

March 15

Dear Mrs. Wolff,

I'm not sure to whom I should be addressing this, since you were the one who answered my last letter (I hope you remember who I am). You can consider, if you like, that this is to whomever it may concern.

I can't tell you how gratified I was to get your letter; frankly, I hadn't really expected to get an answer, because you all seemed so remote somehow, and hard to contact. Also, I had written a letter, similar to the one I sent you, to John Lilly, care of Bantam Books, but it was returned to me unopened and with no explanation. Do you think you could give me an address to write to him?

There's nothing I'd like better than to be able to visit you, but it's not likely my parents would allow me to go to California, especially for reasons which to them would seem nonsensical and unhealthy. However, I would still appreciate having the address of the lawyer in Washington; you never know.

You said that you felt that illumination or enlightenment is not attainable through drugs; why is that? From reading Timothy Leary or Allan Watts or Aldous Huxley or Dr. Lilly or Carlos Castaneda, it seemed to me they were saying that drugs are one way to reach that state. Am I misinterpreting them, or do I have the idea of what enlightenment is all mixed up?

Dr. Leary even wrote a book incorporating "the psychedelic experience" with the philosophy of the Tibetan Book of the Dead, and what was said there seemed valid. I was going to try a trip tonight, in fact, using that manual, but now I'm very puzzled. How can drugs be "a permanent deterrent to the genuine experience"? Believe me, there's really nothing I want more than to get in touch with that reality or illumination, and it gets very depressing when one way after another leads to a dead-end. I have also been told that to use any "method" at all necessitates an employment of that method, and so leads to a rooting in the ego or subject-object fission. What should I do, do you think?

I'd like to take you up on your offer of assistance. I'll try to read some of those books, but do you think there is something I can actually do or not do that will get my mind in the right position, so to speak? I would really be grateful for whatever else you can tell me, and thank-you very much again for your kind interest.

Yours truly,
Susan Giliss

P.S.: An important after thought: One thing that has specifically bothered me in connection with all this, is art. I may or may not have mentioned this in my first letter, but I am an artist, and I have a terrible block you wouldn't believe,

resulting from the fact that, since I don't know what reality is, or if it exists as such, or how the four physical dimensions relate to it, I can't determine the proper channel or channels for artistic expression. My style is "realistic," but I don't know if the objects I'm drawing have any meaning, or if they should have any, or how I could instill some into them. It seems to me that it's somehow my proper mode to depict the physical planes, because there is so much in them that fascinates me, while at the same time representing their larger contexts. But obviously, how can I do that if I don't know what on earth else there is behind the obvious. I sort of envision myself becoming enlightened, and being able to get the total picture, which I could then sort of funnel down through whatever particular things I was working on, and have it all come out onto the paper or canvas. I think of Escher or Dali when I say this; their objects lead one farther and farther out (or in), but the total picture is there all the time; it can lead to countless ideas about space and time and concepts and their interrelationships. But I can't repeat them; it's really a horrible problem. Can you give me any sort of advice at all on how to go about resolving this? I'd appreciate it so much.

P.O. Box F
Lone Pine, Calif. 93545
March 25, 1974

Dear Miss Gliss:

Once again, thank you for your good letter. Dr. Wolff asks me to relay his answers to you, and I shall take the liberty of adding some thoughts of my own.

The last address we have for Dr. John C. Lilly is c/o Human Software, Inc., 33307 Decher School Road, Malibu, Ca. 90265. The lawyer is Leland Ernest Stevenson, Jr., 5101 39th St., Washington, D.C., 20016. We only just met him recently but he seems to be a fine chap and apparently on the right track.

We are both glad your art style is "realistic" because that is our preference. I do not know Eschere but I like Dali's technique and his work is most arresting. I am taking the liberty of quoting that portion of your letter on art to a professional ~~friend~~ artist friend of Dr. Wolff's in Los Angeles whose paintings sell from \$3000 to \$35,000, and who is a profound Buddhist scholar. I am asking him to write to you because realism is his field and he is very capable philosophically and is desirous of helping others. His name is Reid Gardner. There is a reproduction of one of his paintings in the Nov./Dec. '73 Architectural Digest. He is featured by Fidelity Galleries.

Besides what he may tell you, I shall venture some observations of my own, having made the arts my profession, concentrating on music. Art is a skill which can be made to serve any motive, good, bad or otherwise. I would like to see it used to exalt the good, the true, the beautiful, and in striving for these, one approaches Perfection which, although not quite attainable on this plane, may lead to Illumination which I feel to be Perfection on another plane. I have found that if one establishes the goal first, the means can usually be found. There are so many possibilities in the arts and so many approaches that I would find it hard to advise, and since each of us is an individual, it appears we each have to work out our own Dharma. It calls for meditation. Expressing mood or emotion is relatively simple. Could one depict life in every object? How about portraying the sound of colors, or the color of sound, or paint celestial harmony, or present the embodiment of beauty? As for the highest Illumination, it is formless and without qualities and cannot be described, so how does one portray it? It may take a lifetime to find what you are seeking, but do not count the intervening time as lost, for one receives in proportion to the effort he puts forth.

X
As for drugs: Dr. Wolff feels that they can only produce a counterfeit of the real thing, and all the great authorities on Yoga bear this out - Patanjali, Ramana Maharshi, Mme. Blavatsky, Gopi Krishna, Tarthang Tulku Rinpoche of Berkeley, others. Latest physical evidence seems to have found brain damage from Marijuana, but possibly since there are billions of cells and only a few million are damaged at a time, deterioration may be so gradual as not to be noticed. It was explained to us by a close friend who is a clairvoyant that the pineal gland contains seven grains, like sand, forming a square and triangle. Through these a subtle energy descends into the body. This gland is presumed to be our atrophied third, all-seeing eye and our link to our Divine Self. When one takes LSD these granules are re-arranged, thus breaking the connection and stopping the flow of this aetheric (or maybe radiant) energy. An engineer friend added that these granules are known to be silicon, the only silicon in the body, and silicon is used in semi-conductors. This re-arrangement is more or less permanent, though the less taken, the less the damage.

It strikes me that if one can attain Realization in a few minutes simply by downing a lump of sugar, why is it that Yogins spend lifetimes searching and working for Illumination? There have always been hallucinogenic drugs and they certainly would have known about them. I think there is no short cut. I think there is a danger, too, in forcing nature before its time and we are apt to pay a price. It is possible to develop powers before we are emotionally mature or have gained sufficient wisdom to handle them without doing great harm either to ourselves or others, and it is natural for each of us to think that we are sufficiently mature. Masters will test their chelas for at least seven years.

I feel that Dr. Leary is not too discriminating. He mixes the sublime and the vulgar, and in doing so, I see a danger in his works, the danger of misleading the aspirant. I understand Dr. Lilly has left off drugs. As far as I have read of Casteneda, this is what we call sorcery, or black magic, and tortures creatures to further one's own ends. I would question the results too. Dr. Wolff bids us seek the Realization before all else, and if other powers result from it, use them. True Realization, (or Illumination), is perhaps the most precious thing one can attain, but it is not gained by just any means and I do not believe it is attainable without being earned even though it may appear to come by Grace. There is much to understand about it.

Do keep in touch with us and let us know how you progress. We will endeavor to help you wherever possible.

Sincerely,

John F. F. W. H.