

Nov 5

My own Dearest

I've had such a lovely letter from you this morning. But first I had better tell you that I am quite well again. My temperature only went up to 101 and I had a good night & am quite normal this morning. I haven't got up yet because Mildred extracted a promise from me yesterday that I would not. But as soon as she get back from the hospital & shall with draw it and get up.

I have read very carefully your letter about religion that I received this morning. In one or two places I am not sure if I quite follow your meaning but most of it I do understand.

You begin by talking about the book I told you of. I think the author is trying to show at probable immortality that can be combined with the accepted Christian faith. As I don't accept the Christian faith in a very orthodox way I don't mind about that only I thought it a real & good & possible conception of immortality.

I can't tell you dearest how beautiful I think all you vision of souls seeking after the pure and good & excluding more & more all that does not come up to the highest. Till as you say they would lay down their lives rather than lose one or deny one smallest grain & what they

know to be right. I have just been reading  
a very beautiful passage in War & Peace  
Prince Andrey is wounded & after Borodino &  
many wounded men leave Moscow with the  
Rostovs. Prince Andrey is thinking during  
his illness

'And suddenly thought & feeling again swam out with  
extraordinary clearness & strength.

Yes, love, not the love which loves for some purpose or  
for some reason, but the love which I experienced for  
the first time when, dying, I saw my enemy & yet loved  
him. I experienced that sentiment of love which is the  
very essence of the soul, and for which no object is  
needed. To love your neighbour, to love your enemy! To  
love every thing - to love God in all His manifestations!  
A dear man may be loved with a human love; but  
only an enemy may be loved with a divine love.  
Loving a man with the human love, one can pass from  
love to hatred; but the divine love cannot change.  
Nothing not even death can destroy it. It is  
the essence of the soul."

Don't you think that is very beautiful. All  
the virtues we strive for are really swamped  
in the great glory of divine love. Its too big  
to call a virtue. And every little bit of that  
love that we keep and cherish in our souls  
raises us up to God quicker & more completely  
than any thing else can. Its not very easy to  
talk about divine love and say what it is

its love with absolutely no thought of self in it, no passion of desire. There is some divine love in our love for one another I know.

I want prayer & to come to God through prayer because in the ordinary way my soul does not open itself often enough. Therefore I crave some formal way to open it. I don't for one moment think that prayer is the only way. We are much happier and more generously alive when our souls open to God but sometimes we get into a rutty place in life & its hard to crawl out. I believe or think that if one had learned to come to God through prayer one would be able to lift ones self above those times & they would be no longer of any account and one would be so much stronger. I have not learned much how to pray but I want to.

I make less & less of parting ways with you at first when we used to talk together of religion, and we did not do it nearly enough, we don't now, I felt we were a very long way apart. I did not think you cared or ~~what~~ were as religious & I was but in time I came to find out that your religion had left behind the plane that mine was and that I must get to yours, now I think I have at any rate

partly got these, and that though our ways & words for approaching God may differ somewhat the spirit in which we approach is very much akin.

Dearest let us never be crushed by the outside of life. One soul alone could keep itself fresh and bright in spite of every thing if God were with it, and if we together keep loving one another and every one a every beauty besides we ought to be able to do it.

I don't feel that I have answered your letter quite properly yet I have in the spirit because I have told you the thoughts it has brought to me.

I agree entirely that God does not come more in Church than at other times, or the whole less but I am not sure that is not partly our own fault, though only partly as is shown by the general disunion with the Church.

I shall finish this letter later when I have read the paper & I expect when I have got up. The garden boy has got influenza so he could not bring up the paper & it arrived brought up by nurse on her morning walk.

I am not going to get up today which makes me feel very cross I'm afraid. I do so hate being in bed unless I feel too ill to be up. However Mildred has come back from the hospital with a tale that after being well for a day or two people get ill again with this flu. She suggested I had better stay in bed for two or three days which I so obviously ridiculous that I did not feel inclined to stay in bed at all. However I have consented to for today + am very bored in consequence.

The paper is full of thrilling news today. We have + the French + Americans have made another big advance taking already counted 10,000 prisoners + many guns. But the most moving news is that the Versaille council have fixed their terms for an armastice, but they cant make them public till the allied governments + the German government have heard them. I cant understand why the German government should have to hear them before we do, it seems a little secret but there is sure to be a good reason + we shall soon know. Isn't it specially thrilling to see that Bonnewell

says he thinks that the Germans will accept these terms. We may have an armistice in a month week. I can hardly believe that it is even possible.

I simply roared with laughter when I read the parliamentary discussion about whether women should sit in parliament or not. I don't suppose you read it. I wish you had Mr. Hobhouse I think asked what would happen if the Prime Minister were a woman & were in that state that every loving wife should be. Isn't it ridiculous & childish of people to talk like that.

Dearst just fancy if you are back in a few weeks. What talks we shall have to have about prospects for the future. The question of the school etc will have to settled before too long a time has passed.

George you must write moral & religious essays for boys. The letter you wrote me today was so lovely that it is essential you should write for a wide circle. I think it would be successful any way I am sure it is worth trying.

Your very very loving

Ruth.