

Later in the evening,
March 9th.

Dearest Patricia:

I must put on paper my reactions to today. - primarily thanks, many times over joy and happiness and the feeling that we are closer now and more secure in our relationship because of the added understanding that came from our easy & frank discussion at dinner time & afterward. Please don't ever feel that I am trying to pressure you, or impose my wishes on you. If what I may say isn't always clear - just ask me directly what I mean, for any time that one party to a relationship doesn't understand or truly communicate with the other, he can react only on the basis of misunderstanding or lack of understanding, either of which is a form of unreality.

I realize that, on the basis of traditional or customary reaction patterns you, as a younger person than I and as a student might be expected to be more shy & more reticent to counter with positive disagreement or with requests for explanation. However, as I have said before and as I most sincerely mean it, among the qualities in you that I most ~~admire~~ ^{admire} & treasure is the fact that you have so much strength in your personality. I delight in you.

determination to be you, & to stand
on your own beliefs & your own thoughts
& conclusions. So few young persons do
this - or for that matter so few adults -
really that regardless of age such
persons are extremely rare. I glory in
your individuality & I look up to you
for it. I really feel ^{as} completely humble
in your presence as I have with any
of the few outstanding friends I have
had in my life time. This humility is
one that bespeaks trust and confidence
as well as admiration and affection. I
prize your acquaintance and I learn
from you as much as you ever may
from me. A young friend from whom
an older person can learn & thereby retain
more of his own youth is a pearl of great
price - I prize our relationship above
everything else I know. Often when I
think about it I am moved to tears of
poignancy - not the weeping that you have
abandoned by becoming stoical in the
face of hurt or deprivation, or desertion by
someone whom you have had every right to
expect to be loyal - but the type of tears
that are called forth by experiences that
touch the heart or are evoked by ^{great} beauty
or innocence (as when I view a children's
pet parade in Palo Alto - it happens every
spring - and my eyes at times get so

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blurred by tears of appreciation of the little kids that I can hardly see. I feel this way about you at times. - believe me! I feel that a bond exists between you and me that consists of - and is still being forged - of goodness, and kindness, of trust and affection, and understanding that are priceless. Let's see them grow and grow and grow - till the bond can transcend anything else that happens to either of us and be a source of enduring strength, of reassurance, and faith that will ~~not~~ sustain and enliven all the rest of our lives.

As to your poetry - I feel deeply what I said tonight - that it has qualities of insight and whimsicality that are marks of real poetic genius and that should not be touched by anyone. I deeply regret that I ever produced any other impression by anything that I said or wrote. If you wish, I will voice no ~~my~~ suggestions relating to changing anything - certainly there'll be no thought of "correcting" or modifying them. If you feel it would be better to seek "criticism" (that I have never intended) elsewhere, I'll gladly ~~not~~ refrain from any commentary and just appreciate your verses because of their genuine poetic beauty which is of a quality and a beauty of

expression that I do not have - another reason or justification for humility on my part. But do allow me inside your sphere of trust and understanding so that I may again read your verses and be enriched by them.

Today you brought me joy by sharing tea + Lindy Lannerve's chocolate cupcakes with me for breakfast - and by having dinner with me again. We did have such a good time sharing experiences and plans. - And I get a surge of happiness from dining with you - for any time I eat with you it is dining! Then I was as happy as a boy in being able to share in your shopping. Maybe I can't really express what such things mean to me, but they affect me deeply - they mean sunshine, and beauty, and love that make life worth while for me once more!

I am honored & humbled & brought to a state of rejoicing because you will go to the mandolin concert, because you will ~~be~~ go to dinner with me to my friends home in Ladona (Mrs. Ann Rosell) before the concert, and because you want to go to the summer meeting of the International Platform Association in July. I look forward eagerly to each of these occasions as well as to dinner dates, the movies etc. more than I can say.

And now again "goodnight Sweetheart,
till we meet tomorrow -"
Much love, as always
Carl.