

(What were you going to say about contradictions?)

I was relating it to myself. In a way, Bert and I -- you say you've had a mystical experience or relationship of some kind or other -- and perhaps I idealized that people who have become totally changed -- they become changed people -- and their lives are dedicated to a certain -- in its own way -- purification. In the sense of being true to oneself and as pure as far as integrity goes, as one can be. (Which is one thing Bert was.)

Yes. (What are you say, then, in relation to Bert's contradictions?)

He is human and he operated (inaudible) (I have a very vague recollection of Bert referring to his very rigid Catholic upbringing in Holland and I think that was one of the things he resented.) I have become aware that there is something watching over me, taking care of me, guiding me. There is something. It is not chaos out there. Intellectual religionists have a way of referring to it as the Ground of Being, the Unity. When it gets down to it, this strikes me as very pretentious.

It has a purpose, which is to avoid confusion. But when you are among yourselves, among people that know you, how you feel, what you mean, the word God is really a symbol.

(How did you come to know Bert?) Henry had mentioned him to me several times (How did he meet him?) Evidently, Henry

and his wife, as a couple, and all the people they knew -- she was very rigid Seventh Day Adventist -- fanatics --

they were entertaining a group and somebody said something to the effect that "Hey, there's this hermit living out in the dunes. Why don't we take him some religious material?"

They thought this would be good. Henry was dragged along.

I think Henry feels most of the basic principles are valid.

The inner core, so to speak. He does not believe in God.

He's disgusted by the people in this organization. They all got out there and he was immediately intrigued. There

was a magnetism. Also, Henry is attracted to Bert -- was immediately because of his very wry sense of humor. After

looking at the material he handed it back and said, "Here, I won't be needing this." And evidently, some very insulting things to them. But Henry recognized this was humor. He

was fascinated by the man as an intellect because Henry is very intelligent. His exposure has been mainly to this one

rigid group. He was fascinated by the broader. . . (and

Bert was such an individual.) Right. Exactly. Not sheep such as Henry is constantly surrounded with. They are drowning him. They were evidently very angry with Henry afterward because he kept asking Bert questions about all these things like astrology and -- I guess Bert had started discussing it -- and Seventh Day Adventists say astrology is the work of the devil. He went out again a couple times just to visit Bert & talk with him. By himself. They were simpatica. Henry wanted me to meet him because he felt instinctively that I would -- I don't know how -- but, that I would like him. He had been telling me about him. Said he was a hermit and lived in this little wooden shack out in the dunes. Also, Henry knew I was interested in astrology. I think that was the main thing. And in Buddhism, and all that jazz. I'm not as interested in Buddhism as Bert was -- I'm very self centered. Finally, one day he took me out to see him. I was instantly attracted to him. I had this feeling in my heart and it went up here to my soul. It's called love. I feel it from very good people. It's just a very rich, strong feeling. I flirted and teased. We recited beautiful passages from . . . But we talked also. But just the beauty of the words. He is a Gemini. and words are a favorite thing, I don't know. But Before I went Henry had been telling me all these things about this hermit He quotes the Diamond Sutra. ^{at length} He's a great holy man. But he was terribly afraid I would be disappointed. He said, Now you know, you must not expect too much. Because after all, he's just an old man, lying there with a bad leg. (It was since Jan that you met him?) Yes, I met him this spring. I think because Henry has a sense of the marvelous that a lot of other people don't share, he was afraid I wouldn't see it. But, I was not disappointed. The atmosphere was marvelous, the house was marvelous. Bert was marvelous. Everything. (So much himself) So much himself and he's so honest and he has the courage to be. . . I've met so many people that are just sheep. They trample on just like everybody else. I admire someone that doesn't have to be that way. I just thought the whole thing was magical, you know? I wasn't even slightly disappointed. (Everyone I have taken to meet Bert has loved him because he is so much himself and so uncompromising -- something I admire very much.)

