Oct 26, 1974

Dear Dr and Mrs Wolff:

My visit to your house was such a pleasure to me! I learned much and was happy in your presence. But the best of our time was the trip to Phoenix.

I am reminded of an old Jewish saying: "I came not to hear my Zaddik expound on the Torah but to watch him tie his shoe laces." This is to mean that it is a greater pleasure to see a truly enlightened man do the ordinary things of life than to hear him discourse on his thoughts. The happiest compliment I can pay to you is that you tie your shoelaces well.

I hope we may meet again and explore both philosophy and shoelaces.

My greatest appreciation,

[Signature]

Robert Johnson
Dear Mr. Johnson:

We were delighted with your letter and hope for continued contact with you. We think of you often, wondering if your trip back was satisfactory, if you have seen the Theobalds, if James is still with you, or have you left for India. We have friends at Auroville in case you bump into them - a young couple, Roger and Pat Toll, who used to come to our meetings, before they set out on a world tour and found their home at Auroville.

Dr. Wolff's son died about a week after we arrived. He was ready to go and it was described as a most beautiful, peaceful passing, and nobody tried holding him back. It was systemic lupus eri-something, vascular, says one doctor. And while there, I had my gall bladder out, so altogether we were in Phoenix for six weeks. We had a chance to attend a ceremony given by the Tibetan Lama Karmopa and each received a blessing from him. He is presumed to be the sixth incarnation of Milarepa. We felt it to be quite a privilege.

Do have a blessed Christmas season and we hope to hear from you - or even see you if you have not gone to India.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Dear Robert:

We have thought fondly of you so often, and I have been trying to get a letter to you for months. We did enjoy your note during the Holidays. Franklin was delighted with the "shoelaces", and we were glad of news of "Sir" John. I was rather glad you did not get to India because we hoped to see a good bit of you. However, I never got around to writing. It is the same with Dr. Theobald. I intended writing him also, but the I am always frightfully busy, these past two years I have been buried under mundane chores.

We just returned from a short trip to the Coast and to the Redwood Country, and I hauled along typewriter and recorder to do transcribing, my sewing, letters to answer, reading material, but did pitifully little of any. And now that I'm back my time is spent with cat problems and cleaning. Ultimately I shall be able to iron out all these little things and get on with the more permanent.

Dr. Wolff is quite well for his age and is at the moment taping a new lecture for next Sunday. We still have our Sunday morning meetings and have had quite a few out-of-town visitors. They come especially on holiday weekends, and since coming so far, I like to invite them all to lunch, but it was growing into quite a problem. However, when I now expect a crowd, I just say, smorgasbord, or bring something for the table, and it has been quite successful. We have some wonderful dishes and new ideas, we use picnic plates so I don't have to do much work, and it cuts overhead.

We have just heard from John Faig. He has recently left Jones' Ashram "to burn up some impurities", then intends to return. Seems this person is still HIS Ultimate, and from all that we have seen of his writings and teachings, we think you have put it aptly. John just sent us one of the publications, and I have not read much, but enough to get a general idea. It was a nice letter, apologetic for never writing, laudatory of Franklin's works. He is now living and working in San Francisco and is working for permanent residency.

I am hoping before too long to mimeograph some of Franklin's works, including the unpublished portion of his "Philosophy", and have a good start on stencils. Once I have a stack, the mimeograph will go fast.

Any time you might like to come up, please do. We plan to be home until September, and besides a guest room here, we
now have a guest house, vacated when our Lillian Reid wed our Gene Sedwick this spring. Or if these places are already occupied and we don't expect a lot of company all at once except at Convention in August, Peggy De Cono has a room to rent, or Elmer Roeder would be willing to take a guest—no charge, I'm sure, unless for an extended stay. We hope you can be our guest. We hope, when you come, we will have warmer weather. It was 27 this morning, and I just set out tomatoes which I dragged all over California from Santa Barbara.

Looks like another trip back to Phoenix in September, this time for Franklin's cataracts. He will have the new type operation with ultrasonic needle.

