



**J. KRISHNAMURTI**  

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**T H E   O P E N   D O O R**

A BIOGRAPHY BY MARY LUTYENS

*Krishnamurti: The Open Door*  
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With this volume of my biography I complete the task entrusted to me by Krishnamurti who died on February 17, 1986.

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## *Introduction*

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The bare facts of Krishnamurti's early life are too well known to warrant more than the briefest outline here. Born on May 11, 1895, in the small town of Madanapalle, 180 miles west of Madras, he was the eighth child of strictly vegetarian Brahmin parents. His father, Jiddu Narianiah, was a minor government official. Krishnamurti's mother died when he was ten, and early in 1909 his father retired and moved with his four surviving sons to the international Headquarters of the Theosophical Society at Adyar, Madras, where he was given a secretarial job.

At this time, the majority of Theosophists believed in the near coming of the Lord Maitreya, the World Teacher, and the leaders of the Society had for some years been looking for a body whom the Lord might occupy when he came, as he was said to have occupied the body of Jesus and, two thousand years earlier, that of Sri Krishna.

Soon after Narianiah came to Adyar, Krishnamurti was picked out by Charles Webster Leadbeater, one of the chief lecturers for the Society, who claimed clairvoyance. Leadbeater saw Krishnamurti on the beach at Adyar and declared that his aura was without a trace of selfishness. Leadbeater wrote to his colleague, Mrs Annie Besant, President of the Society, who was then in Europe, to tell her that he believed he had found the 'vehicle' for the Lord. When Mrs Besant returned to India later in the year she endorsed Leadbeater's 'discovery', and not long afterwards obtained Narianiah's consent to adopt Krishnamurti and his younger brother Nitya, from whom he refused to be parted.

In 1911 an organisation was founded by Mrs Besant and Leadbeater called the Order of the Star in the East, of which Krishnamurti was made the Head. This was to prepare the members of the Society for the coming of the Lord Maitreya. In 1912 Mrs Besant took the boys to England and left them there to be educated by Theosophical tutors. They remained in Europe until the end of 1921 when Mrs Besant summoned them back to India for Krishnamurti to begin his mission as a lecturer for Theosophy and the Order of the Star in the East. Krishnamurti returned reluctantly. By that time Nitya, who earlier in the year had contracted tuberculosis, was said by a specialist in Switzerland to be cured. After two months in India the brothers went on to Sydney where Leadbeater had been living as the head of a Theosophical community since 1917. On the voyage to Australia Nitya had a recurrence of his illness so, after a few weeks' stay in Sydney, it was decided that the brothers should return to Switzerland via America.

While breaking their journey at San Francisco, they accepted the loan of a cottage in the Ojai Valley, 1,500 feet above sea level and some eighty miles north of Los Angeles—a valley that was recommended as being particularly beneficial to consumptives.

The brothers remained there at Pine Cottage, as it was called, for the next eleven months. In August 1922, not long after they arrived at the cottage,



Krishnamurti underwent a spiritual experience that completely transformed his life. This experience was followed by excruciating pain in his head and spine, which came to be known as ‘the process’ and which continued on and off for many years when he was not travelling or giving talks. In October 1922 the cottage and six acres of land and a larger house, which they called Arya Vihara, were bought for the brothers by a trust set up by Mrs Besant. In June 1923, when the brothers at last returned to Europe, Nitya was again pronounced cured, but he was to have a relapse the following year and to die in November 1925—an overwhelming grief for Krishnamurti.

Nevertheless, Krishnamurti continued to pursue his mission—with enthusiasm now since his transforming experience—travelling, giving talks in Europe, India, Australia and America, and holding gatherings at Castle Eerde at Ommen in Holland, an eighteenth-century castle and large estate given for his work by Baron Philip van Pallandt. All the while he was gradually evolving his own philosophy. In April 1927 Mrs Besant declared to the press: ‘The World Teacher is here.’

It was a great shock to all the leaders of Theosophy and to most of Krishnamurti’s followers when in August 1929 at the Ommen Gathering, Krishnamurti, in the presence of Mrs Besant and 3,000 Star members, dissolved the Order of the Star\*. He never actually denied being the World Teacher; he said, ‘I do not care if you believe I am the World Teacher or not. That is of very little importance. ... I do not want you to follow me. ... You have been accustomed to being told ... what your spiritual status is. How childish! Who but yourself can tell you if you are beautiful or ugly inside?’<sup>1</sup>

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Krishnamurti told me, when I was writing the second volume of his biography, ‘If I was writing the life I would begin with the vacant mind.’ Is ‘the vacant mind’ the clue to the understanding of K (as I shall call him hereafter), both as a man and as a teacher? This vacancy and lack of memory in K has proved a great drawback in recording his life. When writing of a living person there is the handicap of criticism from his friends and contemporaries who all have their own vision of him, but there is usually the counterbalance of his own recollections, whereas in K’s case, when he did come out with some memory, one could never be sure whether it was his own or merely something somebody had told him. On the other hand, can any religious or philosophical teacher ever have had his public utterances made so abundantly available in books and on audio and video tapes?

In one of the two books K wrote himself (in contrast to his other books which are edited versions of his talks or discussions or were dictated, as were his *Letters to the Schools*), he gave two memories of his boyhood and childhood that seem utterly authentic: ‘He [he almost invariably spoke of himself in the third person, usually as K] was standing there [by the river] with no one around, alone, unattached and far away. He was about fourteen. They had found his brother and

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\* The annual report of the Order of the Star in the East for 1926 gave the total number of members as 43,000 in forty countries. Only about two-thirds of these were also members of the Theosophical Society.



himself quite recently and all the fuss and sudden importance given to him was around him. Standing there alone, lost and strangely aloof, was his first and lasting remembrance of those days and events. He doesn't remember his childhood, the schools and the caning.'

And again: 'As a young boy he used to sit by himself under a large tree near a pond in which lotuses grew; they were pink and had a strong smell. From the shade of that spacious tree he would watch the green snakes and the chameleons, the frogs and the water snakes.'

In the same book he wrote about himself: 'He has never been hurt, though many things happened to him, flattery and insult, threat and security. It was not that he was insensitive, unaware: he had no image of himself, no conclusion, no ideology.'<sup>2</sup>

There is, however, another and more important source of personal memories. In the summer of 1913 in Normandy he was set to write an essay by one of his tutors on 'Fifty Years of my Life'. He made it autobiographical, intending to add to it year by year. All that was actually written was some 3,500 words giving a sketch of his life up till 1911. This firsthand account is very valuable since it shows that at eighteen his memory seems to have been as clear as anyone else's. It also shows that at the time of his mother's death in 1905 he was clairvoyant. This was confirmed by his father.<sup>3</sup>

The death of his mother when he was ten must have caused K bewildered grief for he was particularly close to her, having been so often prevented from going to school by recurrent bouts of malaria. The move to Adyar might not have affected him much since his father's job as a rent collector had necessitated several moves from one place to another. But the change in his life when Leadbeater took him up was dramatic. It has often been emphasised that Leadbeater 'discovered' him from the beauty of his aura and not from his appearance because with Leadbeater's homosexual predilections (he had been involved in a homosexual scandal in 1906) the 'discovery' of a beautiful young boy would not have been remarkable. According to contemporary accounts K was under-nourished and scrawny, with lice even in his eyebrows, mosquito-bites all over him and crooked teeth. (His teeth were still being straightened after he went to England in 1912.) With his head shaved in front to the crown and falling to his knees in a pigtail at the back, he could not have been a prepossessing figure in spite of his wonderful eyes. A slatternly aunt looked after the household. K had had two sisters but one had died before his mother and the other was married and lived with her husband's family. K himself said that if he had not been taken up by Leadbeater he would almost certainly have died. If K was indeed the eighth child of his parents, four other children must have died as well as his sister, for he had only his married sister and one older brother living. His other two brothers were younger.

A photograph of K taken in January 1910 shows what an extraordinary change must have taken place in his appearance in the eleven months since he was 'discovered'. It is the picture of a boy of perfect beauty. But by then his hair had grown and his physical strength had been built up by very long bicycle rides, swimming, tennis, exercises on parallel bars and what was considered to be

nourishing food, with a great deal of milk, most unsuitable for an Indian body accustomed to milk only in the form of curd. (In consequence of having so much milk and porridge forced down him, K suffered agonies of indigestion right up to 1916.)

Mrs Besant was on a seven-month tour of America and Europe at the time K was 'discovered'. It was not until November 27, 1909 that she arrived back in Madras and met K for the first time. By then he and his brother Nitya, three years younger, on whom K was deeply dependent, had been taken away from school, where K was beaten almost every day because of his inability to learn, and were being taught by two Englishmen, an Indian and an Italian as well as by Leadbeater himself. (Later on another Indian, B. Shiva Rao, became an extra tutor.) The emphasis was on English in the hope that K would be able to speak to Mrs Besant in that language when she arrived. Although it was necessary for K to learn English if he was to become the World Teacher, it seems a great pity that he was allowed to forget his native Telegu and taught no other Indian language beyond a smattering of Sanskrit. When Mrs Besant read aloud to the two boys it was English books. *The Jungle Books* and *The Scarlet Pimpernel* were two K remembered in his essay and 'enjoyed very much'. The Shakespeare plays she also read to them were not commented on.

From the moment Mrs Besant, then aged sixty-two, first saw K on the station platform at Madras she loved him and continued to love him until her death, a feeling that was reciprocated. She was the only person he never forgot throughout his life, even though she died in 1934; he always spoke of her with reverence and devotion. (He referred to her always as Dr Besant although she had only an honorary degree conferred on her by the Hindu University at Benares in 1921.)

The statement in Pupul Jayakar's recent memoir of Krishnamurti that Leadbeater 'certainly demanded a Brahmin body' for the 'vehicle' is not borne out by the facts.<sup>4</sup> Mrs Besant in a public lecture in Chicago in 1909 on her favourite subject, 'The Coming Teacher', had announced, 'We look for him to come in the Western World this time—not in the East as did Christ two thousand years ago.' Indeed, the Western vehicle had already been chosen by Leadbeater. This was a good-looking American boy, Hubert van Hook, son of Dr Weller van Hook of Chicago. Leadbeater had picked him out while on a lecture tour of America a few years before and had brought him to Europe where Mrs Besant had met him. When Mrs Besant saw him again in Chicago in 1909 she was so struck by him that she persuaded his mother to leave her husband and take him to Adyar to be trained by Leadbeater for his stupendous role. At the very time K was 'discovered', Mrs van Hook and Hubert were on their way to Madras, never dreaming that Hubert had been supplanted.

