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Erev Shabbat Hagadol.

Dear Rabbi Lamm,

I have time just for a short note to extend to you and your family the season's greetings.

This period since I say you has truly been one of turmoil. About ~~the~~ [REDACTED] whom I believe you met while you were in Israel-well, apparently she has turned out to be the exceptional student of this new sem for mature girls (Oy vey!). It is still in the balance with all the agonising uncertainty that that involves... didn't know that a strong healthy young man like me could suffer so much emotionally from waiting for the lady of my choice. Anyway, I suppose one must have patience for the fairer sex and realise that virtue is not only on one side. She knows I am a bit eccentric and I think it is worrying her whether to take the jump of marriage. All women I suppose want security. Time will indeed tell and in the meantime we both suffer-such is life.

Next September I am going to Sheffield to do a post grad diploma in education-a must here after 1972 if one wants to teach in a state school. After that I'll have to wait and see. My stay in N.Y. did not solve all my internal problems and altho' I gained something very special from my yechidus and attending the vabrengen, I still have to relate to the dilemmas of my own life. I can't and don't want to shake off my secular skin and adopt an east european weltanschauung and I don't mean this in a perjorative sense. It's difficult to explain in words but thank G'd my Lubavitch friends understand to a degree otherwise I would be faced with an unbearable either-or dilemma of identity. For the moment I am quiet and keep in the background as much as possible. I think living away in Sheffield will do me good-it will be a challenge in more ways than one and make me more aware of what I am.

I received a letter today from my teacher Rav Carmel who is now in Jerusalem and has set up together with a Rabbi Horowitz a special yeshiva for western types ^{students}. He mentioned about the effects of few years of solid learning would have on me if I had the opportunity of getting a grant.

In principle I agree but went on to say that it is all very well for the phlegmatic Litvish stereotype, but for the passionate soul who has not yet the maturity to contain his yearnings within the shakla vetariya of rabbinic debate, the regimen even at my age, would be suffocating. We have discussed this many times before and it always seems to boil down to the fact that different personality types can't view reality in any other way and cannot appreciate different experiences and reactions which are both deep and delicate. It is useless to argue that one is being naïve shortsighted or a dreamer. It is only the painful shocks of outrageous fortune which bring about the necessary mellowness. Do you agree?

I must end here. My finals begin on June the seventh and I am trying to get down to some work. My sister is coming home from Israel just before Yom tov and is getting married on Lag Beomer to a Canadian. ^{ש'ק}

^x At least 170 yrs old!! Last week for the 2nd time I heard a tape I made while in N.Y. of really avant garde gagaim nigunim!! Nearly everyone who has heard them think they are mournful dirges - for me they express what it is all about. Just goes to show how subjective are our evaluations and I think that it is good to bear in mind especially ^{shanty} when we celebrate that historic liberation both inner and outer, to what extent can one transcend one's limitations and grasp a little of that Absolute which we often talk about with such conviction?

Best wishes to your dear wife and family and a happy pesach

שלום וברכה
לכל המשפחה
ביום טוב
של
פסח
נ'כא