemn look of authoritative  
which is their chief stock in trade. Percentage-wise among  
my contacts the head-shrinkers have the greatest representation  
among nuttys. Poetic justice perhaps for the  
cause. The only reason I mention this is because of your fra-  
quent reference to your vices as a psychiatrist. A psychiatrist  
used as a yardstick for sanity, that is, is done by the most  
people, and calls it "the Normal". Using this yardstick he  
is instrumental in sending men to the gallows, because the  
solemn hypocrisy of the lawyer-racket recognizes another good  
con man. In my opinion (be it humble or asinine) the average  
uses word-symbols as any physician used latin in his prescrip-  
tion....to conceal his own ignorance and confuse the victim.

I would like to comment on the three stages toward a yak. I  
I have become dissatisfied and sensed that someone must have  
more direct knowledge. Hurley does not inspire me. He seems  
afraid to say something that might interfere with the  
sale of his back.

sure the idea of a teacher comes up. I have eagerly sought  
people out who were only considered to be intellectuals, to  
share ideas or to lever out new coordinations with the spark  
of their conversation. And they are teachers to a certain  
extent. But I do not run madly from one cult to another.  
I have looked into them, but when they want me to pledge  
ten or twenty years of my time to buying their mumbo-jumbo,  
I become interested in another direction.

When we use the word guru there is a slightly different  
implication....either more dangerous and portentous since  
the word is exotic, or more full of meaning since the Hindu

putting more meaning into theology enables us to get more meaning into the word guru. And to expect more meaningfulness from the guru.

I can tell from your writings, that the lover or the one thinks he is a guru. And he may well be. But how am I to know? Since I am denied my own methods of convincing myself, you will have to convince me.

You tell me that I must dip on toes in, and accept the theory or doctrine. What theory? What doctrine?

To summarize our difficulty to date.... I have a vague idea of a system which is not a system that will however work if I do what you tell me. So I search the realm of possibility and (almost like Alice in Wonderland trying to REALize the make-believe) concede that there might be wisdom behind such a suggestion.

So, will a man know a teacher... perhaps when he is one. But there is a system practiced by nearly everyone seeking information. There is little that is factual, most knowledge is ~~simply~~ conceptual. A new concept must either offer considerable data to indicate other concepts insufficient, or explain a vaster amount of previously unexplained (phenomena or other).

In my search for knowledge and a wiser associate or contact, I have used or found myself using a sieve of sorts. I looked for certain least common denominators, and then for the reasons for these calls. To shorten this harangue for an instance, I have been attracted to several that do not promise conscious exit from this life... mainly because I have twice become unconscious and close to the exit and came back with no memories of bugles or angels (or any).

One Hindu group (who have a Master ((whatever that might be)) admit that our senses lessen with the lessening of the body, but that we are able to attack ourselves to a "Sound Current" by certain practices, which we may follow at death thru several celestial regions (from which come reincarnation only) to still higher contact with God and union with God. Have my questions about the sound current. Nothing to do with the Shaver mystery. Blavatsky has a little book "The Voice of the Silence." Supposed to be the same as the Logos. Music of the spheres, etc.

Of course I am interested to what my destiny is. And you are loath to delineate that which you claim to know.

If yours is a strong desire to exit, what prevents you from suicide? Are these other little egos so valuable?

Yes I have changed....but I do not know if your ink was the catalyst. Unless you could have managed to kill a couple people very close to me.... by mail. The real "I" never changes I have heard.... so I have no testimonials to offer.

*Appreciate your kind letter very much  
P.L.R.*

March 13, 1961.

Dear Dick,

LONG DISCOURSE  
ON "ANALYSIS"

Yes, I suppose I must be careful in any reference to "psychotherapy". There is a book recently published called the "Frog Pond", I believe, that gives a lady's experiences with 6 psychoanalysts. One she calls "Silent Simon" & he used to listen & say nothing at all, but take notes. On Thursday he saw a friend who told him what to say on Friday!

I think your observations are very sound & as you say, the "normal" doesn't mean much. You never remove your "aberrations" but you do learn to live with them or to supersede them, "go above them." After three years and \$5,000 there ought to be some results! But after it goes on indefinitely.

Further the analyst may be pretty aberrated & bad-tempered himself and a very confused man. They vary of course & there might be a rare one or two (as in the "Frog Pond", the last two analysts) who has a gift for the job & who makes an art of it. However there are few of them & millions of people in mental trouble.

One thing everybody needs is "love" (in the correct sense - outgoing friendship, asking nothing except to help) & doctors call it TLC (tender, loving care). Many women would therefore be far more capable of helping the mentally troubled but in our society men predominate in most professions.

I regard the method of digging up items by item from the unconscious or subconscious as remunerative (\$\$\$) for the analyst but a long, long way round - the "analytical" instead of the "synthetical". Let me explain

over  
please

I had a friend who was forced to study singing by his mother and he did not like it as a child. In retrospect my friend could always 'bring up' from the past a flood of tears & no doubt could do this for ever. This was not the way to help him. However merely by speaking very frankly & naturally to him as a friend he snapped right out of it & today is a highly successful man.