What poor Hubert's feelings were can be imagined. Nevertheless, he and his mother remained at Adyar for five years. He was allowed to share K's lessons and play tennis with him but forbidden by Leadbeater to touch K's tennis racquet or bicycle for fear of contamination. When interviewed in later life Hubert expressed great bitterness.<sup>5</sup> It is doubtful whether K was aware at the time that there had been a prior choice. Hubert was a very clever boy and it is possible that

Leadbeater considered that K's 'vacant mind' would be more malleable than Hubert's.

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In the first volume of my biography of K, I gave a detailed account of his life up to 1929 when at the age of thirty-four he dissolved the Order of the Star and resigned from the Theosophical Society. The story was told largely in his very personal letters to my mother who, during the years of his education in England, was the person he loved most and the only one he wanted to be with. The second volume, which brought his life up to 1980, was concerned with the flowering of his teaching, the new friendships and relationships he formed and his travels practically all over the world, giving public talks in order to pass on to others the solution he had found for the ending of sorrow and the conflict of mankind.

K saw the outer conflict in the world as being inseparable from the inner conflict in man. Society was the result of the individual and the individual the result of society; therefore we are, each one of us, responsible for all the horror and sorrow in the world and, because every human being on earth suffers from the world's suffering, we share a consciousness with the rest of humanity and are not really individuals at all except superficially. No ideologies, no religions, no authorities, no social reforms can ever end conflict and sorrow; the only thing that can is a complete mutation of each human psyche, a stepping out of the river of human consciousness, a change in the very brain cells themselves. And the mutation has to be instantaneous; it is useless *trying* to change, for what we are today we will inevitably be tomorrow.

It was to discover how this mutation could be brought about that people came to K's talks year after year, read his books, listened to his audio tapes and watched him on video. What he had to say was sometimes so difficult to express in words that he could only attempt to say what it was by saying what it was not. For instance, in trying to come upon what love is, he wrote:

... fear is not love, dependence is not love, jealousy is not love, possessiveness and domination are not love, responsibility and duty are not love, self-pity is not love, love is not the opposite of hate any more than humility is the opposite of vanity. So if you can eliminate all these, not by forcing them but by washing them away as the rain washes the dust of many days from a leaf, then perhaps you will come upon this strange flower which man always hungers after.<sup>6</sup>

However, he had no difficulty in finding words for the nature of *in-loveness*. Someone confessed to him, 'I have fallen in love, but I know there is no future in this relationship. It is a situation I have experienced many times before, yet I am desperately unhappy without this person. How can I get myself out of this state?' K's response was:

The loneliness, the bleakness, wretchedness you feel without this person existed before you fell in love. What you call love is mere stimulation, the temporary covering-up of your own emptiness. You escaped from loneliness through a person, used this person to cover it up. Your problem is not this relationship but rather it is the problem of your own emptiness. ... It is because you have no love in you that you continually look for love to fill you from the outside.<sup>7</sup>

The nearest one will probably ever come to K's consciousness is in the extraordinary document he wrote in 1960–62. One or two of the people close to him were opposed to the publication of this manuscript, fearing that it would dishearten his followers since it showed that he was not like other men; he seemed to live in a different dimension, so how could ordinary people hope to become like him, hope to bring about a transformation in themselves? He answered this question when he said, 'We do not all have to be Edisons to turn on the electric light' and 'Christopher Columbus went to America in a sailing ship; we can go by jet.'<sup>8</sup>

What we gather from this manuscript, published under the title *Krishnamurti's Notebook*, is that what K called 'the benediction', 'the immensity', 'the sacredness', 'the vastness' and, most often, 'the otherness' or 'the other', was with him almost continuously. What was 'the other'? He always had a sense of being protected. Was it 'the other' that protected him? Did he come to 'the other' or did 'the other' come to him? In the same way it had been asked in 1927: did K's consciousness blend with that of the Lord Maitreya or did the Lord's consciousness blend with K's? At any rate, 'the other' was not personalised. Was it a power from a source from which all genius is drawn?

As for 'the vacant mind', already referred to, it was not difficult to believe in as I first remember him in about 1914. At times he was so vague and dreamy that he would start violently if suddenly spoken to; he seemed miles away just standing there; he hardly ever sat down except at meals. Yet in some moods he and Nitya would laugh and joke and generally play the fool, moods in which we children delighted. He would sometimes read P. G. Wodehouse or Stephen Leacock aloud to us, laughing so much that he could hardly get his words out. I can recall him so clearly, standing leaning against the bookcase in our drawing-room reading aloud 'Gertrude the Governess' (a particular favourite from *Nonsense Novels*), most of the story lost in his gales of laughter.

His love of laughing never left him, but the extreme vagueness did not last after his experience at Ojai in 1922 except in the sense that he never carried over from one day to another the burden of the past, and that often immediately before addressing an audience he had not the least idea what he was going to say. In the summer of 1924, when he first started talking privately to four girls of whom I, just sixteen, was the youngest, he was tinglingly alive and enthusiastic, telling us that we must change radically, what '*fun*' it was to change. The motive for change was different in those days; it was in order to become a pupil of the Master\* so that we would be better fitted to serve the World Teacher when he came, whereas in later years it was in order to save the world from sorrow and self-destruction; but the need for a total transformation was just as urgent. We were staying with Nitya, my mother and a few other friends of K's in a castle-

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\* Most Theosophists at that time believed in the Masters, the Mahatmas, who had chosen to remain in human incarnation in order to help humanity along the path to perfection instead of passing into Nirvana. They were said to live in a valley in Tibet and could be visited in one's astral form on the astral plane. Two of these Masters, Kuthumi and Morya, held the Theosophical Society under their special protection and were willing to accept pupils if of sufficient spiritual development. Only Leadbeater could tell one when one had been accepted by a Master.

hotel on the top of a mountain at Pergine near Trento. K was twenty-nine then and Nitya twenty-six. K would talk to us all in the mornings in a field below the castle after we had played a game of rounders or volley-ball, but he spoke privately to the four girls in the afternoons because it was these four who were to go to Sydney in a few months' time, at K's wish, to be 'brought on' along the Path of Discipleship by Leadbeater.

K spoke of the need for passionate feeling. An intellectual concept merely of the World Teacher was useless. It was 'the power to fall in love, to give oneself completely' that he found so lacking, especially in older people. We must not suppress feeling but sublimate it. 'Say to yourself', he told us, 'that I have every feeling in the world but they are all subservient to my will.' We must put aside all personal desires. Cleanliness, both physical and mental, was essential if we were to become pupils of the Master, but above all 'greatness in thought and feeling'. The worst thing was to be mediocre. You could rise to the highest position in the land and still be mediocre—it was a matter of *being*, not accomplishment. This horror of mediocrity ran through K's teaching all his life. (A month before his death he was telling the children at Rishi Valley, the oldest of his Indian schools, what the world mediocre meant and explaining to them that even if they became Prime Minister they could still be mediocre.)

It was much harder for the young people around K in those early days than it was for his young devotees later on. He told us that although it was only human nature to want an ordinary life with a husband, children and a home of our own we could not have any of those things and serve the Lord Maitreya too. These young girls were being urged to lead a celibate life outside a nunnery.

K's attitude to sex changed as time went on. In 1969 he was writing:

Why have you made sex a problem? Really it doesn't matter at all whether you go to bed with someone or whether you don't. Get on with it or drop it but don't make a problem of it. The problem comes from this constant preoccupation. The really interesting thing is not whether we do or don't go to bed with someone but why we have all these fragments in our lives. In one restless corner there is sex with all its preoccupations; in another corner there is some other kind of turmoil; in another a striving after this or that, and in each corner there is the continual chattering of the mind. There are so many ways in which energy is wasted.<sup>9</sup>

And three years later he was saying to a group of his followers: 'They used to tell me in my youth, you must be a perfect instrument, in what you do, what you say and how you write. Then only can the teacher use it [the body]. And you are saying exactly the same thing in a different way: "You must show that you lead a perfect life" ... You're prejudiced, you're conditioned. You say, "He must not sleep with somebody. He must not tell a lie. He must be vegetarian. He must be etc. etc." That's your conditioning. Concern yourself with your own conditioning.' It was the teaching that K was concerned with, not the personality of the teacher. 'Why do you bother whether the teacher is this, that, blue-eyed, purple-eyed or long-haired? When the house is burning you don't enquire into the colour of the man that set it on fire.'<sup>10</sup>

Given below are some extracts copied verbatim from the diary I kept at Pergine; they show what the pressure from K was like on young people in those early years:

*September 1 [1924].* Today I went over to rest at the Square Tower and there had over an hour's conversation with Krishna. He began as he always does, 'Well, Mary,' repeated at intervals while I remain inarticulate and look stupid. He wanted then to know why I wished to become a pupil of the Master. He wanted to make quite sure that it was not because everyone around was trying to become one and I wanted to have a shot at it. I tried to convince him that this was not so. I must say he seemed to understand wonderfully—and he has the great power of making things appear almost ludicrously simple. He said that one of the first things was to have an open mind—which I had not got—for it was almost disgraceful that I had so many prejudices and fixed opinions which formed terrible barriers. He said I had an over-developed mentality but that I had altogether left behind my emotional development. He then asked me a blank question: I desired something, knew what was in the way, was positive of my power to get over the obstacles—so why didn't I get there? A question I have asked myself many times. In the end he answered it himself—because I had not yet decided it was worth while giving up my whole life. That I did not feel it sufficiently. He said that I had never yet discovered anything strong enough to take me out of myself. He said that I must feel so acutely that I should be able to jump out of the window. He said I was too damned calculating—and like an iceberg.

He said many more things that I cannot remember—but nothing can portray the enthusiasm with which he brought out his similes—the fire which lit up his eyes. I could see the effort he was making to drum his own eagerness into me—I know quite well, as he said, he would give his very life to help ('to make you happy for the rest of your life in whatever you do—I would honestly—I'm not joking—give my life') and yet it was quite impossible for me to respond.

*September 5.* This afternoon I had another long talk with Krishna and I am going to do my best to put it into words. He was delighted to hear I was feeling beastly—and took it as a good omen. He began as always by saying, 'Well, how's the iceberg getting on?' He pointed out the disadvantages of being unfeeling—and all the selfishness of it. He said I must get rid of the layers of brick I had plumped on the top of my natural instincts—that it was disgraceful to be so lethargic—especially at my age—that I had a heavy body that was in the way—that I gave myself away at every movement—when I played games, walked or talked. The reason for this state of affairs was quite evident. I had seen Betty\* getting into tempers etc. and instinctively I had said, 'Well, I shan't let myself be like that.' And now he could see every day I had a feeling of irritation, of affection which was gone in a minute. That this 'self recollectedness' could be of marvellous utility if used in the right way. He said that if I once made up my mind to change—and I must change at once—that I could beat them all—get along with great strides—that he felt this in his bones. He said—'supposing someone comes to you and says they are in love with you, ready to go to the other end of the earth for you—to worship you, what would you do? You'd take it quite calmly and say, "Alright—go on then".' He said that from morning to night he was thinking of me—that even two years ago when he had woken up to all this, he had thought—will Mary come to it? He said that if only it was assured that we could all be together working in the future that he would be happy—that if I turned from it like Barbie and Robert† it would drive him mad—that he had been fond of me ever since I was a baby but I must, must, must change. He sat there drumming his enthusiasm into me. None of us realise how truly great he is—how that every minute he is sacrificing himself, working, working, working.