We hope you are well and that things are going good for you. We hope for a good visit with you before too long. If you see the Theobalds, tell them I promise a letter very soon, and hope they too can come visit.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
June 1, 1975

Dear Dr and Mrs Wolff:

Thank you for so warm and generous a letter! It makes me wish for a visit with you soon, and though I have no dates in mind, I hope to come to see you this summer. My fantasy is that it would be a great pleasure to drive you to Phoenix in September as I did before but I don't know how to manage the mechanics of such a plan. But I will come sometime for a good visit with you. I feel a root in your household and a gentle kind of belonging.

I am glad to hear of James Haig though I had hoped he would be out of the Jones Ashram orbit by now. I heard recently that the Ashram had been disbanded but this is only hearsay.

I often see the Theobalds and have a happy Sunday evening with them. I take the liberty of passing your letter on to them which they will appreciate.

Plans are for me to go to India for four months late this year. I have much to learn from that wise land. This time I will have a job as psychotherapist in the Ashram Clinic. I know what to do with Westerners in psychic difficulty but I will have much to learn about Easterners. I look foreward very much to being in India again. My last visit there was certainly one of the very important events of my life.

Please don't let your generosity overwhelm your vitality! I shudder at the thought of all your guests and just the mechanics of your deep courtesy.

I am hard at work on some lectures on Alchemy for next Fall. Alchemy is a most important though forgotten subject and deserves more study than our age gives it. There were two parallel elements in Medieval Alchemy; one was the transmutation of lead into physical gold (aurum vulg) and the other was the creation of the non-vulgar gold or the philosophers stone. The later was the predecessor or psychology and the former the beginnings of chemistry. It is the later which is intensely interesting to me and which is occupying me at present. It is nothing less than a system of mysticism and a religious quest of the finest quality. I am unable to return to that mentality which did not split spirit and matter but I have to make do with my discriminating mind which has suffered the split since the high days of Alchemy. I propose to do some simple alchemical experiment at the end of the lectures which of course will produce gold in the hearts of the beholders, not in the retort. We could do with some gold of the heart these days.

I am happy with your letter.

Blessings on your house,

[Signature]

Eric Curtz came to see me after getting my address from your register.

Your community grows!
Dear Robert:

Just time for a short note and to thank you for your delightful letter, and to invite you up - the you and the Theobalds have a standing invitation. The enclosed handbook may fill you in on some things up here although we regard you as special friend rather than student. Also, even with the hours I've spent trying to compose the thing and reproduce it, I think it will save me much repetition and lots of time.

We are glad Eric looked you up. We think a lot of him and Nancy too. Yes, the community grows, and we have made some excellent contacts. I want to help these people make the contacts with Dr. Wolff, and visa versa, and the only real problem is the kitchen work. Lately we have been having "pot lucks", if a crowd wants to come, and it works out very well, with everybody bringing something for the table. The problem there is getting the word around in time, unless we plan weeks ahead almost.

I just finished a letter to the Theobalds and then remembered about James Haig. Did we tell you we heard from him? He had left the ashram of Jones about February for some further "purification", with intent to return, and is currently working in San Francisco and planning to stay on in America. He sent us Jones' magazine wherein the guru says he has withdrawn from the ashram until students learn how to treat each other and learn fiscal responsibility. Nobody we have talked to has a good word for Jones. Thought you might like to share the news with the Theobalds.

Wish I had time to study Alchemy too, but there are so many things I would study and doesn't look as if I shall ever find time in this lifetime. I am glad you will be able to go to India, and am selfishly glad it is only for four months, because we hope to see quite a bit of you. Dr. Wolff has an appointment for the 9th of October for cataract removal in Phoenix, and we will probably leave a few days before. We would be most happy for your company if you are available, tho there is a condition: I will insist on Dr. Wolff riding in front when that hot sun comes in the back window. He is too much a gentleman to change places with me but I will insist. He really took a beating last time. Then too, it should be cooler.

Now back to the salt mines. We cannot say when is the best time to come because people are in and out, but chances are we will have room for you somewhere on the premises.

