

May 9, 1982

Dearest Bu,

It was such a pleasure to talk with you! I was sure that you had received my letter by then. So called coincidences!!!

This letter I truly hate to write. I debated with myself not to write it. But you inscribed your book AMERICAN PLACES to me and the words "no veil" were in it. Yes, I do have it! I do love it! It is not that I cannot tell a lie, but I do not ~~do not~~ want to lie to you. I am very mystified, that I could not recall it. from your question I had the impression it is a very recent book. Titles and names are by now a matter of almost 100% amnesia with me. When I looked at it I remembered clearly how amazed I had been at the great variety in it. My favorites like the sandpipers and #24, 5, 16, 17, 39, 42, 44, 53, 54, 59, 70, 71, 73.... It is useless to go on because I like the left out ones really just as much with the exception of a few where the rendering of the green and sometimes the blue bother me. (always have). I do not believe, that I have not written to you after I received it, because I am almost compulsive about that, I even seem to remember, that I told you I would wait with reading the text. And it is a sad fact, that I have not read it yet, because reading heavy books is out for the duration of this silly hand incapacity. Could the letter have been lost? Might you have been away, when it came? Whatever, I am very devastated! Please, dearest Bu, credit me for my courage to confess. Please, do not strike me off the list of your book getters. I hope you know what my Eliot books mean to me?! I must seem a most ungrateful and unappreciative benefactee! I am not! Just a somewhat befuddled Mongele.

I am happy about your hip! Hip, hip, hurrah as the saying ~~go~~ goes. Not so happy about the noisy ears and very sad about Aline's discomforts. Choiceless awareness on ones own body is not too easy.

I am overcome by your output of prints this winter. What type of book will it be? If you and Jonathan write the text, I will read it even if I have to construct a machine to hold it.

When I write or talk to Goggi, I will tell him you asked about him. It upsets me more than I can say. Well...Choiceless....

Can you forgive me?

As ever, Bu

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