*September 25.* I have had more wonderful talks with Krishna—in one of which he made me weep—urging on me the need for immediate effort in case the vision of the mountain top should fade away. In the last talk it was I who nearly made him weep—and he finished by saying that

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\* Elisabeth, the sister next to me in age who became a composer. She was one of the four girls at Pergine. The other two were Ruth Roberts and Helen Knothe, an American, who was K's favourite at that time.

† My only brother and my eldest sister whom Nitya had loved. They had reacted against Theosophy in 1914.

no one will ever love me as much as he does—that none of us know what real love, real devotion is. That he wanted to see me great, happy and beautiful—and if his had been an ordinary life he would have asked me to marry him long ago.

K was mistaken in thinking I was unfeeling. I was in truth devoured by a secret, very human love for Nitya. From 1926 to 1929 I was very close to K. We had been drawn together by Nitya's death. While I was with him I could live in an ecstasy of sublimated love. My devotion, however, was not able after three years to withstand the temptations of the world during his long absences in India and America, although he wrote frequently, very beautiful letters. When I became engaged to be married in 1929 he was hurt—maybe for a day or two and then for my sake more than for his own—whereas I inflicted on myself a deep injury that lasted for sixteen years. I never, however, lost touch with K; I saw him whenever he came to London and never stopped loving and revering him. It was to be forty years, though, from the time of my first marriage before I started working for him again.



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## *Changing the Brain Cells*

By the time K dissolved the Order of the Star in 1929 he had experienced many of the feelings of ordinary humanity. He was to forget these completely; nevertheless they must have remained somewhere in his being for him to have been able to help others by such deep understanding of their problems. He had known homesickness and loneliness when he first came to England; he had known disappointment at failing his matriculation examination three times; he had known the misery which other people's jealousy can cause, not only to themselves; he had known loss of faith and disillusionment; he had been in love at twenty-six and known the misery of being separated from his love by duty when Mrs Besant sent for him to return to India in 1921; he had known the acute embarrassment of being openly worshipped and also of being laughed at; he had known adverse publicity; he had known intense physical agony; he had known months of grave anxiety over the health of his beloved brother Nitya; he had known the pain of everything he held most sacred being made ridiculous and vulgar; above all he had known devastating grief at Nitya's death. But no experience had to be repeated for him to learn its full lesson.

When he heard of Nitya's death in 1925 while on board ship bound for Colombo it seemed for ten days that he was shattered. In the words of Shiva Rao, who was sharing a cabin with him, 'At night he would sob and moan and cry out for Nitya, sometimes in his native Telegu which in his waking consciousness he could not speak,' yet when he arrived at Madras twelve days later, another friend recalled that 'his face was radiant; there was not a shadow on it to show what he had been through.'

Before the end of the voyage K had written: 'I have wept but I do not want others to weep but if they do I know now what it means. ... I know now with greater certainty than ever before that there is real beauty in life, real happiness that cannot be shattered by any physical happening, a great strength which cannot be weakened by passing events, and a great love which is permanent, imperishable and unconquerable.'<sup>11</sup>

Throughout the war years K remained at Ojai, giving no talks and seeing hardly anyone except the Rajagopals, who lived with him, and Aldous Huxley and his wife who became great friends. Most days K would go for very long walks by himself. These quiet years were, I believe, of supreme importance to him—a period of gestation which resulted in the flowering of his teaching and the writing which, encouraged by Aldous Huxley, was later published as *Commentaries on Living*.

By himself at Ojai in 1931 K was writing to my mother, 'My being alone like this has given me something tremendous and it's just what I need. Everything has come so far in my life at the right time.'

Everything in his life continued, it seemed, to come just at the right time, at any rate where people were concerned. When he returned to India after the war in 1947, having been away for nine years, he made a new group of friends who were to help incalculably in his work; in the early fifties he made an important new Italian friend, and in 1964 Mary Zimbalist, the widow of Sam Zimbalist the film producer, was to come into his life and be his closest companion and confidante until his death. She was a gentle, elegant, Europeanised American from a well-established New York family. Her father had lived in Paris for some years and she spoke fluent French and seemed at ease in all worlds.

Mary Zimbalist is the only person mentioned by name at this stage because it was with her at Ojai in February 1980 that the second volume of my book ended. K was to be eighty-five in May that year and was to live another six fruitful years. He was vigorous in mind and body and had recently undergone a psychic experience in India of which he dictated an account to Mary. He had had 'peculiar meditations' which were 'unpremeditated and grew with intensity', and one night he 'woke up to find something totally different and new. The movement had reached the source of all energy. ... Desire cannot possibly reach it, words cannot fathom it, nor can the string of thought wind itself round it. One may ask with what assurance do you state that it is the source of all energy? One can only reply with complete humility that it is so.' On returning to Ojai, 'after the body had somewhat rested, there was the perception that there was nothing beyond this.'<sup>12</sup>

At thirty-five K had been the most beautiful human being I could imagine, not only in face but in carriage, suppleness and general air of sparkling inner well-being. In old age he can best be described in the words of a man who was for a few years very close to him:

When one meets him what does one see? Truly, to a superlative degree there is nobility, power, grace and elegance. There is an exquisite breeding, a heightened aesthetic sense, enormous sensitivity and penetrating insight into any problems that one might bring to him. Nowhere in Krishnamurti is there the slightest trace of anything vulgar, mean or commonplace. One may understand his teaching or not understand it; one may perhaps criticize this or that in his actions or his words. But it is not conceivable that anybody could deny the enormous nobility and grace that flow from his person. One could perhaps say that he has a style or a class quite above, quite beyond, the common run of man. No doubt these words would embarrass him. But there you are. His dress, bearing, manners, movement and speech are in the highest sense of the word, princely. When he enters a room someone quite extraordinary is there.

K always felt a dissociation between himself and his body. He had a very special responsibility for his body and looked after it as a cavalry officer might have looked after his horse—a simile that appealed to him. He drove it hard, rarely letting it off its yoga exercises (physical ones only) and long afternoon walks, however tired he was. For many years he did Dr Bates's eye exercises regularly with the result that he never had to wear glasses. He was also extremely strict with his diet. A lifelong vegetarian, though not a vegan, he indulged in no

stimulants, not even tea or coffee. The care he took with his clothes was again akin to a cavalry officer's concern with the grooming of a horse. Wherever he went he wore the appropriate clothes for the country or place he was in so as to fade as much as possible into the background. It was not his fault that because of a natural elegance, a natural good taste in clothes and the figure of a young man he stood out wherever he went.

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In his last years K was deeply concerned with how his work was to be carried on after his death. He was insistent that there should be no interpreters of his teaching, that no one should have authority to speak in his name, that no temple or dogma should be built up around his teaching. 'Truth is not yours or mine,' he said. 'It has no country, no race, it has no people, it has no belief, no dogma. I have repeated this ad nauseam.' But discussion was not interpretation, he averred. 'Discuss, criticise, go into it. Read K's books and intellectually tear it to pieces. Or intellectually go with it. Discuss. That's not interpretation.'<sup>13</sup>

K was particularly anxious that the Foundations he had set up to administer his work should act as one and that the schools he had started in India, England and America should continue to flourish. In his last two years he had become greatly interested in the building of a Krishnamurti adult centre on land belonging to his English school, Brockwood Park, in Hampshire. He wanted it to be quite apart from the school, a quiet place where people seriously concerned with his teaching could go and study it. He also wanted similar centres to be built at Rishi Valley and Rajghat in India.

As K saw violence increasing everywhere in the world, the need for a radical change in the human psyche became ever more urgent before mankind destroyed itself. He was well aware that after all the years he had been speaking to huge audiences in many parts of the world, not one person, certainly not one of those closest to him, had undergone a mutation. Yet if this mutation could take place in only one person, his teaching could go on flowering. He had the idea that the more the members of his Foundations could be brought together and the more they could be with him, the more chance there would be of them working together in harmony as one body.

At the same time during his last six years he wished through discussion to dig deeper and deeper into the significance of life. He welcomed the chance to talk publicly or privately to any man or woman deeply concerned with the problems of living, though he knew it was no good talking to anyone with a didactic or closed mind. Enquiry had to be tentative. For several years he had been holding discussions with scientists and psychologists in the West and with pandits and scholars in the East, both individually and in groups and seminars. He had given newspaper interviews and radio and television broadcasts in several countries but in these it was impossible to touch more than the surface of his teaching. In so many of his interviews it was apparent how anxious the interviewers were to pigeon-hole him, to compare him with some other religious teacher or philosopher. Raymond Mortimer, who never met him, once said to me that he could not be a great religious teacher because he had never read the Gospels!

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Since 1966 K had not lived at Ojai pending the result of a lawsuit with Rajagopal who, from the time of Nitya's death, had managed all his financial affairs, edited his books and arranged for their publication as the President of a Trust, Krishnamurti Writings Inc. (KWINC). In the years while the lawsuit dragged on K, when in California, had stayed with Mary Zimbalist in her beautiful house at Malibu and had given his annual talks at Santa Monica. He had dissociated himself from KWINC and set up Krishnamurti Foundations in England, America and India in 1968, '69, and '70 respectively. In 1974 the lawsuit was at last settled out of Court; KWINC was dissolved and another organisation, K & R Foundation, of which Rajagopal had control, was formed. This organisation was to retain the copyright in K's works prior to July 1968.\* A hundred and sixty acres of land at the western end of the valley, including the Oak Grove where K had held annual gatherings since 1928, and eleven acres at the upper end, including Pine Cottage where K had had his mystical experience in 1922, and the larger house close by, Arya Vihara, were conveyed to the Krishnamurti Foundation of America.

Mary Zimbalist, in accordance with K's wishes (which were always her own too), sold her house at Malibu and built a house at Ojai incorporating Pine Cottage. She was not required to pay for the land but the house would at her death revert to the American Foundation. It was not until March 1978 that the new house was ready for her and K to move into, though K had resumed speaking in the Oak Grove in 1975. At the same time as the house was going up, a primary day school, the Oak Grove School, adjoining the Oak Grove, was started. This was the only Krishnamurti school in the United States.