Affectionately,

[Signature]

P.O. Drawer F
Lone Pine, Ca. 93545
July 12, 1975
Dec. 24, 1975

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Wolff:

Greetings from this great land of warm gentle loving people. I am much at home in this society where the chief differentiated function is introverted feeling.

I had two weeks in a tiny village in Central India with a Hindu friend where little has changed in 5000 years, certainly one of the profound experiences of my life!

I am working in the Ashram clinic now, learning a great deal of useful information.

How much I look forward to a visit with you again! I return April 1. Your wisdom and community has captured a large part of my heart.

Would you tell Nancy her card came today, the perfect time!

Please be well,

Robert
Dr. + Mrs. Wolff
Box F
Lone Pine, Calif. 93545
U.S.A.

Robert Johnson
Aurobindo Ashram
Pondicherry

PIN 20000
Bharat India
Dear Robert:

Thank you for your good letter. The village you spoke of, is that the one which you visited before and told us about? That would be an experience. And around here, "extrovert" is almost a dirty word, so you fit in here too. Our Bob Briggs, who is studying astrology, discovered Dr. Wolff's chart makes him an extrovert, and some felt that either he certainly was or maybe we should denounce astrology. I wonder if you aren't introverted intuitive? And I'm sure you are enjoying the clinic.

We do want to thank you for helping Dr. Wolff. He was much better after you left but still had a residue of trouble which as you say was good for him to overcome. He soon was normal again, but we still burn a night candle, though the real need for it has disappeared. We are just spoiled. He just last week received his new glasses which are most disappointing, but we go back to Bishop next week for the contact lens and hopefully all can be straightened out. Then we go back to Phoenix for a check-up.

Our Nancy had intended to spend a couple of months in the old ranch house but has been having serious trouble with her back, and is home.

I don't know the extent of your healing capacities or what you are willing to undertake, but I'm looking for help for a friend, and here is the story: he is Bernardo Romero, 1545 E. 60th St., Chicago, 60637. He is brother to actor Riccardo Montalban and cousin to Caesar Romero. He was, when I first met him in 1959, a ballet dancer, had or was on a TV program, and taught anthropology at the U. of Chicago, later becoming a professor of geology there. He is quite the aristocrat and had a lot going for him, and was a chela of an astrologer-philosopher friend of mine. Last year I heard from him after many years. In 1971, as he was entering his classroom, he was stabbed, lost much blood and had to fight for his life. It seems he recovered, then some time later he began stumbling, then falling, and when he visited last summer was practically in a wheelchair, and I understand he is getting progressively worse. He visited the Edgar-Cayce clinic in Phoenix looking for a miracle but guess he didn't get it. Somebody said it was not multiple sclerosis but I don't know.

I have a feeling about something that may bring to bear on his case, but I don't know enough about these things: I introduced him to some wrong company, one I did not know too well, who introduced him to a "healer" whom we
both took an intense dislike to, who claimed to be Jesus and in my eyes was about the opposite extreme. It turned out he was a homosexual and conducted voodoo meetings. He invited B. to attend, and he did, out of curiosity. He also fell in love with B and B finally had to take drastic measures to get him off his back. I never heard any more. There was another girl in the party who is an artist, a rather sweet person, who, it turns out, is a medium, or psychic or something. I think she is well-meaning but I suspect she doesn't know what it is all about, or the dangers that lurk in these practices, but B has been going to her seances. I can't help but wonder if somewhere here might be the cause of his trouble, something that has possibly attached itself to him. If so, what would be the possibility of reversing his ailment?

Bernardo has an Austrian friend, an architect, who is acting as nurse to him, staying with him four nights a week, and B. is very demanding, but this friend is dedicated and compassionate and self-giving, and says he would give about all he has to get Bernardo well. He is Erik Wurding-Stifter, 930 Michigan Ave., Evanston, Ill., 60202.

I am wondering, naturally, if there is anything you can do in this case? I don't know if you would care to write them directly, if you cared to try, or to me, or just forget about it.

