

Dear Janice

June 11 '76

Hi girl! Got your letter from Chicago this afternoon and it was sure nice to hear from you, I was beginning to worry.

I was shocked at your opening line "Is it possible to have faith in hope or hope in faith?" It's strange, because for the last year words "hope" and "faith" have been the subjects of most of my serious introspective thought. At this point I reject faith because I find nothing to have faith in so far. Perhaps there is some rather insignificant object that I'll run across that I can have faith in. So far, I've rejected God, the future, mankind and hope. I'm examining my personal life to see if I may have faith in it. I don't have high hopes for that.

Now, for me, "hope" is an entirely different situation. Hope as to trust in the truth of a given matter. I have hope for mankind, a future, my future. Hope is tangible for me, faith isn't. I have no

~~no~~ hope in faith, but yes, I think I have faith in hope, although the 2 phrases used in conjunction like that seem to me to be self contradicting. Better to say I have hope in hope. Best to say the matter is at best confounding. My answer to your question must be the negative.

What made you bring that up at this particular time? It's really a coincidence that I could give you my answer right away. There are few things that I am as confident of as that answer and it's still incomplete in my mind. But what I want to know is what made you bring this up or was that just something to put at the top of a letter?

OK, there's one for you. Is egoism, in the deepest sense of the word, altruistic?

Sounds like you were really impressed with Chicago, at least the Art Institute. It does sound interesting. Art History has never been all that fascinating to me, or the old masters, I'm awed at the prices they command and all, but as for pure

aesthetic value I prefer the contemporary works, especially what's being done to reality through photography of course. Somehow a "stylistic" photograph hits me much harder than the same type painting though I think I should like to include painting in my hobbies.

I joined the Puget Sound Scuba Assn. last week. ~~How~~ How about that for Nam, huh? I've got high hopes of being able to get my certificate soon after I get home. There's some great lobsters when we dive. As yet I haven't dived because the club only got 3 boats for 75+ members. Soon, I hope, soon. Aint' life grand?! How many times have you heard, "it's only what you make of it."? How true, how true!

Oh, perhaps I'd better refer back to my question to you. You might ask, as I did, where I got such a question. That's fairly simple, I've gotten hung up on Ayn Rand and her philosophy and I think this is one of her ideas, that egoism is altruism (not egotism, but egoism.) I am looking for the

↓/ answer myself. Why? Why does anyone
fool with non-entities bigger than him-
self? Ideas are fun, your best friend or
your destroyer. I think Rand is better
than Stankwick. The Fountainhead is
the most powerful book I've read. It may
not be as sweeping as East of Eden but...

Jan, I cut your engagement
announcement out of The Star. It says
the wedding is to be August 29th. I wish
I could come (if I'm invited) but my reporting
date at march is the 30th. I plan on leaving
KC the 15th and spending a week on the
beautiful road and a week with Mike
and finding a small apartment in River-
side. I'm really looking forward to this.
I'm looking forward to seeing you alot.
We can ^{mind (silly)} have intercourse.

Well, I'll close, my love to your folks
and Pam the Head.

As Ever

Steve