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On returning from India to Ojai in February 1980, K with his tremendous new energy felt that he was not being 'used enough'. 'What am I to do here for two months?' he asked Mary Zimbalist. 'I am being wasted.' He felt at times that something was calling him from far away. This was a great worry to Mary.

The Secretary of the American Foundation was Erna Lilliefelt. She and her husband, Theodor, were two others who had come into K's life at just the right moment. Without them he would hardly have been able to set up the American Foundation in 1969 or start the Oak Grove School. Erna was the linchpin of the Foundation.

K found much to do, as it happened, in connection with the new Oak Grove School, talking to the staff and parents. Mark Lee, an American who had an Indian wife, a paediatrician, was the first Director of the school. He had previously been Head of the junior school at Rishi Valley and had taught at other schools in California, England and Switzerland. Many parents had moved to the Ojai Valley so that their children might attend the school and they played a much greater part in the running of it than if it had been a boarding school, often causing difficulties.

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\* The copyright in this early work has now reverted to the American Foundation.

K was certainly not wasted when in March David Bohm went to stay at Ojai with his wife and started holding discussions with him. David Bohm was Professor of Theoretical Physics at Birkbeck College, London University. He had been a friend of Einstein and had written books on the quantum theory and relativity. His latest book, *Wholeness and the Implicate Order*, published in the summer of 1980, propounding a revolutionary theory of physics in accordance with K's teaching of the wholeness of life, was to be widely recognised for its scientific discoveries. He had attended nearly all K's talks in Europe and California since 1961 and they had already had many discussions together, but during this 1980 visit eight dialogues took place between them in April. These, together with five others which took place at Brockwood Park in June, were published under the title *The Ending of Time*.<sup>14</sup> This has proved to be one of K's most successful publications. The dialogues were edited anonymously, by Mary Cadogan, the Secretary of the English Foundation, who had worked for K since 1958.

Mary Cadogan is herself a successful author,<sup>15</sup> but this was the first book she had edited for Krishnamurti and she was certainly thrown in the deep end. To some people this book reads like a thriller; others find it hard going. It is a conversation with quick questions and responses and does not, therefore, lend itself to quotation. It deals with the ending of thought as well as the ending of time—that is, psychological time and thought which are the past. All that we have learnt, all that we are, the whole content of our consciousness, is the past stored in our memory as thought, and the cluttering up of the brain with the past means that there is no true insight because everything is seen through a cloud of thought which must always be limited by the self. The past as thought, memory, must go for the new to be. 'That emptying of the past, which is anger, jealousy, beliefs, dogmas, attachments etc. must be done,' K says. 'If that is not emptied, if any part of that exists, it will inevitably lead to illusion brought by desire, by hope, by wanting security.'

'Is it really possible', K asks, 'for time to end—the whole idea of time as the past—chronologically, so that there is no tomorrow at all? There is the feeling, the actual reality, psychologically, of having no tomorrow. I think that is the healthiest way of living—which doesn't mean that I become irresponsible! That would be too childish.' In going into this question K and David Bohm speak of the ground of all being, which is the beginning and ending of everything, and of the necessity for mankind to touch this ground if life is to have real significance.

If the brain remains in self-created darkness it wears itself out with the resulting conflict. Can such a brain ever renew itself? Can the deterioration of the brain cells and senility be prevented? K suggests that through insight it is possible for the brain to change physically and act in an orderly way which leads to a healing of the damage caused by all the years of wrong-functioning.

In the Foreword to a booklet of two dialogues between K and David Bohm of a later date, Bohm illuminates this:

... it is worth remarking that modern research into the brain and nervous system actually gives considerable support to Krishnamurti's statement that insight may change the brain cells. Thus, for example, it is now well known that there are important substances in the body, the

hormones and the neurotransmitters, that fundamentally affect the entire functioning of the brain and the nervous system. These substances respond, from moment to moment, to what a person knows, to what he thinks, and to what all this means to him. It is by now fairly well established that in this way the brain cells and their functioning are profoundly affected by knowledge and passions. It is thus quite plausible that insight, which must arise in a state of mental energy and passion, could change the brain cells in an even more profound way.<sup>16</sup>

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In May K gave six talks in the Oak Grove at Ojai to a large gathering and held two Question and Answer meetings. Because he was always speaking to different audiences (though many of the same people turned up to listen to him year after year) his talks varied very little, though in some he seemed more inspired and expressed himself more clearly or more forcibly than in others. He usually started every talk now by telling his audience, ‘This is not an entertainment nor is it a sermon’, and emphasising that he and the audience were investigating *together* certain aspects of living. He was not telling them anything or forcing anything on them. He was not their guru. ‘The speaker is not making any kind of propaganda,’ he said in one of these Ojai talks. ‘We are not instituting one belief against another belief, one dependence on another. There is nothing to prove. We are all of us thinking over together, giving our attention to the fact, that we are conditioned, and out of this conditioning we are creating more and more havoc in the world, more and more misery and confusion. ... And we are asking whether this conditioning can be totally eradicated.’

Later on in the talk he was saying, ‘If we observe, according to some psychologist, some philosopher, some guru, then we are observing according to their knowledge, and with that knowledge in our mind we try to look at ourselves. Therefore we are not looking at ourselves, we are looking through the eyes of another. And this is the tyranny that human beings have put up with for a million years or more.’

In answer to the question: ‘Is it possible ever to be free of self-centred activity?’ K replied in part: ‘To be free from your own experience, from your own knowledge ... does not take time. That is one of our excuses; we must have time to be free. When you see that one of the major factors of the self is attachment and you see what it does to the world, and what it does in your relationship with another ... your own perception sets you free.’<sup>17</sup>

K maintained that there could be a complete ending to sorrow, and that where there was suffering there was no love. All possessive relationships led to sorrow whether they were inside or outside marriage. He had said earlier:

I am not against sex, but see what is involved in it. What sex gives you momentarily is the total abandonment of yourself, so you want a repetition over and over again of that state in which there is no worry, no problem, no self. You say you love your wife. In that love is involved sexual pleasure, the pleasure of having someone in the house to look after your children, to cook. You depend on her; she has given you her body, her emotions, her encouragement, a certain feeling of security and well-being. Then she turns away from you; she gets bored or goes off with someone else, and your whole emotional balance is destroyed, and this disturbance which you don’t like, is called jealousy. There is pain in it, anxiety, hate and violence. So what you are really saying is, ‘As long as you belong to me I love you but the moment you don’t I begin to hate you. As long as I can rely on you to satisfy my demands,

sexual and otherwise, I love you, but the moment you cease to supply what I want I don't like you.' So there is antagonism between you, there is separation, and when you feel separate from another there is no love.<sup>18</sup>



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## *Why Does the Flower Grow?*

On May 22, K and Mary Zimbalist flew to England where they stayed for a month at Brockwood Park. This was the Krishnamurti school in Hampshire, between Petersfield and Winchester, which had been founded in 1969—a large, white-stuccoed late eighteenth-century house set in thirty-six acres of park and garden with beautiful trees, beeches, limes and sweet chestnuts. There were about sixty students at Brockwood of many different nationalities, an equal number of girls and boys, ranging in age from fourteen to twenty. The Krishnamurti schools, as well as following the ordinary school curriculum with preparation in England for Ordinary and Advanced level examinations, aimed at freeing the student from the conditioning of racial, national and ideological prejudice. K wrote that the schools were ‘to be concerned with the cultivation of the total human being. These centres of education must help the student and the educator to flower naturally. The flowering is really very important, otherwise the education becomes merely a mechanical process orientated to a career. ... It is the concern of these schools to bring about a new generation of human beings who are free from self-centred action. No other educational centres are concerned with this and it is our responsibility, as educators, to bring about a mind that has no conflict within itself and so end the struggle and conflict in the world about us.’<sup>19</sup>

The Principal of the Brockwood School was Dorothy Simmons who, with her husband Montague, had built up the school from the beginning. When K first met Dorothy Simmons in 1967 her husband had just retired after twenty years from running a State school. She was a professional sculptor who had never done any teaching but had become deeply interested in K’s ideas. Montague had been a teacher of English and would be responsible for the academic side of the school.

Dorothy was yet another of those who came into K’s life just at the right moment. He was told by his then financial adviser, Gérard Blitz, founder of the Club Méditerranée, that there was not enough money to start a school. At the lawyer’s office in London in August 1968, when the English Foundation was legally set up in the presence of all those who were to become trustees, the school project was discussed. Monsieur Blitz said, ‘As you know, Krishnaji, we would do anything for you—even jump out of the window—but to start a school, that is impossible.’ Monsieur Blitz then left by taxi for Heathrow to catch his flight back to Paris. He had hardly closed the door before K and Dorothy Simmons were in a corner discussing the starting of a school. K never considered money; he would say, ‘Act, and if it’s right the money will come in’, and it always did. K had no money of his own apart from £500 a year for life settled on him by Miss Mary Dodge. Financial support for his work came from donations, legacies and royalties from his books. But £40,000 had been offered to him by a generous follower to buy a house somewhere in France for his retirement and,

since he had no intention of ever retiring, he asked if he might spend the money on a school. The request was willingly granted and Brockwood Park was the result.

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K and Mary Zimbalist stayed in what was called the West Wing when they were at Brockwood, connected to the school though not a part of it, beautifully furnished and decorated by Mary. K had breakfast and supper in the West Wing but lunched with the school. The school food, strictly vegetarian, was excellent.

Dr T. K. Parchure was awaiting K at Brockwood. A doctor from the hospital in the compound of the Krishnamurti school at Rajghat, Varanasi (Benares), he had frequently attended K in India and Europe since 1974. As well as advising on his diet and general care, he supervised his morning exercises and gave him a daily massage. His presence was a great help to Mary also, for one of her chief concerns was for K's health.

K and Mary came to London once a week when they were at Brockwood. Joe Links, whom I had married in 1945, and I always met them in our car at Waterloo and drove them to Savile Row where K visited his tailor, Huntsman. Joe would leave us there and K, Mary and I would invariably lunch at Fortnum & Mason, in the fourth-floor restaurant, always at the same table. Although the choice on the menu for vegetarians was limited to cheese flan, vegetables and sweets (K was very fond of crême caramel), the place suited us well. It was quiet and airy and a pleasant walk away from Huntsman through the Burlington Arcade. Moreover, it was almost next door to Hatchard's bookshop where K would usually go after lunch to replenish his stock of thrillers.

