

April 12, 1967

Dear Sy: [Freegood?]

Many thanks for your two letters and for the transcript of the tape. Thanks also for discussing the latter with the analyst. I recognize of course that the decision rests with me. As far as I am concerned, I know very well that if I make enough fuss I can pressure my superiors into letting me out of here in one way or another. On the other hand, since I tend to let off a certain amount of steam when talking about the system here, I may create the impression that I am eager to get out. I am not. Not that I want to spend the rest of my life in a kindergarten: but with the completely unique set up that I have now, I am absolved from the kindergarten and have things just as I like them. When I said I was interested in analysis, I meant that I realized it would be very useful for me: but not at the cost of having to leave here and live in a city. I have here what I want, and in a city I would have everything I don't want. It boils down more or less to that.

If I started being analyzed, I imagine the first thing the analyst would want to know would be why the hell I was such a dam fool as to leave something I had wanted and struggled for all my life, in order to pay him twenty five dollars an hour to ~~xxxxxxx~~ listen to my reasons for having wanted it. Thus far I can do my own analysis. I have what I want and I do not experience any kind of urge to reach out for something else, when I am reasonably sure that I could never get it so good anyplace else. I can live with my anxieties, which are the usual ones I guess most people have. Though I would gladly get to the root of them, I think I stand as much chance of doing so just sitting around here and figuring out my own problems for myself. The woods seem to be the best kind of therapy I have hit so far. At any rate I have moments of conscious happiness which are unusually frequent. In this day and age, I consider myself very fortunate.

Probably the best thing for me is to be visited and upbraided by well informed friends. When are you and Anne coming down?

I enclose a note for Anne, about some poets she might want to publish. ~~xxx~~ Slate's visit was lively, and we will probably leave a literary estate that will confuse all law for centuries to come. I refer of course to the estate of Victor Hugo.

Best wishes always, and I hope all is well with you. My best to you both.