

1/25/87

Dear Sylvia,

I can't tell you how much I enjoyed our conversation tonight. It was honest - nice...however, after I hung up, I felt as though there was something I was trying to say that didn't get expressed... when you asked me about Janet, I was trying to describe my experience of her...and rather than say she takes her existence for granted, I think it isn't that - I think that it doesn't occur to her to get any excitement out of doing the things she does to continue her functional existence - she just does it - well, because everyone does in this society. Now, I, who have not been able to function independently with any real degree of total success, take pride just (seriously!) in the fact that I brush my teeth twice a day and rinse out the cup...or that I do my laundry, or the dishes, or take out the garbage on time...pay the paperboy, balance my budget, get to work on time...all indications that I can exist without living in an institution...Janet has never had to worry about these things. She is different than I am, in that, she doesn't have a psychotic predisposition...I am very largely recovered, but my tendency to resign from the human race is still latent, Sylvia... to just flip out...so, to summarize, it isn't that Janet takes this for granted - it's just that she is able to do it successfully, and that it doesn't occur to her that she won't...even in her darkest depression, she will still continue to do these everyday things...I think. I think she is sensitive, and that she has loving relationships independent of her boyfriend, but that her having a ~~relationship~~ happy life is very much contingent upon whether or not she has a lasting relationship with a man. This, too, is a societally accepted thing (marriage is the basic condition of women aged 30, is it not?), and I think Janet grew up in that kind of a society. It is a sad thing, because people should be able to exist happily, independently, freely, have their own fulfillment and fulfilling life, yes, while needing people, but not in a dependent, leachy, desperate way - but in a loving way that fosters not dependence, but freely enjoyed independence... it's sort of contradictory, but to me it makes sense...pull your own strings, sort of...also, in regards to what I said about Janet being sensitive enough to look at life and ask, "Is that all there is?"... I think I was referring to "the void", that big empty space, that big empty vacuum that underlies the basis of what energy we are given that we must make use of...what and who we turn out to be. I've never discussed anything of this depth with her, so I don't really know how much of what I mean she understands. The basic underpinnings of life can so easily become undone - examined - changed - such as mine will be when I have my Israel experience - my entire life's structure will be changed... phew! I feel better having expressed this to you...I will write you from Israel.

My love'

Reisa

rgerber
31 st pauls pl
liberty, ny 12754



Sylvia Meagher
302 W 12th Street
NYC, NY 100??

LOVE
USA 22