When we met, K would plunge straight into telling me about what had been happening to him since he last saw me. Even if what he had to say was private, our table in a corner was too far away from the next table for us to be overheard. He never had to waste time in asking me about myself. I rarely mentioned my own life to him. I knew, anyway, what he would say and since I was unwilling or unable to change my course why waste his time in consulting him? I liked to feel that he could be perfectly relaxed with me. He fortunately had a very good relationship with Joe who was personally very fond of him and respectful of him, though not always agreeing with what he said in his talks. K, for his part, seemed to value Joe's advice in practical matters as an unbiased man of the world whom he trusted for the very reason that he was an outsider as far as the Foundation was concerned. But Joe always dressed particularly carefully when we were going to meet K and had the car cleaned inside and out.

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On June 12 I went to Brockwood for a publications committee meeting. In 1968, at the time of the break with KWINC, K had set up a publishing committee in England under the chairmanship of George Wingfield Digby, Keeper of the Department of Textiles at the Victoria and Albert Museum, an expert on oriental porcelain and author, among other books, of a life of Blake. His wife Nelly, Ian Hammond, retired from a successful architectural practice, and his wife Jane, an expert in transcribing K's talks and discussions, Mary Cadogan, Sybil Dobinson

and I were all members of the Committee. Our job was to edit K's talks and writings and see them through the press and bring out a quarterly Bulletin. The copyright of all K's works after 1968 had been legally vested in the English Foundation. America had no publishing committee and therefore an American, Alan Kishbaugh, the representative in California of Farrar, Straus & Giroux, was a member of our Committee. The Indian Foundation had their own Publications Committee which took care of the editing and publishing of K's talks and discussions in India for the Indian Market.

The Indian Foundation had never been happy with this arrangement, and for eight years there had been some friction between the English and Indian Committees. The Indians naturally wanted to bring out an international book of the Indian talks but we were not confident as to the quality of their editing, nor was K. The two chief representatives of the Indian Committee were Sunanda Patwardhan, who had a Ph.D. in Sociology, and her husband, Pama, who had been Vice-Chairman of the publishers Orient Longman before his retirement in 1975. They were now at Brockwood for the meeting and we hoped very much to reach a satisfactory settlement. But there was one great difference between the Indian Committee and ours: whereas we were empowered to make decisions, they had to refer everything back to the Trustees of the Indian Foundation for approval, which was the reason why these difficulties had been going on for so long. The decisions we had so far come to had been vetoed by the Indian Trustees.

This time we worked out with the Patwardhans the terms of a settlement which we hoped the Indian Foundation would agree to: in future the international books, published first by Gollancz in England and then by Harper & Row in America, should follow a three-year cycle. In the first year, an English-edited book would be published for which England would receive all the royalties; in the second year there would be an English-edited book for which India would have the Indian rights; and in the third year there would be a book compiled and edited in India with world rights for India, but for which the English Committee would have editorial responsibility. India would also have the right in perpetuity to edit and publish for the Indian market any of K's talks and discussions given in India. A legal document setting out these terms was drawn up and, in due course, signed by the Indian Trustees. We hoped that we were to have no more publication difficulties between the two Foundations.

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In late June K went with Mary Zimbalist to the Janker Clinic at Bonn for the third year running. Dr Scheef, the head of the Clinic, X-rayed K and carried out other tests. The results were that the lump he felt under his diaphragm and the occasional pain he felt there were due to a hernia and were of no consequence.

After three days in Geneva, shopping and resting, they arrived at Gstaad on July 1. For the past twenty years K had spent part of every summer at Chalet Tannegg, a rented villa at Gstaad, in order to hold an international gathering at the nearby little town of Saanen which attracted huge crowds. Every year when he arrived Vanda Scaravelli, who rented the villa for him, had been there to greet

him with a former cook of hers, Fosca, who, although as old as K, enjoyed working the few weeks at Tannegg.

K had first come to know Vanda in 1937, three years before her marriage to the Marchese Luigi Scaravelli, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Rome. Vanda's father had been Alberto Passigli, an aristocratic Florentine landowner, founder of the *Maggio Musicale* and the *Amici della Musica* in Florence. Vanda herself was a pianist of professional standard and altogether a most gifted woman. K had frequently stayed with her at the beautiful house above Fiesole, Il Leccio, which she and her brother had inherited from their father, and she introduced K to many prominent figures in the artistic world in Rome. Her husband died in 1957. She had a daughter married to a Canadian living in Toronto and a son who managed her estate. After Mary Zimbalist became close to K, Vanda gradually withdrew. She continued to open up Tannegg for him every year but would go back to Florence for part of the Gathering, to return shortly before he left.

A close friend of K's, Radha Burnier, came to Saanen that year and shared a villa with the Patwardhans who were also there for the Gathering. She was the daughter of Sri Ram who had been President of the Theosophical Society at Adyar before John Coates. She was already the Head of the Esoteric Section of the Society and now, following Coates's retirement, she and her aunt, Rukmini Arundale, were contesting for the Presidency of the Society. While she was at Saanen the news came that she had been elected with 9,300 votes to Mrs Arundale's 5,400. K was delighted.

K gave seven talks at Saanen in July, followed by five Question and Answer meetings. In answer to a question: 'There are so many gurus today both in the East and the West, each one pointing his own way to enlightenment; how is one to know if they are speaking the truth?' K answered in part:

When a guru says he knows, he does not ... enlightenment is not to be attained. It is not something you can reach step by step as if you were climbing a ladder. ... One does not like to use the word 'enlightenment'; it is so loaded with the meaning given by all these gurus. ... Whether they are Eastern or Western gurus, doubt what they are saying, doubt also what the speaker is saying—much more so, because although he is very clear about all these matters it does not mean that he is the only person who knows, which is absurd. The mind must be free from all authority—no followers, disciples and patterns ... nobody can give guidance, give light to another. Only you yourself can do that; but you have to stand completely alone.<sup>20</sup>

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In his second talk K made one of those startling statements that caused people to sit up: 'Allegiance to anything is the beginning of corruption.' Other such statements of his have been: 'Ideals are brutal things', 'All thought corrupts', 'There is no such thing as unhappy love', 'If you really loved your children there would be no more wars', 'Time is the enemy of man psychologically', 'There is no intelligence without love', 'God is total disorder'. He maintained that man had invented God, and that one man's God against another man's God had created chaos. In this same Saanen talk he was saying, 'The religious people say there is God and that God has created the world. That God must be a rather miserable God, rather confused, a rather corrupt God to make this world as it is.' As for

ideals being 'brutal things', it was one ideology against another that had caused so many wars. Nationalism and patriotism were equally brutal. Over and over again he reiterated that he had no nationality. 'I am not an Indian,' he declared publicly on several occasions. He had to have a passport for the purpose of travel, and at the time of Indian independence, when given the option of retaining his British passport or having an Indian one, he plumped for an Indian one. He could hardly have done otherwise when so many of his Indian friends had suffered persecution under the Raj. The inconvenience, however, with an Indian passport, of having to get a visa for every country he entered, became so tiresome that in the seventies he had seriously considered applying for British nationality but was daunted by the formalities involved. He was then given an Indian diplomatic passport which, though a great honour, was no help with visas. Eventually in 1977 he was granted the so-called 'green card' which accorded him permanent residence in the U.S. and entitled him to apply for American nationality in five years' time. This he never did because it would have required his staying in America for a full year.

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K and Mary were back at Brockwood on August 20 with Dr Parchure who had been at Gstaad, and ten days later a week's gathering was held there at which K gave four talks and held two Question and Answer meetings. This was a much smaller gathering than the one at Saanen. Most of the people went for the day; all the same, the house was crammed to capacity (the term had not yet started) and there were dozens of campers. The talks took place in a great tent in a field at the bottom of the garden, with an equally large tent adjoining it in which books and tapes were sold and a simple vegetarian meal sold at very low cost.

At one of the Question and Answer meetings K was asked: 'You say, "We are the world", but the majority of the world seems to be heading for mass destruction. Can a minority of integrated people outweigh the majority?' To this K replied:

Are you, are we, that minority? Is there one among us who is totally free of all this? Or are we partially contributing to the hatred of each other psychologically? You may not be able to stop one country attacking another, but psychologically, are you free of your common inheritance, which is your tribal glorified nationalism? Are we free from violence? Violence exists where there is a wall around ourselves. Do please understand all this. And we have built ourselves walls, fifteen feet high and ten feet thick. All of us have these walls around us. From that arises violence and this sense of immense loneliness. So the minority and the majority are you. If a group of us have psychologically transformed ourselves fundamentally we will never ask this question, because we are then something entirely different.

At another meeting he was asked why he continued to go on speaking. He answered:

This has often been asked, 'Why do you go on wasting your energy after fifty years when nobody seems to change, why do you bother about it? Is it a form of self-fulfilment? Do you get energy talking about these things, and so depend on the audience?' We have been through all that several times. First of all, I do not depend on you as a group who come to listen to the speaker. The speaker is not attached to a particular group nor is it necessary for him to have a

gathering. Then what is the motive? I think when one sees something true and beautiful, one wants to tell people about it, out of affection, out of compassion, out of love. And if there are those who are not interested, that is all right, but those who are interested can perhaps gather together. Can you ask the flower why it grows, why it has perfume? It is for the same reason the speaker talks.<sup>21</sup>

After the Gathering the Bohms came to stay and the rest of the dialogues took place between K and David Bohm which are included in *The Ending of Time*.

The term started on September 25 and K spoke several times to the entire school before leaving for India. I went to Brockwood for the night of October 3 and talked to him all that afternoon and the next morning. We went deeply again into the question of who and what he was as in the interviews I had had with him the year before and which I fully recorded in *The Years of Fulfilment*.

Seven years earlier, at Ojai, he had spoken with a few members of the American Foundation on the same subject. He had outlined then the Theosophical conception of who he was: the body that the Lord Maitreya, the World Teacher, was to inhabit had been prepared for many, many lives—‘not only the body but the face. That was repeated over and over again by both Dr Besant and Leadbeater—the face. To them that was tremendously important—the body and the face ... the ego of Krishnamurti was put aside ... but the ego had been preparing, preparing for lives and lives to come to this point.’ The coming of the Lord Maitreya, according to the Theosophical concept, was such a rare occurrence in the religious field that the ordinary man could only follow and obey and do his best to live what he was taught. This idea, K said, that an ordinary man had to go through years and years of effort was dangerous and discouraging. ‘Discard all that,’ he continued, ‘forget the past, find out about yourself, be a light to yourself. ... Forget what the boy was, what he went through. That’s irrelevant.’

