

ANDREW PETER SILARD
300 WASHINGTON AVENUE
PLEASANTVILLE, N. Y.

January 1, 1953

Dear Leo,

The following problem has arisen in my mind which I would like to discuss with you, (by mail if necessary); a problem which I have not yet presented to my parents. I wanted to write to you about it for two reasons. First because of your close contact with Chicago University, and because you have previously seemed to take some interest in Johnny's and my education.

For the past year it has become clear to me that I am not getting what I could out of my schooling. It is well known, and proven I think, that the period of Adolescence is one where learning comes quite easily, and the "thirst" for knowledge is quite keen. This being the case, it would seem advisable to work to capacity for a few years, in order to learn as much as possible during this period. Unfortunately, as I think I told you when you were last here, I really feel that I could do more work than I'm doing now in High School to greater advantage. Not that I am a glutton for work; far from it, but I do enjoy learning, and, from what I can make out the next two years in High School will be, to a certain extent, wasted.

This is the situation as it looks to me. I have heard of the plan offered by Chicago college of admitting students after completion of their sophomore year in High School. I have their catalog, have looked at it, and I must admit it sounds very attractive. As the situation ~~looks~~ appears today, it looks like I will have to do some type of Conscientious Objector's work, stagnate in jail, or, in the event my opinions change, be drafted into some type of service, probably LAO (Semi-Con. Obj.). In any case it does no harm to get the maximum of education possible in the next few years. "On the other side of the fence", is the obvious social problems that might arise, and also that I haven't the slightest idea of how my parents feel.

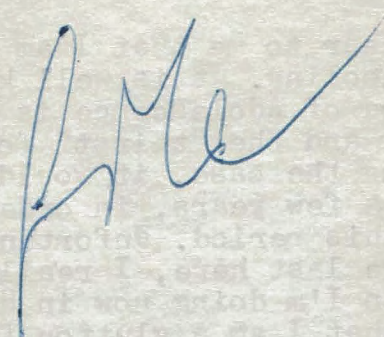
Please answer me as soon as you can, as I am curious to know your advice on what course to take.

Andy

ANDREW PETER SIVARD
250 WASHINGTON AVENUE
HASTINGS, N.Y.

Dear Sir,

I have been thinking about you a great deal lately and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately but I will try to get some time to write to you.



I am sure you will be interested to hear that I have been thinking about you a great deal lately and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately but I will try to get some time to write to you.

This is the situation of affairs in the world at present. I am sure you will be interested to hear that I have been thinking about you a great deal lately and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately but I will try to get some time to write to you.

Very respectfully,
Andrew Peter Sivard

I have been thinking about you a great deal lately and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately but I will try to get some time to write to you.



Dear Leo,

It is a very long time since we have had any contact ~~except~~ perhaps hearing about each other, indeed it is well over two years since I came to the Bruderhof after that summer of planning to go to Europe when we talked together last.

So much has happened to us both since that time. When I heard about your illness and it's very serious nature I wanted very much to visit you, and I now send all my love and greetings to you and also wish you much courage for the future. I baked a bit of bread which should also arrive in a few days which I hope you enjoy.

I would very much like to share with you what you are thinking and feeling if you would care to write.

Here in our life together we experience very much how every day is a gift which no one can take for granted and for which we can only be grateful.

Again let me express my very warmest greetings Leo and good wishes.

Your nephew,

Anely

Dear Leo and Trude,

I am sending along the pamphlet I mentioned which tells a bit about us and the way in which we are trying to live, and also a catalog of the toys we make which you were interested in, Trude.

I am very glad that I had a chance to visit with you Leo, altho I am sorry that it was so short and that we didn't have more of a chance to talk about some of our mutual concerns.

It was also nice to meet Mr. Fox who seems like quite a lively and warm person. Give him my regards when you see him. I suppose, Trude, that you will be in Denver right now, but will be back in a few days.

Leo, there is one thing I felt I should speak out as I felt it quite a bit when I was with you and also thought more about it after I left. I noticed you seemed a bit depressed and sad sometimes over the fact that there is a good chance that because of your disease you may not have as long a life as you thought you might have. Of course this is understandable, and I hope you won't feel it presumptuous to even talk about it, and will forgive me for it if you do. However, I really feel, Leo, that to think about such things or let it depress us or effect our lives is simply to give to death the power which it desires.

I gathered that your question about whether we believe in an "after life" was both a curiosity about what I know believe, and perhaps also a reflection of something which is on your mind. My answer that we believe that physical death is not important and certainly not final stems from the certainty of the victory of the power of life and creativity which is so evident all about us in the whole universe. Even if one cannot accept the reality of a personal loving power such as Christ taught actually does exist, everyone, and especially those who have worked in science and have had so much contact with the mystery of the universe and the greatness of it, can feel this power of life which exists here and now, and it is the feeling that this wonder of life will be cut off by death that makes us fear death so much.

But we also experience, Leo, as I think all men experience, that death can have its effect on men while they are still physically alive, and - on the other hand - life can so fill a man's heart that death can have no power over him whatsoever. What I am trying to express, although words can hardly do this, is that there is no reason to be depressed about the inevitability of death, but rather every reason to be all the more joyful and grateful for life, for none of us, in spite of statistical probabilities, knows the day of his death - but each of us knows that we are alive and it is very important, I feel, to put this latter thought in the center of all our thoughts and actions.

In actual fact, I don't mean, Leo, that I think you are not occupying yourself with positive things, but I do hope that if you are tempted to be sometimes despondent over the future that you will turn away from such thoughts which cannot have any good or creative fruit either for you or for those around you.

I send you my love and greetings and very best wishes for the days ahead.

Your nephew,

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