

Miyami 15 Nishi 7.

Sapporo, Japan

January 20<sup>th</sup> 1938.

Dear Brother John.

Thank you very much for your letter of a month ago tomorrow. I hope all the Christmas services & festivities went well, and have resulted in an increase of Spiritual Life, which is a thing I am interested in.

I liked your Vicar's Letter and it is nice to find he is that sort of Groupie, if indeed he is. There is the other sort, you know. Thank you too very much for all the things you say in your letter. It is nice to know we are still on speaking terms — in fact, if only you broaden the Group just a little more, I shall find myself inside (I hope), without even having moved. Perhaps that is the whole secret of the Group Movement — if you don't Move to it, it Moves to you. I would like to point out that the Group stands to gain considerably by moving along to my little cubby hole, because there is such a wealth of good Sound Doctrine waiting for them (or It), and ready to Fill the Aching Void that Frank can never Fill.

I'm so glad the Group has given up Scalp Hunting. They used to hunt them once with a vengeance, didn't they? But really, John, you must be careful, your letter is so eminently sane.

and sensible that if you aren't very careful you will be  
Un-Grouped. The Un-Grouping Ceremony has never been  
recorded by a third Party, and I for one must admit that it  
is an Entertainment at which I would Rather Not Assist. ~~It~~

In fact, the only unbalanced point in your letter that I can  
see is not your own Observation, but a quotation - to do with  
the "degree" of divinity which is ours. I'm so glad you saw the wrongness  
and absurdity of the statement, though you were Group-Loyal (Group-  
Honest? Group-Absolute??) enough merely to say that the remark  
was "putting it in an extreme way". Which extreme you don't say,  
but I do - the extremes of Folly, Ignorance and Presumption all in one.

I like the "narrow churchy sense" of the word "priest" don't  
you. I have just learnt the forms of Priestly Confession and Absolution: Why  
wasn't I told before? I wish there were some penitents I could help with it.

What you call "my" doctrine about one life not being an  
extension of the Incarnation, is not mine at all. I borrowed it from  
the Holy Catholic Church. As it happens, I am a member of that  
particular Spiritual Leader's Library, and if there is anything else you  
want, I can probably get it for you. I am a Life Subscription  
Member, it is the most satisfactory way.

And I have got as far as this without even mentioning  
your Christmas presents! Thank you very much indeed for them.  
I have had many a laugh from the Calendar already, and

the Weekly Illustrated Annual is fascinating. I am much more interested in England & its happenings now that I am an exile from her green & pleasant pastures. This cubby hole which I have here is excellent as a cubby hole, but it has its limitations, especially for one who appreciates Society.

I have sent all the news in my circular letter - there is a little news this time, because I went travelling for almost 3 weeks at a rate of over a thousand miles a week. I made the C.M.S. pay all right. Golly they do keep a tight fist on the dough. Well well, I seem to have got on to vituperation, & that is a warning to stop.

With lots of brotherly love (I have no one here to send her sisterly love)  
from Joe.

P.S. You ask me what I think of I John v. 18. His nice in its way. As for Matt. v. 48 ("Be ye therefore perfect") I think it is one of Our Lord's funny jokes. I do really.