Amman, the 20th Juin 1928.

My dear Friend Dr Alexander,

I was in Egypt for two weeks on some official duty; when I came back to Amman I found your very kind letter on my desk. This was such a joyful surprise for me, something as an undescriptible emotion which children can feel and enjoy much more intensely and more frequently than men. I thank you heartily indeed for your gentle letter which proved to me once more again the miraculous effect of a good friend's words for the real happiness of man. I thank you very much also for your introducing me to the Dean of the School of Religions at Yale.

I beg you to accept these very simple and sincere ~~words of mine~~ as the expression of my deep gratitude for all your kindness towards me; I am very proud also for your sympathetic appreciation of some opinions I had expressed so concisely, during our conversation at the Hôtel Philadelphia. It is a great satisfaction for me to be understood by Dr Alexander. I am only sorry that your stay in Amman was so short, that it was not quiet possible to give you even a summary account about the very peculiar method of proceeding - I have been compelled to adopt - ~~in order to make an~~ for my subjective inquiries and to carry on my introspective, ~~inquiry and to~~ experiences - It would be the subject of an uncommon conversation - if we had time to do so - to find my way - through many thrilling Revelations - into the mysterious Realm of my Unconscious Self, unexplored yet, and to discover therein the perennial stream of that fundamental sentimentality which constitutes our personal Temper, gives a peculiar colour to our Religious Character, depicts our Moral and Affectional Type, and draws the orbit of all our instinctive predispositions and Natural ~~Tendencies and~~ Inclinations. There was really no time to tell

you, how ~~how later on~~ I tried to go further on, to the very source of that overwhelming emotions, on whose peculiar disposition depends our optimistic or pessimistic views on the signification and the value of life and things; I could not find the opportunity to tell you how I have been obliged to modify the structure of my ~~phyl~~ philosophy in it's basal principles and to accept the ~~idea that~~ fact that our vital ideas are continually flowing from the source of our deep-rooted emotions, and not coming directly from the Material Universe (as I was supposing) ~~with~~ following the teaching of many great philosophers who were ~~teachers~~ ~~masters~~ masters - my ~~masters~~ - (to be so!).

It would be really a very curious digression, if I had time enough to divert the common course of our ordinary conversation to such an intimate experience and to tell you how after this introspective activity of my mind, the Panorama of the material Universe has completely changed for me, and why I have been obliged to make a revision of all my philosophical vocabulary in order to correct the conventional meanings of the most important ~~technical~~ words like Destiny, Religion, happiness, knoweledge, truth etc..etc. Verily, I could not find such a knoweledge and learning in the classical and dogmatic books of philosophy; I am quiet convinced of that.

I must add to these few considerations, a very valuable experience which is: that (the unconstricted activity of my Mind inquiering within my own Self to discover such untangible and impalpable, subjective Realities, revealed to me the unexhaustible source of Spiritual pleasure which is the foundation stone of my happiness and the (Raison d'être) of my unvulnerable optimism. ~~would be an incurable pessimist~~ optimistic thinker, while another man in my position

I must confess to you that I am really indebted to my (so called!) misfortunes for all these acquisitions of mine. Few people would believe in my sincerity, ~~when I was~~ but what I say is quiet honest and true, and you understand if I was trying to explain them how the adversity and misfortune made of me a firm

tand me much better than many old friends of mine. I am only sorry that I am not a good writer in English and my clumsy style ~~I am afraid~~ is undoubtedly very much unfit for the faithful and adequate expression of ~~my~~ such intimate and ultimate thoughts. I will nevertheless try to do my best in order to give you at least a very concise appreciation ~~account of the peripecies of my life~~ the ~~late six year's of my life spent here, and how~~ about the new way of ~~thinkin~~ observing feeling and thinking, I was led to by my ~~experiences~~ last inquisitive nature, through the peripecies of ~~my life~~ an miserable existence spent here during six years of my adventurous life.

I do not know of I am wasting your valuable time or not in obliging you to read all over this long and tiresome letter of mine; but I am writing you this pages for giving an answer to your very serious questions which had given such a happy impulsion to my mind.

When the invisible and mighty hand of the Destiny — so to speak metaphorically — or the concourse of circumstances — if you like better! — has thrown me unto this lonely country preventing me to sail for America, I was a man a little over fifty four; and a man who had already acquired a great experience during his very active and restless life. I had some theoretical knoweledge as well. I came here with a disciplined intelligence and with a very emotive temper; so well prepared for feeling deeply and thinking more or less rightly (I must say rather logically!)

