

May 3, '79

Dear Ruth - I'm glad you wrote and wish we had had contact before. Not that it could have been of influence in affecting David's behavior, but you might have understood it a little better.

help

Arturo and I are shocked at your news and the complete irresponsibility it shows. I'm sorry we can't be of any practical - but you have seen how simply we live in Tepoztlan. Arturo was more interested in doing what he wanted to do than making money. But he had the strength of character to always find an answer and our 50 years together have been a series of adventures - always contributing to the musical life of wherever we lived.

I believe David has a similar desire to do special and personal service. But he has not integrated his life. He has an IQ of 165, a classical education at U. of Chicago, the recognized center for "eggheads". All pointed toward a professional career and probably serious writing. He taught at the U. of Puerto Rico for 1 year, then a year in Jr. College in Chicago. Finally for 4 years in the California system. Here he got caught up in the cultural Revolt of the '60s. A college student who goes off-beat can experiment with new ideas for 2 or 3 years then get back into the world of reality in time to build a productive life. But when a college professor approaching 30 kicks over the traces he is dislocating himself from his past and his training and heading into strange fields.

Are you  
familiar  
with this?

At this period David went to the U. of Saskatchewan. From then on you probably know more about him than I do. His various experimental projects, very loosely connected with financial gain. His interest in prisoner paroles, etc.

He was self-engrossed and lacked understanding of the responsibility of a man toward his home and family.

I feel he allowed himself to think brain-activity was the sole object of living and denied the importance of the heart and what, in old Anglo-Saxon, are called the guts, in building a sane and full life. And perhaps good old commonsense.

We and I always had a close relationship but in recent years it is strained for I have tried repeatedly to awaken a sense of reality in him.

Arturo is dismayed and disgusted at the way he has failed to use his exceptional abilities and there is little contact between them.

The exceptionally high IQ contributed to his difficulties. We did 6th grade reading in the first grade. Most teachers have mediocre minds and resent the super-smart student. There were perhaps two understanding teachers, through his 11 years of public school (he skipped the 2nd grade). David repeated the fact that, because of the demands on the life of a symphony conductor, there were times when his father's needs took precedence over his. One does not put on a temper tantrum before a man who is carrying the Beethoven 9th in his head.

His first marriage - during his college years when they were both 19- to 20 art major who had entered U. of C. from her sophomore year of high school - seemed at first a good one. David was editor of the culture dept of The Maroon. Gwen did the art work. And they were nicknamed The Culture Vultures. But when college days were over Gwen wanted a settled life with dances, bridges - the bourgeois picture complete. David chose Puerto Rico, a bicycle trip through the British Isles, etc. After he spent one semester at the U. of Cambridge working for

a doctorate she became pregnant and they came to Chicago for a year. At that time Gwen complained David didn't assume the duties of a husband around. <sup>John</sup> They were divorced after 3 years of marriage. Gwen married a doctor and took the daughter.

This might assure you that the basic weaknesses in your marriage were pretty completely due to David and not to you.

I think you are brave and have strength of character to build a life for yourself and your children. Having a new child at this time requires courage and fortitude. I'm not a praying person but my thoughts will be with you.

I shall write to David of course, but after years of concern and worry I'm resigned to the fact that he must make his own life.

My love to Zeke, Rose, Jesse and Lily.

and thanks to Rose for her drawing.

I'm enclosing a candid camera shot by Jaime, one of the son-in-laws of the Mexican family who bought the south half of our land. It's very sunny and squinty. We've been here 9 years this month. Arturo will be 80 next birthday and I 74.

Arturo joins me in concern for you

*Love - Elens*

P.S. In case my letter sounds constrained please understand that 41 years my son has been a chief concern in my life. Now that he is 41 years old I must accept the fact that he is a grown man and not receptive to motherly criticism. He knows that I love him and I hope we will maintain contact.

Please keep in touch with me. Note that our box number is 252. Fortunately we got your letter.