

Universal Life Friends Letter

1983 #3

81.

OUR PAGES ARE YOUR LETTERS

U.L. Friends, 753 44th Av.
San Francisco, CA 94121

The "Universal Life Friends" is a small and informal correspondence group within the Universal Life Church, Inc. We meet mostly by sharing our letters with each other in a publication called the "Universal Life Friends Letter", coming out every month or two.

We are essentially a non-sectarian group but we take as our motto an old Quaker saying: "There is that of God in every one". We understand this to be a fundamental truth, found not just in Christianity, but in one way or another in all religions. We also believe this to be a truth harmonizing perfectly with the fundamental belief of the Universal Life Church: "As an organization we have no traditional doctrine. We only believe in 'that which is right'. Each individual has the privilege and responsibility to determine 'what is right' as long as it does not infringe on the rights of others. We do not stand between you and your God". The UL Friends as a group have no further doctrine, although as individuals we may take it on from there, each in our own way. This puts a big emphasis on individualism, but we would equally emphasize that we be friends, and share more with each other.

For our "subscription fee" we ask that you write us a letter now and then, sharing your religious concerns and insights with us. We will then publish it in our "UL Friends Letter". We will try to include everything we receive. In general letters should be of a religious nature, but we understand this in a very broad sense, so a poem, a drawing, or a bit of humor might be quite appropriate. Some might write in the spirit of Quaker silent worship, and define that in a very traditional sense. That would be great, but we have no intention of being so restrictive. Most of us are far too inhibited about such already. Zen letters, Sufi letters, Hare Krishna letters- all are welcome. Furthermore let us not be too concerned about spelling and such. We don't want to be paralyzed into perfection. We also volunteer to type your letters for you, if that is your wish, but they should be clearly legible. We do have some space limitations, so letters should be of a reasonable length.

It is our hope and belief that our letters will somehow help us open our hearts to each other, and be every bit as deep and meaningful as the spoken word. Hopefully too more than a few deep friendships might develop in this way.

To protect your privacy, we will not print your address unless you give us permission. If necessary you can write someone in care of us, and we will forward.

82.

To the Friends:

Seeing the superabundance, provided by God, my heart is gladened, as I hope each of your hearts is gladened to know, that God has provided us with all things, and more...

Reaching to the farthest resources our minds can perceive, is but a reflection of Consciousness in the Mind of God. For what a man perceives, then enters his consciousness, through which he becomes aware; of Creation. Mankind has reached the plateaus of the subatomic and clustering of galaxies with technology. And still deeper into the superabundant resources, mankind is probing with his mind. Always hoping with his heart, to find some all-inclusive Answer. And this answer has, is, and will always be... Various religions attempt to give a name to this Answer; Love of God, Desire of Ages, Nirvana, Tao. And each of these names, in its own religion (let alone to the outsider) is some nebulous, and indefinable Reality, which is often called the Mystery of Life. And so the vain purposes of men reduce God to a Mystery... very sad. And so the life-of-a-religion, is based on its susceptibility to the corruption of mankind. Therefore transcending physical space and time, the Answer is always there, always here, and not susceptible to mankind's corruptibility.

Having the Answer within its proper parameters, the correct Question can now be pursued, and reduced in its final form to, "W (Who, What, When, Where, Why) is the difference (or sameness) between the Consciousness of God and the consciousness of man (if there be any)? Suffice it to say, most religions have temporal names for the transcendental answers. The mechanism is always the same, just as water follows the course of least resistance, two or more objects are attracted to each other by gravity, and objects tend to diffuse entropically to an equilibrium state.

Robert C. Finch
P.O. Box 219
Basile, Louisiana, 70515

Tat Tvam Asi,

Robert



Dear Friends: I have been thinking about the enclosed cartoon. At least Broomhilde and Erwin know they have ants. I'm not sure whether I have ants.

Thinking of one's own life is necessary. On the other hand, if we think and work only for others, we don't get ants.

Love,

Ellen Gillis

Most Merciful

Or do ye think that ye shall enter the Garden of Bliss without such trials as come to those who passed away before you?

They encountered suffering and adversity, and were so shaken in spirit that even the Apostle and those of faith who were with him cried:

"When will come the help of Allah?"

Ah! Verily the help of Allah is always near!

Sura II: 214

Idris Abdel Alim

81 CZ 87

Box 149

Attica, N.Y.

14011

84.