As a poet I ~~was believing in~~ knew very well what an inspiration was; but as a philosopher I was not believing in Revelation at all!.

Now I believe in the possibility of such a valuable experience for everybody, if he is compelled to live under some peculiar psycho-moral conditions and circumstances even for a little time, with an overstrained mind.

I am so happy to tell you that I have found myself

surrounded here by such conditions, and it was given to me to inquire about, ~~and~~ to determine and to study them with a keen interest some of these conditions. ~~in Transjordania~~

My voluntary exile here was then an extraordinary chance ~~though~~ for completing and perfectioning my studies, though this Accident seemed to me at first as a great misfortune ~~and an~~ and calamity, which had – at the beginnings of my very difficult life in Amman – revolted me against God even.

Now I will give you an example of Revelation – out of many – which has altogether changed my philosophy, and illuminated my way for further inquieries; ~~and~~ besides that I was – after this experience – so astonished, even so dazzled to ascertain the truth:

1º that I had a strong and ~~overwhelming~~ predominent religious sentimentality, even in a moment of insolent revolt against religion and denying Justice;

2º Which sentiment was changing according absolutely to the colour and disposition of my actual emotions;

3º Being paganistic when I was looking at the Univers from an Asthetic point of wiew with an artistic temperament, and when I was pleased for instance to animate the ~~so~~ dreaming sources ~~and~~, the shadowy woods and the murmuring streams and ~~the silent desert~~ at the world with muses and faieries; that it was

4º Taking the form of mussulman morality when I was determined submitted ~~to~~ ~~by~~ to my combative and militant ~~and~~ temper ~~and~~ ~~militant spirit~~ and to fight ~~fiercely~~ with a chivalrous spirit for the sake of truth and right;

5º It was sometime manifested through the most christian spirit when I was convinced that ~~there is in~~ ~~every~~ all our sufferings and pains ~~was~~ were the ~~manifest~~ ~~to~~ evident realization of the immanent justice, ~~and~~ that the salvation of the soul was only possible in resignation, and the real happiness was the reward of expiation;

6º this sentiment was taking also the form of ~~the~~ a

highly poetical mysticism when I was considering very calmly and serenely the last and most supreme moment of my life to return back again to the bosum of Mother nature leaving all my beloved friends, and all the beautiful things which were the real causes of my ephemereous earthly happiness, but willing to believe that my undying love will be perhaps eternally manifested through the light of the stars, the scent of the flowers and the murmuring of the unsleeping streams. that I will be living for ever in the Universal manifestation of ~~life and beauty~~ continual life, everlasting beauty and youth.

It is an incredible fact that I came to such a revelation, just in a supreme moment of unhappiness which obliged me to revolt against God and everything.

It was on (the 11th Dec. 1923), a gloomy day of winter; I was living with my wife alone in a very dirty and uncomfortable circassian house, a muddy house of two little rooms, in a lonely quarter of the town near by the stream. It was raining continually and fiercely. I had no employment yet, and the little amount of money I had in my pocket was exhausted. My eldest son was in Cambridge waiting for money. My wife was ill. I was obliged to get water from a well a little far from my house and to carry it with to big tins. I was very tired and suffering, and morally depressed. I went to bring water, and worked fifteen minutes under rain; and when carrying the two tins through muds and many difficulties, I put down the tins and became very angry, revolting against God and destiny, supposing that I was not deserving such a horrible punition, if punition it was. then suddenly I had a vision, a very clear vision of an old man, who was for many years a devoted servant of our family. the vision

lasted four or five seconds and then disappeared for ever. this extraordinary manifestation shaked my soul very strongly. I was standing under rain to think eagerly to discover the relation of such an apparition to my actual miserable existence and to my revolted disposition. then I remembered after a very short meditation that I had – when a young man of 25 – obliged this poor old man to bring me water from the well of our Garden, when he was suffering from reumatism, and the weather was very cold and rainy. I felt then a very deep sorrow for my horrible behaviour towards this good old man deceased very long ago. I tried to find a rational interpretation for this extraordinary phenomenon in a psycho-analytical way; and I came to the conclusion that at that time I had acted as a real brute but nevertheless I had ~~perhaps unconsciously~~ a deep remorse, which recorded – perhaps unconsciously – this (cas de conscience) in my mind with the painful face of the old man. this hypothesis proved to me that I was not – at that time – altogether devoid of humane sentiment, and that this unconscious remorse was the expression of it. this judgment was a consolation for me.