‘You mean forget the Theosophical explanation?’ he was asked. He replied:

Theosophical and any other explanation—that’s not your concern ... don’t bother about it. Your business is your life. ... Leave K’s personality aside, what he was, how, he grew up. ... I feel we are delving into something which the conscious mind can never understand, which doesn’t mean I am making a mystery of it. There is something—much too vast to be put into words. There is a tremendous reservoir, as it were, which if the human mind can touch reveals something—which no intellectual mythology, invention, supposition, dogma, can ever reveal.

I am not making a mystery of it—that would be a stupid childish trick. Creating a mystery out of nothing would be a most blackguardly thing to do because that would be exploiting people. Either one creates a mystery when there isn’t one or there is a mystery which you have to approach with extraordinary delicacy and tentativeness. And the conscious mind can’t do this. It is there but you cannot come to it. It’s not progressive achievement. There is something but the brain can’t understand it.<sup>22</sup>

When I went into the subject with him seven years later he seemed eager that the truth about himself should be discovered; he could not discover it himself: ‘Water can never find out what water is,’ he said. ‘There is an element in all this which is not man-made, thought-made, not self-induced. I am not like that. Is this something which we cannot discover, mustn’t touch, is not penetrable? I am wondering. I have often felt it is not my business, that we will never find out.

When we say it comes into being because the mind is vacant, I don't think it is that either.' Yet he believed that if Mary Zimbalist and I or others 'put their minds to this they can do it. I am absolutely sure of this. Absolutely, absolutely. Also I am sure I can't find it.' But what he would be able to do was to corroborate it if we found it. He also said that 'To find out the truth of the matter you have to have your mind empty.'

He did not want to make a mystery of it yet a mystery remains. For one thing there was the sense of protection he had always had. 'When I get into an aeroplane I know nothing will happen. But I don't do anything that will cause danger.' Then there was the 'process'—that pain in his head and spine which had been so agonising in the first few years after his 1922 experience at Ojai and which still went on in a lesser degree. Thirdly there was the 'vacant mind' which he said he had never lost. 'Only when talking and writing', he told me, 'does "this" come into play. I am amazed. What does it? You can feel it in the room now. It is happening in the room now because we are touching something very, very serious and it comes pouring in.'

'Is your mind vacant when you give talks?' I asked.

'Oh, yes, completely. But I'm not interested in that but in why it stays vacant. Because it stays vacant it has no problems. ... The other thing is here now. Don't you feel it? It is like throbbing.'

'The essence of your teaching', I said, 'is that everyone can have it.' To which he replied, 'Yes, if it is unique it is not worth anything. But this isn't like that. Is it kept vacant for this thing to say, "Though I am vacant, you—X—can also have it."?'

'You mean it is vacant in order to be able to say that this can happen to everyone?'

'That's right. That's right,' he replied.

I then asked him, 'Do you ever feel yourself being used, feel something coming into you?'

'I wouldn't say that. It comes into the room when we are talking seriously.'

'How is it related to the pain?' I asked.

'Pain comes when I am quiet, not talking. It comes slowly until the body says, "That's enough." After reaching a crisis the body faints; the pain peters out or there is some interruption and it goes.'

'Can we rule out something from outside?'

'I don't. But what is the truth?'<sup>23</sup>

When we went into the matter again on this last occasion in 1980, he seemed as eager as before to find out the truth about himself and repeated that if Mary Zimbalist and I could discover it he would be able to corroborate it. But he could tell us no more.



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## *‘Unimaginable energy’*

K flew by Qantas to Bombay with Mary Zimbalist this year on November 1. Mary’s luggage was not unloaded and she discovered that it had gone on to Perth. K was as distressed for her over this as she was herself. Next day they flew on to Madras. The headquarters of the Krishnamurti Foundation in India was at Vasanta Vihar at Adyar, a large house in beautiful grounds. It was quite close to the Theosophical Society but on the Madras side of the Adyar River and further from the sea. Sunanda and Pama Patwardhan lived there, and other friends came to meet K there, including Pupul Jayakar, her younger sister, Nandini Mehta, and their nephew, Asit Chandmal. Pupul and Nandini were the most prominent of the new group of friends K had gathered round him when he returned to India in 1947 after the war and who came into his life just when he needed them most. Pupul, the Vice-President of the Indian Foundation of which K was the nominal President, had a forceful personality. A close friend of Mrs Gandhi, she lived near her in New Delhi and was able to introduce K to many leading Indians in both the political and religious fields as well as to Mrs Gandhi herself. She knew a great deal about many aspects of Indian art and culture and, since Independence, she had been closely associated with the development of handicrafts in India. She was to become the Chairman of the influential Festival of India which involved much travel. Nandini had a gentler nature. For many years now she had been running a Krishnamurti school for poor children in Bombay, Bal Anand. Another prominent member of the Indian Foundation was Achyut Patwardhan, Pama’s elder brother. A great freedom fighter, he had suffered much under the British.

Asit Chandmal, whom K had known since he was a child, had been working with computers since 1964, since 1969 with the great Indian Tata group. Earlier in 1980 he had been on their behalf to California and he was soon to start a new company in Singapore for Tata and a Californian company jointly. He had a flat in Bombay which he kept on while living in Singapore. (In 1984 he founded his own computer company.)

Because Radha Burnier was now President of the Theosophical Society K had consented to visit the T.S. Headquarters. Radha came to fetch him late in the afternoon of November 3 and, accompanied by everyone who was then staying at Vasanta Vihar, he drove with her to the gates of the estate where a crowd had gathered to meet him. For the first time for forty-six years he entered the Theosophical grounds and walked through them to Radha’s house on the beach, followed by the crowd. He remembered almost nothing of the place, he told Mary afterwards.

The next day K flew to Sri Lanka, where he had been invited to give talks and where he had not been since 1957. He was accompanied by Pupul, Nandini, Mary and the three Patwardhans. Parameshwaran, the excellent head cook from

the Rishi Valley school who had looked after K when he nearly died in Kashmir in 1960, went with them to make sure that K had the right food. Mary was able to recover her luggage at the Madras airport just in time to catch their flight to Colombo.

They were met by Dr Adikaram, who had arranged K's itinerary, and were driven to the State guest-house where they were to stay. Next day K met the Prime Minister, Mr R. Premadasa, and was interviewed for television by the Minister of State. During the twelve days he was in Sri Lanka he gave a press conference which was fully reported in all the papers, four public talks attended by great crowds, held discussions with thirty Buddhist monks, answered questions at the University and went up to Candy at the invitation of the President, Mr Jayewardene, with whom he talked privately for an hour and a half. It was a triumphant if exhausting visit.

In the middle of November K, with Mary and Dr Parchure, went to Rishi Valley, a five-hour drive from Madras and about ten miles from Madanapalle, K's birthplace. Rishi Valley is the first Krishnamurti school, founded in 1928, situated in a beautiful valley about 2,400 feet above sea-level and dominated by the Rishi Konda mountain. This highly successful, co-educational school has a campus of 300 acres, including a farm. The school also runs a rural centre where children from adjacent villages are educated and given medical care. G. Narayan, a son of K's eldest brother who had become a doctor, was now the Principal and Director of the School. He had previously taught at a Rudolph Steiner school in England. There was something particularly sacred about this valley which K loved so much.

The Patwardhans, Pupul Jayakar and Asit Chandmal joined K at Rishi Valley where he held many discussions with Asit about computers, a subject which had come to fascinate him. Would the human brain atrophy as the computer took over more and more of its functions? At the end of one discussion K spoke of something beyond the brain which he called the mind. The mind could get in touch with the brain but the brain could not get in touch with the mind.

At the beginning of December teachers from the other Krishnamurti schools in India\* went to Rishi Valley for a six-day conference which K attended. In the middle of the conference K told Mary that the 'face' had been with him for four days. What was this 'face'? In December 1925 when, at Adyar, the Lord Maitreya was said to have spoken through K for the first time, K's face had changed as his voice had changed. I was lucky enough to have witnessed this thrilling phenomenon. His face had become much sterner, more mature, yet even more beautiful if possible. When my mother described to him afterwards how his face had changed, he said wistfully, 'I wish I could have seen it.' At the Ommen camp in the summer of 1926, this change of face had taken place again on the next occasion when he had suddenly spoken in the first person, and again he had said to the friend who described the change to him, 'I wish I could see it too.' And others since have often spoken to him of the change that takes place in his face at times when he is giving a talk. Is it possible that the 'face' which was often with him now could be the face that he had not been able to see in those

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\* These were at Rajghat, Varanasi (as Benares was now called), and at Madras, Bangalore and Bombay.

early days? He described the ‘face’ to Pupul Jayakar as ‘extraordinary, highly-cultured, refined’.<sup>24</sup>

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In accordance with K’s wishes that the members of the three Foundations should meet as often as possible, two Trustees from America, Theodor Lilliefelt and Alan Hooker (who ran a very successful restaurant at Ojai) went to Rishi Valley that winter, as did two from the English Foundation, Dorothy Simmons and Mary Cadogan. Two members of the Brockwood staff were also there, Scott Forbes, a young American who was responsible for the video, and Harsh Tankha, an Indian who taught mathematics. A teacher at Rishi Valley at that time was a Canadian, Ray McCoy. Before going to Rishi Valley, Ray had taught for a year at K’s next most important school at Rajghat, and in 1981 he was to join the staff at Brockwood.

There was great excitement when Mrs Gandhi with Rajiv and his wife and children came to Rishi Valley for the night on December 20. She and her entourage landed by helicopter at Madanapalle. Preparations for her visit had been going on for some days. Pupul, as her best friend, acted with K as joint host. On arrival, Mrs Gandhi planted a tree and then spoke to the assembled school. She toured the grounds and afterwards went for a walk alone with K while armed guards were hidden from their sight in the bushes. In the evening there was student dancing and Mordangan playing (drums) under the great banyan tree, followed by a moonlight supper.

Between December 27 and January 11, K, back in Madras, gave six public talks in the grounds of Vasanta Vihar, followed by a three-day discussion with some Indian scholars. (His talks in India were always held in the evenings out-of-doors.) His Indian talks did not differ from his talks anywhere else. In a series of talks in India he would cover, as he usually did, the whole spectrum of living; nor in India did he make any concessions to the fact that some of his audience could not understand English. The one difference was that in India his voice had to compete with the continual raucous noise of the crows, a nostalgic sound for anyone who loves India.

K also talked further with Asit while in Madras about computers. Before leaving for Bombay he made two more visits to the Theosophical Society estate at Radha Burnier’s request. The T.S. Convention was going on there and she wanted him to walk from her house to the gates of the compound so that the T.S. members could greet him. On the second occasion he went inside the Headquarters building where Mrs Besant had lived, and visited the room Mrs Besant had built for him and Nitya on top of an adjoining house, connected to the Headquarters at first-floor level. (My mother and I had stayed in that room for a month in 1923 at K’s request while he was at Ojai, and I remember it as the most beautiful room I have ever been in, with a view of the wide Adyar river where it joins the sea.) This room brought back no memories for K, though he did remember the *chowki* in Mrs Besant’s room where he had so often sat and watched her at her writing desk.

