

17 July 1972

Dear Harold:

Another week-end cleanup of odds and ends.

The sketch you sent of Smokey Cantor does suggest Bremer in the shape of the head and the dark glasses, but the ~~az~~ hair strikes us all wrong. Smokey's hairline has receded much too far, and Bremer's hair is closecropped and very curly, almost kinky if one judges from the photographs. Smokey's is depicted as ~~long and stringy~~ long and stringy, hardly possible for Bremer.

This replies to your 8,9,10 and B and C, it being only at this late date that we've figured out where you put your numbers. I'm confident that we've missed nothing prior to this momentous discovery. Everything arriving very promptly, byk the way.

Yes, our phone number is as you have it.

We return herewith a confidential copy you sent, and I'd like to say that your later reactions to the Gary-Jerry-Sylvia thing strike us as far more thoughtful than those you first sent. I'll continue in a candid voice and say that your initial responses in cases like this appear to lean toward the bridge-burning mode and while you later retract nothing your language nevertheless is less violent and does not persuade one that your intentions are as absolute as those implied in your first reactions.

Sun Tze, and every Chinese since then, always stressed that when engaging an enemy in battle one always should leave a way out not only for one's self but for one's adversary as well. An enemy driven into a corner or cul de sac is one who will fight to the death, if he thinks he's right or cannot for some reason admit he is wrong. So unless one has decided beforehand, on the basis of the full intelligence regarding the adversary which Sun Tze always stressed, to destroy the enemy utterly, it is particularly important to leave escape routes toward a graceful or honorable retreat. If you don't, and if the adversary decides he doesn't want to be destroyed, you have on hell of a fight on your hands.

Most of our difficulties with the so-called East stem from two fundamentally different approaches to conflict and contention of all kinds. We in the West tend toward an absolutist orientation that prefers black-vs-white alignments, easily understood and emotionally satisfying. By the West I include not only all Western cultures since the Greeks but also the Ancient Hebrews and the Moslems and the more recent Russians, who after all got most of their ideas via the Church from Greece. Your identification with Old Testament attitudes fits in here. On the other hand, the East, meaning those cultures deriving from or strongly influenced by Indian, Tibetan and Chinese cultures, habitually tend toward relativistic approaches.

The great dividing line is supposed to stem from Aristotle or Pythagoras -- one of those Greek cats, who ever it was -- who propounded a theorem that ran something like: A is bad; B is good; therefore non-A is good and non-B is bad.

I may not have that exact, to borrow a deathless phrase from Henry Wade, but I hope the absolutist, black-white fallacy is clear. It's the same as saying that if Communism is bad, anything non-Communist is good' and I think we all know where this kind of thinking has got us.

Any Chinese, and any Indian who knows anything of his own culture (there are exceptions educated abroad), instinctively distrusts such a proposition, being conscious of all the shades of grey that may lie between absolute white and absolute black. In other words, he insists upon seeing the whole thing before making up his mind and committing himself.

The long letter to Howard which we are returning shows very clearly that you fully realize this, but if you will compare it with your first responses to Gary I think you'll agree that your initial responses tend toward thunderbolt hurling rather than outmaneuvering and possibly correcting someone who may be only off course. I'm not excusing Gary or anyone else. It's simply that I have the impression that you have not made it any easier for him to see, much less admit, just what he has done. Remember, he has been raised on television commercials. There is no reason for him to believe in anything, really, if that is the sort of thing that is wrong with him.

The names of the two men who made recoveries of anthropological relics in Tokyo:

Dr. Walter Fairservis, now a professor of anthropology at Vassar and associated with the American Museum of Natural History in New York, recovered the skull of the Java Man from the Emperor's museum in Tokyo. At the time he was Chinese liaison officer with Gen. McArthur. During the war he was with military intelligence in the CBI theatre.

The other guy was Dr. Frank Whitmore, who recovered from the museum at Tokyo University some Peking Man bones and fragments which came from the same site as the missing ones but were from a later period of excavation. At the time he was a staff geologist with the U.S. Army in Tokyo. I can't find the reference, but believe he is now connected with Harvard. The material he found, apparently not considered anything like as important as the original Peking Man stuff, consisted mostly of artifacts like deer antlers. Their main importance appears to be the fact that they indicate the idea that the Japanese would have thrown any of this stuff away is preposterous.

Like you, we find Veritas strangely familiar, but cannot place it.

Reverting to the matter of your mailings, B arrived open with the hasp torn away and the adhesive come apart. Apparently nothing missing, and it shows no sign of having been taped and therefore apparently just got torn upon in rough handling. One enclosure, a JBS tract, has two pages missing, apparently concerning Bremer, which we assume you removed.

On the whole, we are much encouraged about McGovern. If he doesn't make too many mistakes he ought to make it in November. This is allowing for all the advantages Nixon has, and relying upon a theory that the North Vietnamese has ^{never} got his timebale badly off the track, and know it. It is clear that all the prosm underestimated McGovern and the depth of the forces capable of being rallied behind him. Among these is a very profound disgust with the phoniness of the whole administration and its ways, and a willingness to try something that at least pays lip service to the truth.

All for now, and all the best,

jdw *Jim*