It appears that Dr. Fred Bounds is recovering, which is a great relief. We count him among the most important and the most needed. Erma promised us that volumes III and IV of the Secret Doctrine would be out at the beginning of this year. And speaking of books, we received one yesterday from the authors, a Dr. Ballentine and Swami Rama and Swami Ajaya - Yoga and Psychotherapy, Himalayan Institute, 1505 Greenwood Rd., Glenview, Ill. 60025. It looks like a solid work, is impressive as far as we have read, and we discovered they quote Franklin in a number of places, along with Jung, Bucke, Aurobindo, W. James, etc.

We hope to see you this Spring. We wish you the very best.

Our love,

[Signature]

[Another signature]
Dear Dr and Mrs Wolff:

How much I wish I could spend this evening with you and tell you stories of India and the good things which have happened to me since we last met. Next best is to visit by way of a letter and make some tentative plans to come for a proper visit with you. I am not sure when I can come, but it is high on my priorities when I can find a few free days. I will write far in advance to see if the time would be suitable for you. I am warmed by your welcome and the affection you give me.

My second journey to India was an excellent experience, certainly the most important outer experience of my life. I put it second only to some deep inner times which geography can never equal.

For me I think the most important experience was that of living in a culture where Introverted Feeling was the differentiated function. This is my own type and it was India's great gift to me to make me feel at home and in place for the first time in my life. I suffer that burden of living a type in a country where the exact opposite is in fashion. The effect on me has been somewhat like living in a minority status similar to a dark skinned person in this country. India lifted that weight from me, and though it has returned to some degree since returning to the U. S., not to the same degree. I am aware of typology as never before.

I have been well after the first few days of returning; it is ironic that I made my way through India which is such a dangerous land of disease without any illness only to take to my bed two days after returning here. A perceptive doctor has found some endocrine imbalance in me which he has been able to correct and I feel better now than ever I remember. That is a joy!

I hope Dr. Wolff is well; I send my warmest wishes and all the goodness of hands and heart. He needs no addition of mind since he has such blessings in that sphere.

My appreciation to Mrs. Wolff for her gentle feminine ways. I often thought of you both as I learned so much beauty and dignity of character in India.

It will be a happy time to visit with you when I can find some free days.

My appreciation,

[Signature]

Robert Johnson
Dear Robert:

How good to hear from you, and I beg forgiveness for this long delay in answering. There is now always a little mountain of correspondance, and guests are in and out constantly. But know that you are one of our special people and we look forward to your coming.

Eric and Nancy came yesterday and are leaving this morning, as are a chap from Hawaii who has been here several days, and Gene and Lillian Sedwick, who are headed for a couple of months in Chicago. Franklin's step-grandson and wife are due in today for a few days.

We are well here now. Dr. Wolff had a heart condition for the last year until July, when a Dr.-healer friend gave him a treatment, working especially with the chakras, and now he is all right. This man is a clairvoyant with a fine intuition, I'd say, besides being a doctor, and is worth knowing. He also has been to India recently, and Findhorn. We'll give you his name and address, should you ever care to look him up: Dr. Brugh Joy, Sky-Hi Ranch, Lucerne Valley. He has classes now in healing. There seem to be many new break-throughs in healing now.

Do you ever see the Theobalds? We would enjoy having them too. We want especially to hear about India. We plan to be home until about mid-October, when we leave for Phoenix and perhaps a little trip, so any time before that is fine. You are welcome to stay in our guest room, which we reserve for family and special friends, or the guest house, that has gas lights, no electricity, or you may prefer the privacy and comforts of a motel. Just let us know. I will save the chatter for when you arrive.

Shanti, our love,

Gertrude Wolff
Sept 25, 1976

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Wolff:

I am enjoying myself thinking about a visit with you. May a friend and I come one long weekend after you return from your October journey? If you could tell me when you would be home again I would like to come on a Friday evening late, and return home on Tuesday. My friend is sympathetic to inner things but would come chiefly to hike in the mountains. If we could stay in the guest cottage where I was before, prepare our own meals and be no burden on you. Though of course I would like to visit with you and spend time as your strength and inclination allows. And we wish to contribute to the upkeep of the cottage since we enjoy its use.