On January 21, 1981, K and Mary flew to Bombay where they stayed with Asit Chandmal in his comfortable flat in Sterling Apartments, Peddar Road. The next day Asit asked some computer experts to lunch whom K was fascinated to talk to. Another day K was interviewed by Pupul Jayakar on television. Between January 24 and February 8 he gave six public talks to audiences of about 5,000 people. Indian audiences were far more demonstrative and reverential than Western ones and after a Bombay talk K would be mobbed by crowds, all frenziedly trying to touch him or his garments. It would take him a long time to walk to the car, parked close by, and when he was at last inside it the chauffeur could only crawl forward in order not to crush the people clinging to the sides and the bonnet, still trying to touch him.

After the third talk K said that he felt no communication with his audience and had almost stopped speaking, but after the last one, during which the audience sat so still that they seemed hardly to breathe, he asked Mary whether there had been something special about it. 'It has done something to me,' he said. Perhaps the most remarkable thing about this last talk was the vehemence with which he spoke. After reviewing what he had said in the five previous talks, he began to speak of meditation and thought:

Meditation is the understanding of knowledge, not sitting repeating some phrase, following a system that someone else has laid down or the particular form of meditation your guru has put out. That is all based on thought which is the outcome of knowledge and knowledge is never complete so thought is never complete. The speaker is not a guru, he has no followers. The disciples destroy the guru and the guru destroys the disciples. ... One of the strange things in this country is personal worship. To prostrate yourself to another, to worship another human being is the most undignified, the most inhuman thing you can do. ... There is nothing sacred that thought does not produce—the temples, the churches. Thought itself is not sacred but the things that thought has produced we worship, we follow. And thought has brought about disorder in our private life and disorder outwardly. This disorder cannot be made into order by any government, by any religion, by any guru because what they do and say is all based on thought and thought is a material process. ... Thought has caused disorder and discord and cannot possibly bring about order. ... Meditation is the ending of knowledge. Our consciousness is the storehouse of knowledge. ... Meditation is the way we live; meditation is part of our daily life, not something separate but an actual activity of our daily life, and our daily life is based on knowledge, on memory, so our life is based on the past. We are always operating from the past which is the known. As long as we act in the field of knowledge our brains become mechanical. We know we are afraid, we know we are lonely, we know we have great sorrow, we know we are anxious, uncertain, unhappy, trying to fulfil, trying to become, trying to get something all the time. ... Now we are asking whether knowledge—we are talking of course about psychological not practical knowledge—can ever end.?

Towards the end of the talk he said with tremendous emphasis,

Don't accept a thing the speaker is saying. Follow his reasoning and all the subtleties involved in it, but doubt it, be a light to yourself. Religion is the sceptical enquiry into the whole of our existence which is our consciousness. If there is fear your meditation is utterly meaningless. A free mind is essential for enquiry and when there is fear there is no freedom.<sup>25</sup>

At the end of the talk, one can hear on the cassette the deafening hubbub of voices which broke out until the machine was turned off.

Even before K had gone to Bombay, Dr Parchure had told Mary that he was really too tired to do his exercises but that he refused to cut them down. He was immensely stimulated by his visits to India although exhausted by them, for when he was not giving talks he was taking part in endless discussions.

After nearly four months in India K and Mary flew to England on February 15, where K had only five days' rest at Brockwood before they went on to Los Angeles. When Joe and I went to Brockwood to see him he immediately told us about Mrs Gandhi's visit to Rishi Valley and the time in Sri Lanka where he had much enjoyed being treated as a V.I.P. He seemed really impressed that the President of Sri Lanka should have wanted to see him. There was such a human side to him, coupled with true humility. He had a great respect for successful people and for academic honours regardless of the fact that worldly success and university degrees were the result of competition and personal striving which he deplored. On the other hand he was repelled by anyone who boasted of his fame or accomplishments or showed any sign of self-importance. These anomalies in him I make no attempt to resolve. If there had not been such contradictions in his make-up he would have been far less lovable and certainly less interesting.

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Throughout March and April at Ojai K helped Alasdair Coyne to plant a new garden at Pine Cottage. (Alasdair had looked after the huge walled kitchen garden at Brockwood before going to live at Ojai and starting a practice there as a landscape gardener.) K was perhaps never happier than when working in a garden. He was particularly happy planting trees. He had helped to plant them at Rishi Valley, Rajghat, Vasanta Vihar and round the Oak Grove School.

K was delighted when two black granite *nandis* (sacred bulls) arrived which had been given to him in India the year before. They had been shipped from Madras and it took six men to unload them and place them on either side of the approach to the new house whose front door had just been painted Pompeian red. K crowned them with pink flowers. He told Mary how much gardening agreed with him and that he must take it up at Brockwood. (Unfortunately he never did, principally because he suffered badly from hay fever there.)

Soon after his arrival at Ojai K telephoned to me in London to ask me to become Chairman of the Publications Committee in place of George Wingfield Digby who, with his wife, had retired. It was a great blow to lose the Digbys who had both been excellent editors. It reduced our little editorial team to Ian Hammond, Sybil Dobinson (who edited the Bulletin) and me. Jane Hammond was fully occupied with transcribing tapes and Mary Cadogan had not yet taken up editing. We looked for new editors, preferably young. Editing K's talks is not just a matter of putting them into good English, nor even of understanding, at least intellectually, what he is saying. The chief difficulty is to retain the authentic cadence of his voice while putting order into what are often disjointed sentences.

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In 1983 we were able to recruit Felix and Elena Greene who worked from Mexico. Felix died in 1985 and Elena, who now lives in London, has become a

valuable member of the Publications Committee as are also Ray McCoy, the archivist at Brockwood, and Scott Forbes's wife, Kathy.

The voice is such a vital part of a person and it is of course impossible to transfer anyone's voice to paper. One may succeed in capturing K's way of speaking but what cannot be transmitted is the emphasis he puts on certain words and phrases, the fire, the enthusiasm, the earnestness, the urgency, the *passion* that comes from his whole being.

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Several scientists and psychologists went to Ojai in April and K held discussions with them for three days; after that he talked to teachers and parents of pupils of the Oak Grove School for four days running. After so many discussions it was a relief to him to drive up into the mountains with Mary. He wished he could have a cabin up there 'away from everything'. He felt like 'disappearing'. He so often longed for this—to become anonymous, not to see anyone who knew him. Yet coming in from the garden a few days later he declared how young he felt. (This was a fortnight before his eighty-sixth birthday.) On the same day he said to Mary, 'You must outlive me.' 'Why?' she asked. 'To look after this person.' 'Others would line up to do that,' she said. 'I don't want them,' he replied.

During the talks and Question and Answer meetings in the Oak Grove in May, K woke one morning with a feeling of 'tremendous power—not to do anything, just power'; as he told Mary, he would quite often wake with some extraordinary feeling of new and vast energy. There was the instance of this described on chapter 1. Four years before that he had allowed Mary to write down another experience:

Before beginning *asanas*, he [K] generally sits very quietly, thinking about nothing. But this morning a strange thing took place, most unexpected and in no way invited—and besides you can't invite these things. Suddenly it appeared as though in the very centre of the brain, the head, right inside, there was a vast space in which was unimaginable energy. It is there, but nothing whatever is registered, for that which is registered is a waste of energy. If one can so call it, it was pure energy in a limitless state, a space that had nothing but this sense of immensity. One doesn't know how long it lasted but all during the morning it was there, and as this is being written it is as though it was taking root and becoming firm. These words are not really the thing itself.<sup>26</sup>

And in 1972 he had tried to express what that energy might have felt like physically: 'I woke at three [a.m.] with a sense of extraordinary fire, light burning in the mind. There was no observer. The testing was from the outside but the observer didn't exist. There was only that and nothing else. The power penetrated the whole being. I sat up and it lasted three hours.'<sup>27</sup>

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## *The Meaning of Death*

K and Mary returned to Brockwood on May 21 where they found Dr Parchure who had just come from India. I went there for the day on the 23rd and sat with K and Mary at the kitchen table in the West Wing talking at great length. In spite of the large and beautiful drawing-room below, we almost always found ourselves talking in the first-floor kitchen. As I have said, K would usually plunge straight into telling me all that had been happening to him since we last met, but on this occasion it was a little different because my eldest sister, Barbara, whom K had known in the early days, had committed suicide in April by taking an overdose of barbiturates and K wanted to hear all about it. Barbie was eighty-two and had lost her first husband, her three sons and the two stepsons she had brought up since they were little. She had no other children and no grandchildren. When her second husband died she felt that she had had enough. Having made her decision, she rang me up the evening before she was found dead to tell me that she was happier than she had been for years. K was particularly interested in the instructions she had left to have no funeral; she was to be cremated with no one present except the undertaker who was to scatter her ashes. (At a meeting of the Joint Foundations at Brockwood in 1972 K had said that he wanted to be cremated and have his ashes scattered wherever he happened to die. This had shocked the Indian Trustees who wanted his ashes scattered in the Ganges.)

I now went on to tell K about the Voluntary Euthanasia Society Joe and I belonged to which had issued a booklet to members, listing lethal drugs and explaining how their use could be facilitated by the help of a plastic bag. What I told him about this evidently remained in his mind, for the following January, in India, he was telling Pupul Jayakar and Nandini Mehta all about it, even remembering the details of how the plastic bag should be used after taking the overdose.<sup>28</sup>

The idea of suicide did not shock K but to him death was something to be lived every day. Death was not the ending of life. In a talk he was to give in Amsterdam in September, he said:

Death means the ending of the known. It means the ending of the physical organism, the ending of all the memory which I am, for I am nothing but memory. And I am frightened to let all that go, which means death. Death means the ending of attachments, that is, dying with living, not separated by fifty years or so, waiting for some disease to finish you off. It is living with all your vitality, energy, intellectual capacity and with great feeling, and at the same time for certain conclusions, certain idiosyncrasies, experiences, attachments, hurts to end, to die. That is, while living, also live with death. Then death is not something far away, death is not something that is at the end of one's life, brought about by some accident, disease or old age, but rather an ending to all the things of memory—that is death, a death not separate from living.<sup>29</sup>

And in 1968 he had written, ‘The one who dies each day is beyond death. To die is to love. The beauty is not in past remembrances or in the image of tomorrow. Love has no past and no future; what has, is memory, which is not love. Love with its passion is just beyond the range of society, which is you. Die, and it is there.’

