

Unsigned letter from W.T.S. to A.C. headed Cullings hermitage 10  
Aug 43

Dear Aleister,

First let me thank you for "The City of God" & the inscription therein. It was forwarded after a little delay from 1003. I have had it about ten days.

For a little more than 3 weeks now I have spent the major part of my waking hours (I don't think I average ~~5~~ 6 hours sleep out of the 24) thinking over Liber 132, & considered often & well the course of my life in relation thereto. Many questions have arisen to some of which I found an answer.

The first reaction was surprise, I expected something so different. Second was elation at the thought, now we can cancel out the hectic past and get somewhere. Then followed a long period of skepticism and even ridicule. Obviously work, serious thought and possibly something more than that had been put into it. But the exaggerated criticism of the man Smith made me wonder how much of the New Born Idea was to be discounted also.

I have tried to find a reason for such an over exaggerated statement as "mentally and morally he possesses every vice, every defect conceivable". And perhaps I have answered that question.

However the is slowing down somewhat. I have about come to the conclusion that the practical thing to do is to find out by working on the proposition. I hope you will forgive me for delaying so long in writing to you on the matter. But for my part I am glad I did not write sooner. I was not serious enough about it & I might have postulated many foolish questions which are now answered; for which reason I shall ask none of those yet unanswered.

If this Operation is successful there are some things that might be of use, not the least of which is exhibit number one, a lousy(?) 3 months record to show how we can take a sack of old dried peas & magically change them into rubies. Or should I have said from a plain bar of 'pure gold' we by our Magic create a masterpiece of the goldsmith's art? Needless to say I shall welcome any further suggestions you have to offer pr(?) paragraph eleven notwithstanding the way, if not entirely dark, is at least a little foggy. And in any case I am always anxious to hear from you.

This is a grand spot & I have revelled in mother nature like never before in my life turned(?) from head to foot. And there are no people. You would love it, & I wish you were here. Helen looks after the wonderfully happy natured son, cooks, types my diary letters & leaves me alone.

Fraternally. affectionately.

9/14/43. Written just before gamma came to hand & revived many previous objections & added many more.

*ditto 13.*

Smith (132) had taken over Jack Parson's (210) wife Helen (Grimaud). After attempting to carry out the instructions of Liber 132 he wrote A.C.

20/1/45 3?

Ill started, ill maintained, ill terminated. The shrine is desolate of the devine(sic). has ever been & I am completely empty, so much so, I do not know if I write accurately about myself. In fact I don't know anything at all. Have nothing am nothing.

I started in a very bruised condition, got over the resentment, but am none the less bruised, more so for I have added thereto in these months.

The worst of it is I have some years yet to go and the prospect of having to live with myself is I assure you not at all pleasant. For I can't see but that my brain will continually flog me till I go to sleep once & for all. I have ill understood your dealings with me these many years, & I am no better informed at this moment. It has seemed to me that much misinformation has been conveyed to you. But even that I will modify now, yet you have written such strange things of me that:- well never mind, for I repeat I just don't know, have no idea left about anything.

It all seems to be folding up together. Grimaud has to soon move .where? There is no place. Frater 210 can't send any more money. Grimaud's is running out. These and the fierce stab of Regina's death (he had taken Helen in place of Regina) occurred all within a day or two. But above all I feel I have shot my bolt, such as it was & missed the mark.

From the utterly desolate state in which I started out, which held for months, I am glad to say very recently the joy in some of the masterpieces has returned to me. I expected never to write to you again, hardly know why I do now. But there is a feeling one owes a gentleman a letter when one fails to turn up at a dinner engagement. Besides I don't think I could get Grimaud to write you this, she refuses steadily to accept my negative view of this Grand Magical Retirement. You must be so inured to disciples failures that just one more won't surprise you.



W.T.S. to A.C. 14/9/43. 3

My very dear Aleister.

Many times these many years I have speculated as to how & when my turn would come as it has to many others, and now it is here.

With the limited powers with which I was endowed I desparately tried to hold together the Order and extend its influence despite the dire blunders in the matter of simple first principals for organization which you so often made & your total failure to give me adequate support as acknowledged in one of your recent letters.

As stated in mine to you of June 3rd after leaving here, which you did not answer I started out with some hope that I might perhaps achieve somewhat for the benefit of all concerned, & started some practices & kept the record until August 13.

Perhaps unfortunately, who shall say, I took along & re-read all your letters to me & I think they, more than the contents of Liber 132 and subsequent events, decided me after two solid months of thinking to change the course of 37 years of my life. There are besides many other factors which contributed to the final decision.

Not without pain and anticipation of continued discomfort as a corollary do I abandon, in one way, the aspirations of at least 37 years.

I restart at 58 on the more distasteful task of competing for mere physical existence with my fellows. You indeed devine(sic) a basic tone of my nature in some of what you said in the Gamma section of Liber 132 as I so fully discovered in the 4 months in the wilderness. But you also make some bad mistakes.

In more than one respect I have ~~shown~~ chosen the hardest course, for I remember nothing so distasteful in my life as was the leaving of Culling's hermitage, following my decision some 3 or 4 days previous to my return to 1003, which threshold I half hoped never to cross again. Since arrival the distaste is no whit alleviated.

I found several notable matters during revision of your letters that had entirely been forgotten, one of which was Mr Germer's long criticism of you, many good points therein, & your characteristic vitriolic & verbose attack upon him.

Will it be necessary to write such a one in my case? or have you not already said enough to others already in your letters? which by the way the F.B.I. seem to take seriously.

I could now as I have often in diary & destroyed letters write you for hours on end. But I have never felt quite sure that you would not use the confessional of a record against me, as I so recently discovered (see above) Germer accuses you of doing in his case.....

What is the use of writing for I have no powers to write of much more subtle matters pertaining hereunto.

I am sad.

6