There are many pictures and stories and tales to tell of India which has affected me so deeply. I think my India journey has culminated in the greatest dream I have ever had. The magnitude of the dream awes me but is also a heavy weight.

The Theobald family is well and surely would send their love if they knew I was writing.

I will look forward to a date when we may come and I beg a map to get from Lone Pine to your house.

It will be a happy time to pay a visit and pilgrimage to your house,

Harper and Row have just bought my two books and will do them in great quantities in paperback. How strange!
Dear Robert:

In mapping our itinerary we slipped up on a date - election day. We don’t want to be hurried to make it home, so we have decided to wait until Nov. 2, go down and vote, and then take off. It may be a good two weeks or more.

So perhaps you would like to come in October? Otherwise, it may be nearly December. Whatever you decide, we will be most happy to have you and your friend, and I shall try to make you comfortable in the guest house. I am enclosing a visitor’s handbook but ignore the price schedule. That is for students and new people, and we regard you as a very special friend. We are used to company in the evenings, and most especially on Saturday and Sunday evenings, and we want to hear about your "dream", and other things.

I didn't remember your saying anything about books you had. Harper & Row are right up there and I'm not surprised. I wish you much success with them and we hope to purchase them.

You have a good choice of long weekends in October to choose from, tho if you can make it earlier than the last one, we'd like it better. In fact, the earlier the better. We'll save the conversation for then, and look forward to a happy visit.

Shanti,
Dear Dr and Mrs Wolff:

It is my plan to arrive at your house about 9 P.M. on Friday Oct 15. I will be alone since my friend can not find the time just now for a trip. I hope to stay until Tuesday morning.

If you can leave the little guest house open I will come quietly and not disturb you on Friday evening. We can visit on Saturday and according to your schedule and custom. It means a great deal to me to be able to come and I value your warm welcome!

I will bring a sleeping bag, food, etc. so the guest house needs nothing in preparation for me.

My appreciation,

Robert Johnson
Dear Dr. and Mrs. Wolff:

I am not certain that John Theobald has written to you, but we would like to visit with you Nov 1 and 2 if that is possible. We, Dr. Theobald, Mrs. Theobald, possibly Eric and myself would arrive late Friday evening, stay in a Hotel and come to your house on Saturday if this is convenient with you. We would leave either on Sunday or Monday.

I hope you would be free on these dates as it would be a very great pleasure to visit with you. If you could write to either Dr. Theobald or me we would appreciate it deeply.

My appreciation,

Yes, we will come with pleasure!

Robert Johnson

or call collect if time is short
714-436-0717
Season's Greetings

Best wishes,

Robert Johnson
Dove, Noah’s Ark
Painting on Wooden Panel - 13th Century
Museo de Bellas Artes - Bilbao
Dear Dr and Mrs Wolff:

I send best greetings to you for your August Festival and Ceremony. I wish I could join you but I fear the August heat would make a difficult trip. But I hope to visit with you sometime a bit later. I have no dates in mind but I will write far in advance to see if the time is suitable.

Please have my warmest wishes,

Robert

Dr. and Mrs Wolff
Lone Pine, Calif. 93545
Jan 11, 1978
Pondicherry

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Wolff:

Greetings from my beloved India! I explore the Indian contemplative life as possible for a Westerner and learn rich and warm things. What an incredible land this introverted feeling country is! It accords so well with my own temperament.

I leave Pondicherry soon for a little village in Central India where I seem to find the richest gifts of all.

It will be a joy to visit with you again when I return. I am sorry to be absent from you for so long.

I send my love and appreciation,

Robert Johnson
Dr. + Mrs. Wolff
Box F
Lone Pine California 93545
U.S.A.

Robert Johnson
Sri Aurobindo Ashram
Pondicherry 605002

No Enclosures Allowed
April 4, 1978

Dear Dr and Mrs Wolff:

Jim and Richard have just left my house and I thank you for sending such excellent people. They have been a joy and a delight.