You know, you are very lucky, because he is the kind of person you want to share with someone. (I think we tend to draw the kind of people who will appreciate what we do.) But I couldn't think of anyone I knew that I would want to take to see him. (Oh, my God, why?) I'm very isolated. In a lot of ways, Henry is the only person I have in the world and he doesn't feel at all religiously, spiritually -- well, spritiually he . . .there aren't very many people around. (JThere are things to be appreciated in most human beings, but only very rarely do we meet one that is on our own wavelength.) Yes. (And time's too precious to waste it with the others.) And I have no one else. He did a great deal for me. (What was your impression of him?) I thought he was just darling. I had a great, great respect for him, for his virtues. But the main thing that I feel for him, that overrides everything else, is an overwhelming affection. I don't know why. That is the strongest thing. Stronger than those factors. Stronger than You know, I respect him for what he is. I didn't have as much of a chance to really talk to him. with him as I would have liked. about serious things. We did talk a great deal about astrology, but there is the barrier of being a young girl. in his eyes. For another thing, he was distracted by the relationship Henry and I had. And I don't quite understand why. (In some ways I think he may have been very puritanical) Well, you see, this is what I don't understand. I tend to think that everyone that is that way must be just like me and realize that nothing is sacred except relationships. If a relationship is no longer sacred and holy between two individuals, it tends to mean nothings. Perhaps it amused him to be the holy man who didn't approve. (That's what I'm trying to put into perspective -- the saintly main, the holy man, but always with a glint in his eye). That's because he knew how far from holy he was. Of course he had a lot of people that came to the "zoo." Perhaps he was performing for them. (There were many visitors, at least in past two-three years). Perhaps it was his own private joke, like I have mine. When I saw him he would say something about my "living in sin," but there was a lot more behind it than that.

(Did he ever come to tell you how he chose that life?) No. He told me how he came over, then went back, then came back. And how he bought it in 1940 (?) for \$5. from another hermit & that there was originally a colony. (As he moved in, the colony was dispersing, actually.) (He told me his nervous system simply couldn't take the chaos of society.) (Yet, he seemed like such a strong man to me. Very sensitive. Very sensitive to disruption.)

I haven't done his chart. I don't really know enough. . . (He kept talking about bad vibrations, about calamity, ^{befalling him.} That is one of the reasons he kept deferring going to the doctor.

He may have known exactly what was happening to him for a long time because that went on for at least 1½-2 yrs before he died. He pretty much chose to do it his way. (I work at Graham's Art Store) (I think one of the things that fascinated people about Bert was that he lived such a simple life materially, but that he lived such a rich life of the mind. I remember that when I went to New York I would often be by myself for the first 24-38 hours and things would come flooding in on me -- this was when I was mentally ill -- and I asked Bert if that didn't happen to him. (Unintelligible, but may have said it did) for he followed up with, "You must not be proud of this. You must not be proud of this, because it does not happen to people who have stable minds." (I'm not sure what stability is.) (Every once in awhile I wish I could meet someone who was really calm and strong and stable. (But there's no magic, no discovery, and very little openness.) Well, there's nothing to open. What you see is what you get. It's like there are people of different dimensions. Some are two dimensional, some three dimensional, and then there are some that are four dimensional. And they're the best kind. And I think the only ones that are four dimensional are those that are spiritually aware. I would say people that are open, creative, and sensitive are three dimensional, but unless you have the spiritual, you aren't four dimensional. There are lots of fine people, good people, like everybody's mothers, but they aren't four dimensional. This is essentially what I felt for Bert -- that he was a kindred soul. Henry's wife chastised Henry for talking to Bert about astrology when they could have been talking to him about God. She is a very frightened