The Freudian analysts have just a few standard "complexes" (incestual love for mother, hatred of father, fear of castration etc) which everybody is supposed to be deeply affected by. The patient always "brings up" this material (not without help & direction I am sure !!!)

Because the Jungians have their own standard set of "archetypes" - and these too the student or patient faithfully "brings up" (with a little help I think !!!)

I have seen the same person do this with a Freudian & Jungian analyst respectively. It is a joke.

No doubt the Adlerians would find the "inferiority complex" as the real source of trouble.

If then I advise the "synthetical" what do I mean? Well, the truth is I only chose that word as a contrast to "analytical", but what I do mean is some overall method that does not need this searching for infinite detail.

Actually it is found in the course of "work" for awakening that the student becomes what is called "normal" (socially acceptable?) in a very short time. It is even true that it is easier for a very aberrated (or slightly psychotic) person to jump to "awakening" (which is severe sanity) much faster than a so-called "normal" person who is full of "controls". Why is this?

It is because awakening - therapy is directed CONTRA EGO.  
 That it is not to remove ego, which is absurd poppycock  
 since consciousness includes self-consciousness & unless  
 you kill someone or make them unconscious "ego" or  
 "self" is still there. It is "us" while we live of course.

Nevertheless there is a disease of ego and it is  
 the idea that we are the final authority! It is a surprising  
 thing. We are born into a wonderful but puzzling world.  
 We never solve the problems of what we are & where we  
 are nor why we are, but we keep going from one "solution"  
 to another (hopefully!) & always with the idea that we are  
 the judge, the decider, the Supreme Court, the Court of last  
 Resort. It takes smashing blows of adversity, death,  
 illness, unhappiness to undermine our cockiness  
 & even from the fire there is a last feeble cry of  
 proud self-assertion. Odd.

It is not so for everybody. Some are born with a  
 touch of aspiration for a deep beauty & understanding  
 as shown in music, nature, the Arts, Love, etc --  
 which involves surrender of the smart-aleck self,  
 throwing oneself into EXPERIENCE rather than  
 reaching it by any logical or reasoning process.

These people are smart because they realize naturally  
 that anything that can be thought & then said  
 (or written or printed) can be controverted by  
 other thoughts & words. There is NO finality in words.  
 "Science" is a way of winning difficult knowledge  
 of how Nature works but of course cannot answer  
 questions like "what" is so & so. Each discovery  
 needs one more & so on for ever.

not  
 least



I wonder if there is one scientist anywhere who is so foolish as to imagine that the ultimate nature of things & ourselves will ever be reached by physics & psychology respectively?

As a matter of fact "psychology" deals with everything BUT the nature of mind itself.

Facing this dilemma it is welcome news that there is a way to break through. The experience so obtained is personal & can be passed only to a few.

Yet "millions" of people follow the Buddha's remarks & call it a "religion". In the case of Christianity we call it "God". Then people say to me — oh, your "work" is "religious", it is to find "God".

I agree with them, to avoid semantics, but isn't it obvious that THIS PUTS THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE!!

The "experience" is primary & at this stage there are NO NAMES, NO DESCRIPTIONS.

If some idiots want to make something (a new religion!!) out of my remarks they can, but it will not mean a thing.

But I have drifted from psychotherapy to the question of awakening "work". So to another point.

GURU You are not "denied" any method of convincing yourself. But what "methods" are there? I never had any trouble recognizing the genuine — especially since you do not find it in a blue moon.

CONCEPTS "A new concept must either offer considerable data to indicate other concepts insufficient —"

What is this vague sort of talk? Poppycock?

All "concepts" are useless for our purpose.

Talk English & give examples!

LOATH TO DELINEATE THAT WHICH YOU CLAIM TO KNOW.

You shall cling to the idea that there is something that can be explained - verbally of course.

The general idea as far as words go has often been "explained", in the Oriental systems (avoiding "fancy" ideas such as those you mention), in Aldous Huxley's "Perennial Philosophy", in Brunton's "Wisdom of the Ego-self" - & in fact in all books which emphasize the one fact that we arise from (& return to) the one basis of the Universe.

WHAT PREVENTS SUICIDE?

The claims of life, friends etc. "Survive" is our motto while we can. Of course we "value" self, ego. We do not know what happens "after death".

"Awakening" would give you a happier way of regarding this problem.

Friend,

Ad.

P.S.

Scepticism you may say is helpful & unavoidable.

Yes! But how many opportunities are lost that way for fear of a minor disappointment.

And suppose you "scepticize" yourself right out of "awakening" work. I know that is very unfortunate - but I suppose you could go along without an occasional twinge. I wish you could believe a friend & am sorry you can't. Oh well.