But at this moment I had suddenly a very peculiar inspiration, which I have considered as the truest revelation of the christian spirit: I was murmuring these words as a boy who reads them in a book:

(You must accept with an absolute resignation and serenity your actual sufferings. that is the meaning of immanent justice; that is the meaning of expiation. Go accept with good will this punition, and consider it as the only condition of Salvation; you will feel very happy even under greater adversity!.)

I kept engraved these words in my mind as they have been dictated to me by inspiration; and felt really exceedingly happy for have discovered by such a revelation the true solution of an important problem which was a riddle for me.

I was – I am quiet sure – experiencing at that moment the most vivid and reforming christian feeling, as it appeared through Jesus in the most critical moment of the history of humanity, and transformed the moral world and the social altogether.

I was so happy after this discovery, that I carried water for all my neighbours under continual rain notwithstanding the protestations of my wife, and the visible astonishment of my very simple minded people ~~neighbours~~ absolutely ignorant of the motive of my good will.

I have not remained in this step of thinking. I have gone further in my meditations, and found a very peculiar way of interpretation for the genesis of the universal Religious systems.

I have a vibrating mind which sounds far away ~~when~~ and quiet a long time strongly striken when by a second idea. That is the only intellectual gift which obliges me to go philosophizing as far as it is possible. ~~For this reason I have~~ I have not any claime of superiority over ~~against~~ the average normal man capable of thinking ~~thinker~~ except that vibrating capacity of the intellect. For this reason I have worked my mind for the application of this idea to some remarkably critical periods of the history and after many (tâtonnements) I came to accept the following hypothesis which is very much in harmony with the objective and pragmatic historical facts on one side, and with my subjective experiences on the other:

VIII.

one part of the civilized humanity, for the sake of preventing the downfall of moral civilization by the all pervading and ruinous hedonistic current of life which is considered (by the materialistic conception of our modern mind) as the real goal of felicity.

We had implicitly acknowledged – it seems – that this natural and fundamental sentimentality (which gave birth indeed to every form of Religion!) was not altogether vanished, but rather overpressed by the enormous weight of the utilitarian feelings born out of the immediate and imperious needs of our modern way of living. I mean to say: living under very hard and over straining conditions imposed to every one of us, in the struggle for life, by a continually increasing population, and by the exclusively materialistic consideration of life.

remarkable in itself and worth while to be considered, because it begs a reasonable interpretation. ~~the observation is this~~:

[Nearly all the prophets were born in poor and arid countries, from the poor classes.]

Why?. And why the semitic race has produced much more prophets than all other races altogether; and why the hebrews more than all other semitic nations?..

I will try ~~to give my personal opinion on these~~ to give an answer to these questions separately, but according to my ~~subjective~~ own psychic experiences revealing ~~which revealed~~ to me some peculiar emotions which are not common ones; they may appear only under some extraordinary moral circumstances occasioned by misfortunes and iniquities. I suppose, these peculiar emotions may enable the man who has experienced them to each a glimpse about the real causes of the appearence of the prophets and the establishment of the big and universal Religious systems. I beg you to give me the permission to relate you the

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which enabled me to observe and study the genesis of some very peculiar emotions, I had never felt before. this is what I call a revelation!... A revelation which gave me the best opportunity to each a glimpse about the real causes of the appearence of the (prophets) and the genesis of Religious Systems. ~~I suppose~~, I am not sure without ~~attaching~~ any supernatural meaning to this word

But I beg you to let me kindly tell you all about this revolutions which happened in my conscience. I am so much indebted to you for the impulsion you gave me by your questions. Forgive me ~~because~~ for this very long letter; it is a confession to one of my best friends. I am compelled to write so much because I am kneading and moulding some very curious ideas and peculiar feelings which I had for the first time in my life; and no man can understand me better than you.

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When I was compelled to leave

without ascribing any supernatural origin or attribution to the meaning of this word. An uncommon but quite natural psychic Revelation which

remarkable in itself and begs a reasonable interpretation; that is: [Nearly all the prophets ~~who~~ were born in very poor and arid countries and came from the poor class.]

Why?.. I tried long ago to give an explanation for this semi-paradoxal fact, relying upon ~~my~~ some impressions I had got in the arabian desert. This was emphasising much particularly the climateric and physical conditions; but later on

Les nuits blanches Dostoevsky.

1re Nuit.

Tandis que je parle des hommes capricieux et haineux, je me souviens de ma conduite durant ce jour. Depuis ce matin, une tristesse étrange remplit mon âme. Il me semble que tout le monde m'abandonne, que tous me fuient.