



DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720

13. April

Dear Joske,

years, I do owe you a letter, and I would have written earlier, but I was fighting a wandering infection and two papers which I had to finish and had hardly time for eating. Now I can relax a little, and also rest a little, and it really is such a relief that I start speculating how I could arrange matters in such a way that I can retire in perhaps ~~fixxxxx~~ five years. I have a plan now which includes accepting Yale half time and eventually dropping all other jobs, buying a house in Italy and spend most of my time there, wandering around, reading, and writing leasurley. This, I think, is a nice plan, not at all unrealistic, and if I have only enough energy and discipline I shall be able to carry it out in about five years (that is the time it will take me to assemble sufficient money). Well, we shall see I long for solitude, more and more, the older I get, and I am not at all looking forward to start teaching again for my attitude is so very different from these young eager people who want to know and all I should say is "look, it's no use". Now as regards my Boston lecture. You say I "play humble". I don't think I play humble. Nor do I think I play humble. Nor do I even think about myself. I have read your enclosed - and many thanks for it - and I just can't work up much enthousiasm about it. That is the same old jazz I have been telling my introductory classes for about 10 years and I think now I talked too much about societies and much too little about individuals and today it would be a good tactical move not to use the word "society" at all. I really don't know what to do now about this Boston lecture. Perhaps you give me a little time and I shall get drunk and let your typescript inspire me - and then most likely it will cease to be a breakthrough. Can you say in two words what the breakthrough consists in? Sorry, that is all I can say now, being in a big depression and so on. So, don't take it too seriously. But one thing is true - I am becoming more and more of an irrationalist in the sense that I think that argument can hardly achieve anything worthwhile and that it can achieve something only if accompanied by other matters, not by itself. The matter of style becomes more important to me. But perhaps this is just the result of the fact that thinking is very difficult and painful for me, it is an effort comparable to the effort of a drugged man who struggles to awake to consciousness whereas it seems to be so much easier (and more pleasurable) for you. That is one of the reasons why I want to retire because what I do on my private time is nobody's business. But the lecturing business I cannot take seriously any longer and I feel like a freak.

Anyway: it now seems that I shall come by for three days or so about the weekend of the 3rd of May, but I shall let you know details in the last minute, for I have a wandering infection and I don't know where it will turn up next time. Be well, and don't take this letter too seriously. All the best

PS Next morning, ~~after~~ after a long walk in the Berkeley hills and dinner with a groovy chick I feel much less depressed, though still planning for my partial retirement (this is really serious and the gods may help me that ~~xxx~~ I am not too lazy to carry it out). I also got your brief letter, indicating that you had read my last opus, but no comment, not even a single word (can't you spell g a r b a g e or m a s t e r p i e c e ?) This I thought, was a breakthrough, but no doubt you will me teach different on my arrival. Did you watch the eclipse of the moon (I don't think it was over at your place when the moon rose), I did, and remembered the happy times about 30 years ago when I watched another eclipse with my self-made telescope on the roof of the apartmenthouse where we lived explaining the matter to all the inhabitants (about 20). Life seemed so much easier then. Be well, and greetings to Judith, to Tirza, and TO AARON.

... I think I have only enough energy and discipline to do this. I will take me to assemble and clean away. Well, we shall see. I look for coffee, more and more. The letter I got, and I am not at all for me. I am to start teaching again for my attitude is so very different from these young eager people who want to know and also I should say is "look, it's no use". How do I regard my position? For me, I give up. I don't think about myself. I have to think I am a struggle. There are many things for it - and I just can't work with your audience - and many things for it - and I just can't work with your audience about it. That is the case. I have been telling my "introductory classes" for about 10 years and I think now I talked too much about molecules and such too little about individual and today it would be a good radical move not to use the word "society" at all. I realize that I want to do something about this. Boston factory. Perhaps you give me a little time and I shall get drunk and let your typewriter inspire me - and then hopefully it will cease to be a breakthrough. Can you say two words about the breakthrough consists in sorry, that in all I can say now, better in a big depression and so on. So, don't take it too seriously. And one thing is true - I am becoming more and more of an individualist in the sense that I think that my own can hardly achieve anything worthwhile and that it can achieve something only if accompanied by other individuals, not by itself. The matter of style becomes more important to me. But perhaps this is just the result of the fact that writing is very difficult and painful for me. It is an effort comparable to the effort of a carpenter who is trying to make a wooden construction whereas it seems to be so much easier (and more pleasurable) for you. That is one of the reasons why I want to retire - even what I do on my private time is nobody's business. But the lecturing business I cannot take seriously any longer and I feel like a freak. Anyway, it now seems that I shall come by for three days or so about the weekend of the 7th of May, but I shall let you know details in the next minute, for I have a wandering intention and I don't know where it will turn up next time. Be well, and don't take this letter too seriously. All the best.