

14.4.70.

Dear Rabbi Lamm,

I trust you are well. I was reading over my last letter to you recently, and I felt perhaps it was rather aggressive and even a little rude. I apologise and I hope this is not the reason you have not yet replied.

Besides the Lubavitcher Rebbe ^{אבד"ק}, you are one of the few rabbis I can respect and to whom I can look for some guidance and inspiration. Intellectually I am very lonely here in England. Without intending to ^{be} arrogant, I am able to talk with scientists about science, philosophers about philosophy, Halakhists about Talmud and halakah and artists about art. But I also want someone who can correlate and synthesise all these disciplines into one magnificent unity. Am I expecting too much?

I do not know if I mentioned that I have composed some music which is an expression of my experiences over the last few years. I have been told that in parts it sounds like Bartok and in others like Stravinsky! I would love to arrange it for a quartet or quintet. I have an especially lovely theme for the cellos and violas floating about at the back of my mind. There is only one catch. I do not have the technical knowhow to notate and arrange the music.

This again illustrates the point that it is not enough to have intuitions and feelings. There is a need also for a discipline, a technique and ability to express one's true potential. Only in this way can it become manifest. Similarly with Halacha and the discipline of daily living.

I just don't have time to study music really seriously. One cannot do everything one would like to, but even this thought doesn't mitigate the frustration. The only consolation is that I can play my piece, which is still in a state of flux over four basic themes, on my violin and my sister's viola.

I hope it is not an imposition asking you to write when you have time. I again apologise if I was rude. I am an angry young man, but I hope not for a lost cause!

Yours sincerely

7/12/70

Michael Tabor.