I am safely home from India which was a profound experience this time but very difficult. I was touched at one moment by a powerful inner experience infinitely valuable but which was so hard on my physical structure that I was seriously ill and nearly lost my life. I have recovered now physically though I am 25 pounds lighter than when you last saw me. I think it is possible that I’ll remain at that weight. The literature on the subject warns one of the physical repercussions of a deep inner experience so I had warning and instruction. Of course it was worth many times what it cost.

I would love to come for a visit with you and will plan it when I can. I have much freedom and leisure now so it will be possible to come to Lone Pine. I will write well in advance to see if I might have the little guest house for a few days. That would please me so much!

My best wishes and appreciation to you both,

[Signature]

Robert Johnson
P.O. Drawer F
Lone Pine, Calif. 93545
April 13, 1973

Dear Robert:

How good to hear you are back safely. We are concerned that you had this crisis, thankful you have been spared, and that India didn't claim you permanently.

I hope the boys were not a nuisance. Jim has heard much about you. Richard is new, but seems promising, and we like him. Jim has been with us for well over a year and has been a wonderful help, being able to do well so many things. We saw them briefly after seeing you, then they took off for Esalen and we have not heard from them since, tho we look for Jim daily.

Franklin has nine or ten hours of tape inspired by your books, but he warns they are controversial. It is not that he is disagreeing with you. The books were rather a springboard for related topics.

We would be thrilled to have you visit, and I will certainly try to make the guest house available. We plan a trip to the Coast for ten days or two weeks starting about May 13th, so any other time you can plan will be fine, as far as I can see. Dorothy Young wants the house for maybe a week either starting June 24th or the next.

I'll hold the chatter for when we see you, and we look forward eagerly to that date.

Our love,

[Signature]
April 19, 1978

Dear Dr and Mrs Wolff:

Thank you for your letter today. I am happy with the fantasy of visiting you soon. Would it be possible for us to arrive June 15 early afternoon, leave early morning June 20? We would love to stay in your little guest cabin if it is free. We will manage food, bedding, etc. so as to be minimum bother to you. "We" would be Victor Shupp and myself. Victor is an attorney, age 35, a highly evolved, shy, quiet man. He probably would spend much of his time hiking in the mountains or in solitude. You will enjoy him as one of the very perceptive people in the world.

I am rapidly recovering my energy and these are happy days. Much of India now needs assimilating and many aspects of my life are up for reconsideration. Professional work, money earning, busy schedule seem less and less suitable to me. I have had much leisure these last weeks and enjoyed it to the depth.

I hope Jim can be at your house the dates I will be there. It will be a joy to talk at leisure with him.

I send my love and great appreciation for you both,

Robert Johnson

I will be happy with Franklin's commentary on my books. Myths are broad enough so there can be many approaches to them.
Dear Robert:

We are delighted that you and your friend can come. In the same mail with your letter was one from Doroethy Young, who wants to come June 17th or July 1st. But her brother wants to come July 1st; in fact, he can't come any other time. There are two of them and baby, and Doroethy would bring most of the children, her mother and maybe some friends. I have written her, suggesting you and she get together on a date for coming. About any other time is still open, with threats of people coming but no specific dates. Whichever is most flexible, I'd say, might move the date.

The only other time not to come is from May 12 for about 10 days or two weeks, when we go on a trip to the Coast. We shall have convention as usual this year, Aug. 12 and 13, and I am working on a form letter to send out. But if you want to escape crowds, that is not the time. Jim said something about visiting Richard Smith in New Mexico about June 1st, and I have not had a chance to sound him out further. Bill Stowe from Salem hopes you will be here when he comes which may be for about five weeks, but he will be self-contained - camper or something. It may be after our return - we are awaiting a date from him. I hope the boys were not a nuisance to you.

We are thankful you are getting your strength back and hope you are back to normal. All is about as usual here. We look forward to a good visit with you. Doroethy's address, if you care to write, is 1134 W. Culver St., Phoenix 85007.

Our love,

Sincerely,

[Signature]
A new phone number: 714 232 7003. Mailing address remains the same. I will be content here until I leave for India in October.

I send my warmest wishes,

[Signature]

Robert Johnson
Dr Wolff, Jim Bowie
Box F
Lone Pine, Calif. 93545

1979