woman. She clings to her religion. I'm sure she is a very nice lady, but they are different kinds of animals. Two people should be together to compliment, enrich, and make each other larger, not diminish one another. (Thinks she'll never marry or have children.) (I wonder if that's why Bert chose the solitary life.) Oh, I don't think Bert was very interested in women. (I don't think that's true.) No, I don't mean that he's abnormal in any way. I strongly suspect Bert never met a woman that he's . . . I think he put things like sex in their proper perspective. (I do, too.) I doubt that he ever met a woman he loved, that would enrich his life. He had so much by himself it would be very hard for another person to add to that. (I don't agree w/you, but I think it's a very interesting perception on your part. And that's what I'm after -- the different perceptions of different people about Bert. I have a very close friend who was a close friend of Bert's who had another perception. She saw a facet to Bert's and my relationship that I never saw.) What kind of facet? (From her viewpoint, she feels that one of his greatest regrets was that he was too much older and he met me when he was too old to compete for me.) That seems incredible to me. (There are a lot of things that have happened over the years that make me think there could be something to that.) (But I don't really understand it. Bert and I knew each other for years before he knew Gene and we had this marvelous rapport. As soon as Gene began going to the dunes with me to see Bert, Bert became caustic and sarcastic to me. And he'd tell him, you have to come back, you have to come back w/her when she comes, the vibrations are so strong. I don't know, I'm not sure at all that I understand, but I do know he was very special to me.) (She gets paper out to do Bert's chart.) Your venus is, its almost as close as Henry's and I. (Isn't that funny?) (He was constantly referring to this.) -- ~~this~~ this aspect as an eternal thing He was talking about your sun being on his moon. (Just from looking at Bert's chart, does it fit? His having chosen the lifestyle he did?)

(It's hard to say because there's another connotation (?) you have to do to figure out which sign predominates. Saturn is in fourth house which would mean solitude in old age and solitude in the house, depending on what's intercepted. (People became more important to him in last couple of years because he wouldn't let us leave without finding out when we'd be back.) Well, I think he knew. (What were the titles of the two astrology books Bert wanted me to have?) (I don't need them now, but I would like to know.) There are two. STUDENT CHART READER OF _____ INDICATIONS. Ok now, it was his sun on your venus. Aspects are good testimony of harmony and affection in all cases. It conjuncts your venus. OK, 98°. Sextile to your moon (?) Best indication possible of radical harmony. From the point of view of perfection it should be the man's moon and the woman's sun, as it is. Its chief importance lies in the fact that it constitutes harmony between the natures of the individuals. A very stable foundation for marriage. His moon is at 13° of Taurus. The spiritual. His Mercury is 26°. His Mercury is sextile your Pluto. (Nobody knows much about Pluto. This indicates your affinity was emotional & spiritual rather than intellectual. Now Venus is at 12° of Gemini. His Venus is square your Neptune, which is. . . ahhhhhh, this is not appropriate. Bad aspects may cause seduction. (That didn't happen.) No, I think it was that he was deprived of love because Venus can represent a loss, rather Neptune. Neptune represents, among other things, loss, sacrifice, addition to inhibition to things like drugs, religion. It's a very kind of catch-all thing. It's like the heights & the depths of a certain thing. This Venus square Neptunes means his love for you was sad because of your relative positions in life. Sacrifice in any area where he felt lacking, deprived. His Mars is 16 30 Gemini. Now his Mars -- this'll kill ya, boy will it kill ya -- His Mars is conjunct your Venus. According to the tolemy (?) a favorable aspect between Venus and Mars leads to entire love and affection, which if Mercury is also favorably involved, will be so marked as to attract attention and comment. This link is one which intensifies the sexual side of marriage. It is of particular importance in the horoscopes of young people. That's what does it -- Venus

