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I'm glad you did not think I^{was} as butting in in offering unsolicited advice for your father on skin peeling back on us older ones. It is more aggravated in me because the medication that has kept me alive for two decades also causes that. After a month I still am having to keep ^{two of the} four of those large patches covered to protect the scabs until they fall off. What is also important is in the mind, as you indicate in a different way, a way I'll have to remember to tell a rabbi friend of mine who at 83 has just gone emeritis.

I'm a bit tired and I knocked off writing to answer today's mail so I ramble a bit on the chance you may find it informative as you inch toward the age about which we are talking.

I've seen many men in the prime of health when they retire not last long. With them it is because they are lost, have nothing to do, not even a hobby. So it is important to be occupied and not just with time-killers. I have been so occupied my history prof friends cannot believe I've done the work I've done when they see it. The volume of it anyway.

Our lives do change and it is important to learn how to adapt to those changes.

Two hospitals diagnosed me as having sleep apnea and each said the medication and the minor surgery are ~~not~~ so they could not do anything. Complicating this was the prostate problem and getting up nights. Well, after I got to thinking about it and experimenting neither is a problem and I never, never have the slightest problem with sleep apnea, which can make you fall asleep even when driving. This is what has me living such convoluted hours. And they contribute to my productivity because I work beginning not much after 4 a.m. when I am least tired and never interrupted.

Then, too, there is how when older one feels about one's self. I get letters like these I enclose daily and they are as from Ponce de Leon! These two today.

It is important to want to cope and then to do it. I spent a month since that fall trying to get referred back to physical therapy. I succeeded last week when one of my doctors care and made the referral. That is to strengthen the weakened leg muscles. I'll be going to that three times weekly, perhaps more. Plus that I walk a bit six mornings a week.

I do have an advantage over most people, as these two letters reflect to a degree. I believe I will not, your words, be entirely "dispersed into the void of the unknown." I've known for about 20 years that I can go at any unexpected minutes. It does not worry or trouble me and it is never on my mind, conscious or unconscious. It has never made me stop my work. If I'd not had so many interruptions I'd have more than the

100,000 words I have on paper on Hailer and his abominable Oswald's ~~ambitious~~ Tale, which I've tentatively titled Hailer's Tales, Of the JFK Assassination. And of course I do enjoy this kind of writing in particular.

I am no longer as upset as once I was over what I can do nothing about. It is not because I accept it. It is because I recognize it and when I can do what I can.

What helps us varies as we vary but I think it is important for all getting to senior status to be prepared for it with above all interests and next to that meaningful work if that is possible.

Those books did reach Cesar but too late for Wrono, who was east for a meeting, to be part of the press conference that Cesar and another friend will hold for me when they can. With Cesar the status of his vision and his court appearances and obligations will control. But as I just reminded Richard, who I've not bothered in a long time, my requests for copies of NEVER AGAIN!, at least five ^{times} have been ignored. I wanted some for use in possible promotions with the media and some for those who have helped me.

I had noon, for example, to send the book editor of the Pittsburgh Post Gazette more than a week ago. I had to refer him to C & G. He is going to do a story on me rather than what I tried to switch him to, NEVER AGAIN! I hope it persuades him to review it. He'll be here this coming week.

I wanted two for Post Outlook editors who have written on the assassination. One actually bought a copy for its book-section editor, of Case Open, and tried to talk her into reviewing it. (If any review copies were sent out I've not heard of one on my book.) If I'd had it I'd have sent a copy to the ^{Post} daily book reviewer, a different kind of person. We've had some correspondence.

I am hearing, though, that places where ~~it~~ ^{NEVER AGAIN!} was not known or available now in some instances have it. But Walden did not order any copies for some stores and some of them either have not or are not allowed to order for shelf stock even when they are getting special orders.

If you remember to have Dr. McKnight's name on the package to the Hodson library they will call him and he will go and do what they will want to do with these manuscripts.

So remember dear Raachaela, if you do not now have special interests, develop them now and ~~stick~~ stick with them or develop others.

Thanks and best wishes,

Harold

June 22, 1995

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I've only just seen your letters today. I truly appreciate your advice about sensitive skin. Thank you for your sympathy and affinity for my father.

It's very, very hard to witness the "materiality" of our changes as life prepares us for the next experience. (Bette Davis said getting old is not for sissys.) Energy can not be created or destroyed; it can only change its *form*. Wow! I love that proof. Isn't it logical that the essence of who and what we really are is eventually dispersed into the void of the unknown? As the rabbi said to his wife as he lay dying: "What are you crying for? This is what I've been preparing for, studying for my whole life!"

Meanwhile....

That carton of work manuscripts is so heavy that I can hardly budge it, but I've left instructions to have it sent directly to the Hodson Library address you gave me.

.....and I did tell Carroll and Graf to have books sent to Lasar weeks ago. (I don't know what to say about why things don't happen or do!)

Love,

Raphaela