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Jan 19, 2019

Dear John,

We have been having lots of rain, so much I think you would feel very much at home. I have never seen this much in the 12 years I have lived in Long Beach- so far we have had 8.5 inches!. I don't mean to complain - we have had so many dry years. The soil is being rinsed of the many salts that have accumulated. The deep roots of our trees and bushes will be getting pure water for a change.

Did you ever see the Los Angeles River? Normally it is a large, cement lined ditch, with a few sandbars and perhaps some dry bushes. Right now it is a wide flowing river of muddy water, and the high water line is several feet above the surface.

The many years stash of weed seeds is beginning to germinate. A tiny plant I can't identify, is sending tender little round leaves up through the cracks in my driveway. There is also a sunflower in the driveway- planted by some bird. The cracks between the bricks in my patio are now home to Alyssum and Johnny Jump Up's (a sort of tiny pansy) that I had growing in pots last summer, as well as seedlings of a plant that becomes 5 feet tall. My gravel pathways are full of all sorts of sprouts. My fingers seem to be always dirty. I am hoping that my mother's blue Iris will bloom too.

*Good description*

The hills are beginning to get green. The embankments of the freeways are green. Every open space is green. There will be some wild oats, and other grasses. There will be mallow and lamb's quarter and several kinds of mustard and and of course, foxtails. Perhaps there will even be California poppies.

I remember when you and Phillipa were here at UCLA with me, how much you loved the blooming desert. It must have been a fairly wet year since the desert doesn't bloom often. I am sure we will have a blooming desert this year - if fact it's probably started.

Green wishes from California,

Love,