TO THE UL FRIENDS:

First an update on that definition of God (I have been working on the Indo-European roots of these words, which dates back to 6-10,000 BC):

Our word: GOOD = GOD (as in goad not Gahd) = short for GODAZ = GUDAZ, GUDAM

These endings are "that which" and "he who"
 from: GHEDH: to unite, join or fit = GHODH = pronounced (?) ghoodh:
 that which is fitting or fitted or he who is fit (well put
 together) = suitable = GOOD

Our word: GOD = GOD (as in gahd) = Gott, Got(gut) = GUD = GUDAM (as above)
 from GHEU(e) = to call or invoke

THUS GHU-TO = (another suffix with pointer) that which is invoked
 GHUTO, GUDAM = the invoked, the called down.

These words cross one another at the GUDAM point and the meanings become mixed because of the lack of careful pronunciation. They each have their own root and each root differs from the other: the sounds and the meanings differ.

THUS TOGETHER we get the INVOKED GOOD: to attempt or to successfully call down good into this world.

Oh, yes, and incidentally, while roaming the ancient semantic terraces of the Indo-European base, I found one for A. Claude K.:

Our word: HOME starts in a very rustic way:

KEI = to lie THUS bed, couch, THUS home THUS beloved, dear
 KOI-MO = HAIMA = HEIM = HOME
 = HAME = HAMLET = HOME
 = HAEMUN = HEMIA = HOME as in BO-HEMIA

SO: BOHEMIA obviously was the HOME of the BO's. Perhaps the old Bo's were around Europe before 1000 AD. They might have been the influence in Huss's heresy. No wonder the hippies of the later Romantic era were known as Bo-hemians: those who came from the home of the BOs.

For Rev. Richards: the roots of the word: SIN:

Well, it blew my mind, too: SUNNE, SINNE (English root SYN),

from the indo-European root ES = IT IS

EAM (English): AM; ESTI (German) = ISTI = IST = IS;

ASTI (Sanskrit) = IS; SI (German) = SIJAI = SIE = yes (may it be so);

SANTHAZ = SOOTHE (ENGLISH) = true;

SONT (French) = being, existence = real, true;

SNTIA = that which is

SUNDJO (German) = it is true;

SYNN (English) = SIN

SAT, SANT (Sanskrit) = existing, true, virtuous;

ESSE (Latin) = to be;

EINAI, ENAI (Greek) = to be; also ESU = EUS = Good; suffix EU-;

THUS SIN = IT IS; IT IS REAL; IT IS TRUE; IT HAPPENED; IT IS SO;
 freely: That (IT) your act, action or behavior caused the
 consequences (injury, pain, hurt, damage to others) is A FACT
 and you are responsible for IT;

The act is not to be separated from the consequence: IT IS - SIN.
 (of course the consequences man have been beneficial to others,
 but then we don't have problems accepting responsibility
 for them, now do we ?)

RTUE = VERTU (English) = VIRTUS (Latin) = manliness, strength, capacity
 from VIR = MAN from WIROS (pronounced Vir-os) = WIR+AZ = MAN
 WER-ALDH = WER (man) + ALDH (age) = the life and ages of man
 THUS WEOROLD = WORLD
 CURIA = CO + VIR = men together
 from WEI = the vital force that gives life
 VIS (Latin) = Force: vim, vigor, violence;
 ALSO VICE = vicious, vitiate and VITU = Vituperate = abuse.
 THUS: WIRAZ = he who has the vital force in him = Man
 AND VIRTUS = the having of the vital forces within one;
 the vital forces showing in this one.

Please a definition or origin for SHABOA ? Thanks !

TO BBF: Blessed Bob Finch:

That one roots out the roots of words so as to eliminate the encrustations of
 millenia of corrupted meanings and thus purify the usage of the sounds we make
 is not necessarily to "define God with words" nor "build a definition of God
 from words" especially when one "might" infer that my purpose was to prove
 semantically that it can't be done. You suggest that trying to relate GOD and
 GOOD can't be done. In order for that to be correct, you must have some kind
 of subconscious loading on these words. Why should any of us be hesitant to
 look at our word roots? If the Sanscrit scholars are correct, the very sounds
 the sacred words effectuate and infuse our very being. You suggest that I
 might reach the point of putting "a nebulous meaning on both (words)". I
 suppose that phrase was intended to disclose that YOU DO have some "CLEAR"
 meaning in the back of YOUR mind. You are correct to state that my "approach
 is atheistic" but not because I am "attempting to build, from matter, a God to
 worship". I am atheistic because logically anybody can build the religion of
 their jollies (and have done so) all throughout history. Thus I studiously
 have NO BELIEFS (study the word "belief", one day), only as clear an analysis
 as I (and the Spirit within) can muster. I have no loyalty to any religion
 (but respect for all): Truth is my master. Both Zen and the Sufiis state
 catagorically: This is not A Religion: this is merely religion."