square Neptune. This is the same as he referred to as the love at first sight aspect. Because Venus is love and Mars is passion. It would be reciprocated, of course. Because in your own way you loved him physically as well as everything else. But his Mars is sextile your moon. (I really wish I knew what all your saying means.) Oh, but I'm telling you. A square is obstacles. Opposition either cuts off or leads to cooperation. Sextile means a good opportunity. A trine means the good thing happens of itself w/o any effort. And a conjunction can be either very, very good or very, very bad, depending on other things involved. Yours are wham, right on top of each other -- very, very strong. OK, moon to Mars, that's -- ahhhh, that might be something, too. Any aspects increase the passionate and physical sides of the marriage. The good aspects keep the feelings more in check and regulate the animal instincts. Because of your respective situations this, well, not to mention age. Even though he could be 100 there would be an aspect to explain it. His Neptune is 5° in Cancer. Mercury and Taurus -- wait a minute. His Neptune is square your Mars. Which means, oh again, this says, well, this isn't really apt, bad aspects can threaten deception, treachery, violence. It can also mean disappointment. Because Neptune is the planet of disappointment. You know, under strange conditions. This is really a reference and I know enough about it to juggle things. His Uranus is 28° his Sagittarius. You have no Uranus aspects. Saturn is 20° of Aquarius. Aha! Moon to Saturn. You have a good aspect. His Saturn is sextile your moon. The good aspects also tend to cool the affections, but produce steady and faithful association in which the passions play little or no part. In other words, he feels at times that it COULD have been. His feelings toward you were completely pure, but he feels it COULD have been. (He said that many times, but I thought it was part of his humor.) But, being the decent person that he was he wouldn't. . . But he knew all of this if he compared your charts. (He did compare our charts.) Isn't it fascinating, though? (Yes.) It's something you really have to dedicate yourself to. I am really only dabbling. That's one of the most interesting aspects of it to me -- chart comparisons. He's got a lot of planets

in Gemini, which is strange, but then, he's got this Mercury and Taurus which ~~validifies~~ ^{solidifies}; because Gemini has a tendency to be a little superficial. Because he has this Mercury, this moon, ~~see moon is your personality~~. Sun is your soul. His moon and his Mercury are both in Taurus, which is VERY heavy. This weights down the flightiness of Gemini, plus he thinks he has Capricorn on the ascendent which would also add great seriousness. Because capricorns are SERIOUS people. They can be a real drag. You know, there are exceptions to a lot of things, but as a general rule, . . . But he has this moon, and Mercury and Taurus, which gives him great stability. The Neptune and Cancer, that means some kind of sorrow. Or loss or sacrifice or disappointment in the home life or the mother. (I've often wondered why he left home the way he did and why he was so reticent to talk about it. They found among his papers letters from a brother that he had never answered. I wonder, because he was such a sensitive person, why he left and wouldn't write when he was capable of such affection, strong feelings. . .) I wouldn't be surprised if he wasn't insulted somehow. (He thought they considered him the black sheep.) (I've wondered what wld cause him to sever the ties completely.) Well, you know, suppose you had people you were tied to by very social bonds & you feel nothing in common with them. After awhile you begin to resent the tie. If something happened to give you an excuse to sever it, it would be welcome. Because sometimes you can be born into a family where you feel like a foreigner. Because that's the way I am and I can see, because of the kind of background he had -- they were such stolid people -- You wonder sometimes if they got the babies mixed up at the hospital. you know, of course, they didn't, but you have all this tradition about family, home, mother, pumped into you, it's all a bunch of shit. And you think, I've been deprived of that. I'm a stranger in the bosom of my family. The popular mythology shoves it down your throat, whether it's true or not. (Are you finished with these books, Mary, or would you like to keep them awhile?) I'd like to keep the brown one awhile, but I'm through with the green one. Wld you like the brown one? (Not until you're finished)

(Thanks for talking to me. It's helped. I never could separate the things Bert said about us from his humor.) Well, sometimes people use humor to enable them to say things they are otherwise to shy to say. He was a very lovable and loving person. The reason I resisted was because I just knew something like the moon sextile Saturn was there. I just knew that Bert wasn't going to have lustful feelings for you. (I didn't feel like he did have lustful feelings.) Well, of course not. He had all these feelings for you. However, because of the way things were it was never a physical thing.