

Dark night.

Rosemary Cottage,
Granville Terrace,
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Jan 28th 1941.

My own Darling One -

Your lovely Sunday letter has just come - I wrote you a long letter yesterday - but that was a "special" - an emanation from recent Conflicts - whether a healthy growth or not will be proved in time. Yes I heard 2 more of "blue prints" talk I missed the one I think he must have given the day you left. I found them helpful. That T diagram is simply the "Yin Yang" theory. represented as you know in Chinese by  - a symbol I like better than the T as it makes a more united sign than the blunt blocking of the — in T. W comforted me to hear him say that the T was absolutely necessary - the Conflict was necessary to growth - Heavens, there is Conflict enough in my struggling mind and heart - I think the hardest since we have been married is the one between you and the Children. Don't you remember how often we said how I love you both but you will pull in opposite directions - this I expect saves me from altogether spoiling you both. I must work it out some way or I will so exhaust and knock myself out that I can do nothing for any of you. The Clockwise garden - there are temptations to get deep into the Centre and maybe I have not lived in that Center enough - but we must go out to - round the Circumference, must we - or be no use to anyone outside ourselves.

I got a library book from Jones - "The Blanket of the Dark" John Ruskin. I'm to thank it. It centers round the College life - rather monastic of Oxford so far - but being a historic novel I think we'll leave the monastery for the police soon. It rather shows that the monastic life did not produce except in some rare souls what we would have thought - or what oneself yearns for at times. ^{that} the harder life Christ offers - "not ~~to~~ ^{to} take them out of the world - but to be kept in it" - is more likely to help to a better world order - don't you? But faith needs "still, its Christ and Love its Galilee" - We must provide that for each other if and where we can. This seems to be more of yesterday's letter - I must answer yours.

I'm afraid the Violet had had frost - we must look for more now we have had a few milder days. Have you any primrose roots - we planted them on the bank by the nut tree. If you took one out now & potted it and kept it in a warm room it would bloom beautifully. There is a Violet from our own garden. The birds eat the primroses as fast as they come. There are Snowdrops in Mrs Metcalfe's garden. Even sending you 1 lb of bread I have not taken all our bread - as only I eat it - but I notice last time I had it both children wanted some so I'll take one this week - it will last 14 days - and send you it next week.

A pamphlet came telling us we should arrange a place to go to if our house is bombed. M^{rs} Metcalf - or rather I should say Jon's sister M^{rs} Bethrick will gladly take us in. I think I shall put a change of clothes in a suitcase - also make up a little case of stores and take them there now. I've said I'll take M^r & M^{rs} Metcalf in if they are bombed - or the whole family for a day or two if they are bombed. You I suppose can't the Reservoir Lab as a temporary shelter if Oulden goes - and M^{rs} Stevens would go to Hilda or her sons wife - I suppose we may expect something soon.

Nice of Gimmewett to do you the parchment.

We have seen the sun at intervals only - and I've taken advantage of them. Strangely they always occur when Tom is "off duty" - so now she blames her sister for all the bad weather she had last year. So far it has always rained for Gillian's going & coming to & from school. The garden is so soaked that everything is rotting in it. So you are a fire watcher. Can you make yourself a hot drink at nights? Be sure you have food near you - food makes up for loss of sleep - and please for my sake attend to this or that night. Gillian is really trying to please me. She can see I mean that the things I want are for Pema's good & they may cross Pema's own wants - so she now

"Well mother I don't want to do it but since you say so I gladly will" - at least she tries to say this and does sometimes. Real Victory I call it. and always hug that little girl -

America does lack dignity in its celebration tho they may be more jolly. They could scarcely be more colorful than our Coronation etc. Their father Xmas is much jollier than ours - and as Val shows my even wear a bob at the end of his cap -

Must go & meet Gillian now - will ring you up tonight as I hear a train in the East was bawled -

7:15 p.m. - Just had our little phone talk so you seem near. So glad you have got through your night watch and found it not too bad.

Gillian listens but does not comment much on Alice in Wonderland. seems to take the nonsense bits rather for granted as Merdys says "That was silly - or funny." But she was furious with the cork in Pig & fellow for shying the pots and pans about - and was not quite sure that Alice should have walked into the house past the frog fork man -

Ann teaching her Ludo, draughts and dominoes - played more or less properly - also word making & word taking. She finds those things thrilling. She is teaching Emma "Ring a ring of Roses". Gillian wants to know where Jesus had his air raid shelter in case the siren went.

Five 5 sirens in one day - I thought things had been quieter lately -

Goodnight my darlings - God bless and keep you -

All my love always - Ada.