

April 29, 1990

Dear David,

I planned to write this letter three weeks ago when I received your letter sent to me via Stoszek Chojewski.

but the recent weeks have been so hectic that I didn't have a spare moment and when I had one, I was too tired to do anything sensible.

Thank you so much for the copies of your articles and the new issue of Proof texts. I read everything immediately just after receiving them because

half an hour after the mailwoman had brought your letter, Marvin was kind enough to have a very long nap (nearly 3 hours, it

was a gloomy, rainy day). I'm so happy you wrote that article on your visit to U.S.,

thanks to it I know more about your feelings and impressions. It's so well-written,

I wonder whether the Commentary received any letters in reference <sup>to</sup> your essay? By the way,

have you ever tried to write fiction? It

seems you have some talent in this field,

the way you write and speak.

The other article is very interesting too, ten

more so since I'm interested in a similar topic.

I found Anita Norwich's essay on fingers quite helpful too. Anyway, it was a great pleasure to receive all this unexpected reading and be able to read it immediately.

I feel very sorry for Stosh & Monique but maybe I look at it slightly more optimistically because I've had much experience with mentally handicapped people. As you might remember, Chris, before coming to Poland, worked in Cambridge for several years with the mentally handicapped. Here in Poland he also did some volunteer work with people involved in L'Espece, the organization established by Jean Vanier whose purpose is to enable the mentally disabled to live a relatively normal life with other people. I had a chance to go several ~~times~~ times to camps organized by them. We also made several parties in our apartment. Also, some of the handicapped visit us from time to time and call us quite often. Some of them are with the Down syndrome and it's amazing what progress they make with proper care and lots of love. What is amazing and striking is their

sensitivity, joy and sometimes common sense that "normal people" lack. I can imagine that you love a handicapped child even more than a healthy one because you know how helpless he or she is. The greatest worry, of course, is what will happen to the child when parents die. Certainly a healthy child is the greatest blessing but a handicapped one comes from the same God. In a sense you can see more God in such a person, the way these people pray or imagine God. Besides, any "normal" person can become handicapped due to some accident or illness. I know how much work and endurance and patience you need to raise a handicapped child but it seems that a lot depends on your attitude. I hope Mommie will feel better soon, now she must be still exhausted after her pregnancy. They are such wonderful people surrounded by many friends and so sensitive & understanding.

I'm sending you a catalogue from the Jewish Culture festival. I had a lecture there too but it's not in the programme since the organisers asked me to read a paper about a week before the conference and one of the scholars from Israel couldn't come. Unfortunately, I can't participate in the whole festival because I'd have to go to London for 10 days. As you'll see from the catalogue the program is very rich and interesting.

Chris is leaving for Canada on May 9. It'll be hard without him but I wouldn't get a leave now (we have classes till the end of May and then exams & entrance exams) plus it would be risky to go together without Chris having a good job. Therefore we hope to join him in August.

Lots of love to

I translated two chapters from Sotahim Goryy and sent them to prof. Shmunk and to evaluate my translation.

your wonderful Three

Ellowitz + Chris +  
Martin