To Tom Thompson: my copy of the ULFL came without the second page of yor
 letter and I waited till Ananda forwarded me the second page: Psychology?:
 have you read Laing ? He's nuts of course, but some of his articulations open
 a door. One of the distinctions between a lawyer and a shrink is that the
 lawyer is supposed to charge a fee to win the case, not just to process
 (administer justice) the case while the shrink takes a fee with no contracted
 end in view.

Eric Berne said that the shrink has a duty to CURE his patient in the FIRST
 sitting or go home and beat himself to death to find why he wasn't able to do
 just that.

For my Blissful buddy A.C.: I love your titles now that you have
 grasped my playful mood with names. Just for that I have added a little thing
 came across. My wife (she's a musician) took me to this church setting of
 these psalms. They turned me on while I was there so I did some research when
 I got back home. Uha choo fein venoo loox iss vunnerfol !!!

continued

96.

MOZART: VESPERAE SOLEMNES DE CONFESSORE: PSALMS 110 ET SEQ.
(with contrasting King James wording)

110: GOD said unto MY MASTER :
THE LORD MY LORD
SIT at my RIGHT HAND, until I make your enemies become your footstool.
(As you SIT with RIGHT side of brain in control, yourSelf shall be beneath you
as a stool - sitting pad - is beneath your spine.)
Send forth your ROD of strength from ZION
(SHUSHUMNA MERU)
YOU SHALL RULE amid all your foes.
(and if yourSelf be your foe, then sit amid yourSelf)
(and the KING shall be in command then.)

111: All my HEART sings to the Lord in praise.
Yea, I will praise him with all my HEART forever,
(What is MY HEART ?)
(It is NOT my mouth, nor my intellect.)
(How do I praise God without using my mouth, voice, words, intellect)
(It is from the HEART CHAKRA that such praise must come.)

in the councils of the UPRIGHT
ASSEMBLY
(when amongst those who sit upright)

112: Blessed is he who feareth the Lord
loveth
(whose attention is riveted upon)

that delighteth in his commandments
finds great joy
(whose joy is be commanded by the Christ-center-Lord)

his seed shall be mighty upon earth
children over all
(his fruitage shall make mighty impact upon reality)
(by his fruits shall he be known)

the generation of the upright shall be blessed
(so that all those of that time who SIT UPRIGHT shall be blessed)

The UPRIGHT sees the LIGHT break forth out of darkness.
UNTO the UPRIGHT, the LIGHT ARISETH IN darkness.
(For those who have erected their SHUSHUMNA, the LIGHT - JESUS CHRIST -
DOES ARISE IN THEMSELVES, the darkness of their being.)

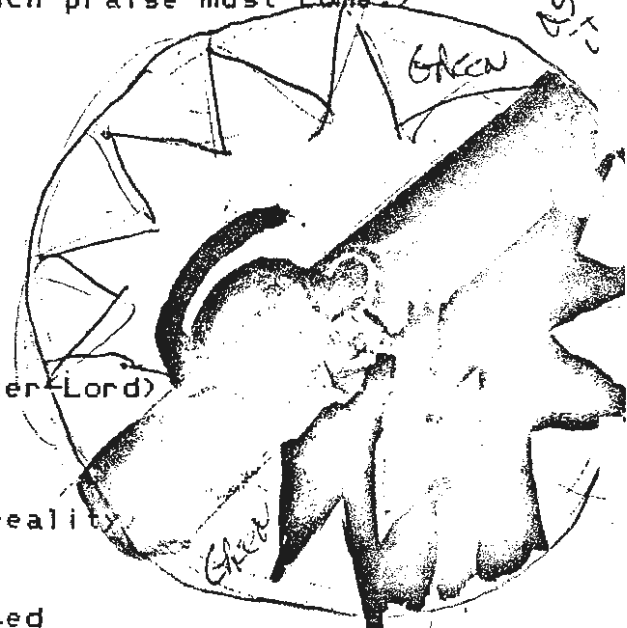
His HEART is ESTABLISHED. (ESTABLISSEN from STABLIRE: to make firm;
from STABILIS: firm from STA: to STAND,
place of STANDING, a STANDING, to STAND up,
erect, STATUS, STAdt, STATute, STOOl,

STATE,

(His HEART CHAKRA IS ERECTED - AND MADE FIRM)
STE-DHLI: to make, erect = STABLI- STABILIS

AIN'T DAT SUMPIN ?

Y.M.



4/21/83

87,

To All Friends:

I greet you all with the hope that courage needed to find peace, is leading you on the path.

Most religions attempt to motivate a person to action. Be it writing a letter, selling flowers and or books, evangelizing, and numerous other actions. I have been contemplating action. And I have found action, be it in the Bhagav d-tita sense, to be violent. There have been various truths expounded in that book; and I couldn't quite understand the necessity of making action, and the duty of Arjuna a single event. But after studying, thinking, meditating, and contemplating much over the subject, I have found all action to be violent. It is the nature of matter to be violent.

An example of violence as an innate characteristic of matter, is in the formation of the Universe... the so called Big Bang. Something has impressed on the scientific theorists, that the Universe is continuing to expand as the result of an ongoing explosion, which created the physical universe as we know it. Again, in physics, on the sub-atomic scale, in the microcosmos, the physicists bombard particles, and examine the result of their collisions. Planets collide, stars collide, people collide, continents collide. It all sounds very violent. Perhaps it is a peculiarity of the language, or culture we now find ourselves in. For we are in a democracy of controlled violence, not to distant in time from our own Revolution. But merely changing the language, does not change the events created by matter. I find it difficult to imagine planets, stars, continents, even people loving each other; than colliding with each other.

Of course, acknowledging the violent nature of matter, does not negate action. To me, there are many members of the plant kingdom, which are equal to, and greater to many members of the animal kingdom, both in physical and spiritual stature. So I feel, quite aghast at the vegetarians delight in thinking themselves more pure than the person of mixed diet. Nor do I see anything more noble in eating plants rather than animals. Both are a form of violence. Even inaction, can result in the death of human beings, such as was the case of the political prisoners during WWII, and the Biafrins, of the 60's. (Actually there is action in inaction) Matter is innately violent.

I remember a book on Zen I had read a couple of years ago, recorded the many strange means which the Zen Masters used to bring about understanding to their pupils. Violence, as well as jokes, were a part of the lessons. I just wanted to tell you all what I found, after all I am a student too.

TAP TVAM ASI,


 Robert J. Finch

P.O. Box 219

Basile, La. 70515

1. As clerk of the U.L.F. Letter, I am concerned about how things are going. We are running very low on energy, and it may take a lot of flag-waving to keep things going. Some of you have been a real help in this respect but apparently it is not enough.

I suspect that one of our problems is that we are such a varied group- Pantheist, Muslim, Catholic, Baptist, Quaker, Humanist, Hindu, Deist, and so on. As a result we have little in common other than an appreciation of differences and a love for Truth, and it doesn't seem to be enough.

Another problem is our Letter is such an easy vehicle for the prepared propaganda of various groups, usually quite impersonal with no sense of dialogue between real people. Also it is no substitute for a real letter from the heart. As editor I might weed out the propaganda, but that would leave us with only a few letters now and then.

In the hope that one of you will be able to get things going again somehow, I am asking for a volunteer to take over my job. I've been at it for close to two years now. Its a fairly simple job, especially if you have access to a copying machine. If anyone is willing, let me know soon. Otherwise this can be presumed to be our last issue. In any case we have had a good two years.

2. I deeply regret to inform you that Tom Critchett has died. Tom was one of our original members, and most frequent contributors. I for one will greatly miss his letters, and I'm sure we all will. He seemed to speak from the heart. God Be With You Tom . It has been good.

3. We continue to get requests to be put on our romantic correspondence lonely-hearts list. Our apologies, since we have no such list and no such service. Our focus is a religious one.

Originally we had hoped to have at least several different U.L.F. Letters , each organized around some mutual interest, such as Buddhism, Humanism, Christianity and so on. We would then each share in a "language" and communication would be much easier. We do have one kind of sister publication in this respect, the "Cloud Hidden Friends Letter", which seems to be doing fine. It started out in a ULC direction, but is now a mostly informal group of those with some serious interest in Zen Buddhism in a more universal sense, and inclusive of other religions. Honorary founders are D.T. Suzuki and Alan Watts. A complimentary copy is available by writing in care of us.

Sincerely,

Ananda C. Dalenberg
Clerk