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On going again to Brockwood in June, I found Pupul Jayakar staying there with her daughter Radhika and Radhika’s Canadian husband, Hans Herzberger, a professor of Philosophy who was then at All Souls, Oxford, as a visiting Fellow. Radhika had lived in the United States and then Toronto since 1957, first as a student, but had never lost the feeling that her roots were in India. In 1978 she had been to Rishi Valley for a year with her two daughters who were at school there. The following year her husband went back with her to India and the idea of her living and teaching at Rishi Valley was discussed. During this visit to Brockwood it was decided that after taking her doctorate in Sanskrit and Buddhist studies in 1982 she should go permanently to Rishi Valley. Her husband arranged to teach for one term at his university and spend the second term at Rishi Valley doing research work in his own field.

On June 20 an interview with K by Bernard Levin was broadcast on television at 9 p.m., the last of a series of ten Levin interviews. We had had high hopes of this but it was not a success. Levin had evidently not done enough homework or had not spent enough time talking to K before the actual recording when he and the television crew had gone to Brockwood in May. K started with the words, ‘All thought is corruption.’ He was given no chance to develop his theme and the critics did not get beyond ridiculing this bald statement. K merely glanced at the screen and then went off to clean his teeth as it was after supper. He never liked to look at himself on television or video, just as he never read his own books. He had often explained this statement about thought in his talks and writings. For instance:

Ideals corrupt the mind; they are born of ideas, judgements and hopes. ... We are using the word mind to imply the senses, the capacity to think, and the brain that stores all memories as experience, as knowledge. ... We said ideals corrupt. Knowledge also corrupts the mind. Knowledge is the movement of the past, and when the past overshadows the actual, corruption takes place. ... We are using the word corruption to mean that which is broken up, that which is not taken as a whole.<sup>30</sup>

K came to London quite frequently that summer. On one occasion it was to see David Bohm who was to undergo triple heart surgery on June 25. Bohm was in a critical condition for several days afterwards. K had sat with him at Birkbeck College for an hour a couple of days before the operation. This had been an immense comfort to him for he had a great fear of dying. K was to talk more and more about death and the fear of dying in his last years.

Before going to Gstaad this summer, K and Mary stayed in Paris for a week in a flat above the Tour d’Argent restaurant, lent to them by Mary’s brother.



Practically every day they saw Jean-Michel Maroger, who had become a Trustee of the English Foundation in 1980, and his wife Marie-Bertrande. Their daughters had been at the Brockwood School. Jean-Michel was a marine consultant with a beautiful house at Pontlevoy near Blois as well as an apartment in Paris. He had had an English nanny and he could speak perfect English; Marie-Bertrande spoke almost as well and they were invaluable in translating K's books into French. Jean-Michel also translated K's talks at Saanen. It was his mother who had introduced him to K's work, and in 1976 she had rented a chalet near Saanen so that the family could attend K's talks. After K's death Jean-Michel was to write to me:

I must say that what struck me most at first was the man, more than what he said, his charisma, his intensity, the emotion that one could feel in the audience, the whole atmosphere. I was probably then most sensitive to the non-verbal aspect of the communication; the rest followed later. I recall that at the end of the second or third talk I rushed out of the tent, walked up to him, took his hand and thanked him with tears in the eyes.

I cannot resist the temptation of recalling some events which nourished my fascination with Krishnaji. In October 1979 he came with Mary to spend ten days at La Mahaudière. I had called for them at Ch. de Gaulle airport and I was struck by the intense interest with which he was watching everything there, the escalators, the modern luggage-conveyor system, etc., etc. Nothing escaped his attention; it was like a wide-awake young boy discovering everything around him.

On our way home, I was driving, Mary was sitting next to me and Krishnaji was alone on the rear seat. We were going through the Beauce plain and on the right, the sun was setting in a glory of colours. Suddenly, we heard a Sanskrit chant coming from the back of the car. We arrived rather late, but he insisted on having dinner with us in the dining room and even tasted our local wine. For me, for all of us, this stay was a blessing and perhaps you are aware that the first twelve Letters to the Schools were dictated here.

For the first time for many months while K was in Paris he had the pleasure of going to the cinema—a thriller, *Shogun*. He had so few amusements in his dedicated life. It was a real delight to go with him to a good film, a thriller or a Western, and take part in his intense enjoyment.

On their last day in Paris, K suddenly asked Mary to write a book about him. The next day he talked more about the kind of book it should be—what it was like to be with him. One can only hope that one day Mary will feel that she can write such a book, for nobody has been so close to him. Later that summer he was to tell her again that she must outlive him. 'You are responsible to *that*,' he said.

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Vanda Scaravelli had opened Chalet Tannegg as usual but she returned to Florence in the middle of the Saanen Gathering which took place between July 12 and 31. Before the seven talks started, K had dictated to Mary more of his *Letters to the Schools*, Nos. 38 and 39. The year before at Saanen he had dictated only one, No. 37. He dictated these letters in batches but they were sent out singly to all his schools at regular intervals and bore the date of their despatch. The first thirty-seven Letters, dated September 1, 1978 to March 1, 1980, had been published in June 1981. The last eighteen Letters, sent out monthly and

dated November 15, 1981 to November 15, 1983, were published in 1985. K began the second of these later Letters, dictated at Tannegg:

A school is a place of learning and so it is sacred. The churches, temples and mosques are not sacred for they have stopped learning. They believe; they have faith and that denies entirely the great art of learning, whereas a school like those to which this letter is sent, must be entirely devoted to learning, not only about the world around us, but essentially about what we human beings are, why we believe the way we do, and the complexity of thought. ... Learning and the accumulation of knowledge are two very different things. Knowledge must always be incomplete, whereas learning is order. Disorder is essentially conflict, self-contradiction and division between becoming and being. Order is a state in which disorder has never existed. Disorder is the bondage of time.<sup>31</sup>

In the earlier volume he had written in a Letter dated March 15, 1979:

When you wander through the woods with heavy shadows and dappled light and suddenly come upon an open space, a green meadow surrounded by stately trees or a sparkling stream, you wonder why man has lost his relationship to nature and the beauty of the earth, the fallen leaf and the broken branch. If you have lost touch with nature, then you will inevitably lose relationship with another. Nature is not just the flowers, the lovely green lawn or the flowing waters in your little garden, but the whole earth with all the things on it. We consider that nature exists for our use, for our convenience, and so lose communion with the earth. This sensitivity to the fallen leaf and to the tall tree on a hill is far more important than all the passing of examinations and having a bright career. Those are not the whole of life. Life is like a vast river with a great volume of water without a beginning or an ending. We take out of that fast-running current a bucket of water and that confined water becomes our life. This is our conditioning and our everlasting sorrow.

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The seven Saanen talks were a series covering the whole of K's teaching in detail and moving from one aspect of it to another in logical sequence, therefore the book in which they were published should be read as a whole.<sup>32</sup> At one of the Question and Answer meetings K was asked: 'Intellectually we understand that the observer is the observed, but what is necessary to perceive this so that it goes beyond the intellectual level?' K replied:

First of all do we even intellectually accept it? ... or is it just a lot of words floating around? When you say, 'intellectually I agree with you' what does it mean? It means absolutely nothing. It is just a form of social acceptance ... but the fact is that the observer is the observed. That is the truth. That is: I am lonely [for example]; my self-centred activity, my ambition, my image about myself, all that has brought about this sense of isolation which I call loneliness. That loneliness is not separate from me. If it is separate from me I can act on it, run away, suppress it, but if it is me—please understand this—if this state is me what is one to do? You understand my question? I may be married, have children, but I am basically terribly lonely. If that loneliness is something separate from me, then I am in conflict with that loneliness. I fight it, I try to fill it by knowledge, by excitement, by this or that, but if it is me I can't do anything about it. Right? ... Because I cannot do anything about it the conflict ends, but the thing remains, the thing is there. So can my thought remain with it completely, not run away from it but remain with that loneliness with all its complexity of anxiety, fear, remain with it totally without any movement, look at it. If you look at it as an observer looking in, then again the problem arises. But the fact is that loneliness is you, so you have to look at it without the observer, as a whole. When you do that completely, loneliness disappears totally, never to come back.<sup>33</sup>

During the talks, K suffered a great deal from stomach aches. At the end of the Gathering Dr Parchure went with him to the Saanen hospital but tests showed nothing to account for the pains.

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In late August and early September, after the Brockwood Gathering, K held a seminar at Brockwood on education attended by Maurice Wilkins of King's College, University of London, who had won a Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1962, Rupert Sheldrake the biologist, author of *A New Science of Life: the Hypothesis of Formative Causation*, and Stuart Holroyd, author of *The Quest of the Quiet Mind*, an excellent short exposition of K's teaching. K held firmly during the seminar to the contention that the purpose of education was to bring about the total flowering of a new human being. He was not interested in discussing more practical matters such as the curriculum of a school. From Dr Wilkins he learnt something about genetic engineering.

Dr Parchure returned to India on September 16, the day before K flew to Amsterdam, where he had not been for ten years, to give two talks at the huge RAI Hall there. Accompanying him were Mary Zimbalist, Mary Cadogan, Dorothy Simmons and I. There was some amusement at so many Marys on the part of the travel agent with whom Mary Cadogan booked all our tickets, especially as Dorothy's full name was Dorothy Mary. (K called Mary Zimbalist Maria, pronounced Mareea, to distinguish her from me.) We were met at Schipol by Dr Hans Vincent and K's old friend Anneke Korndorffer. We stayed in a small, comfortable hotel in the midst of pine woods, the Kastanjehof at Laage Voorsche near Hilversum, where the specially prepared vegetarian food was delicious, though over-abundant. On the way to the hall next day in a large hired car, driven by Mary Zimbalist, K suddenly said, 'What am I going to talk about?' 'Haven't you any idea?' I asked. 'None.'

We found the hall packed, the audience overflowing into another hall with closed-circuit television. The thought of a man who had no idea what he was going to say facing this great crowd filled me with panic, and when the small figure appeared, to sit alone on the huge platform on a hard chair, my sense of protection towards him was so great that I could hardly keep back tears. As always he remained quite silent for a few moments, looking from side to side at his audience as if assessing them while they remained tensely expectant. Then he began: 'Most unfortunately there are only two talks and so it is necessary to condense what we have to say about the whole of existence. ... We are not bringing something exotic from the East like the nonsense that goes on in the name of the gurus and those people who write strange things after visiting India—we do not belong to that crowd at all.' More and more he was emphasising at this time that the difference between human beings was only superficial. He explained this later in the talk:

The content of our consciousness is the common ground of all humanity. ... A human being living in any part of the world suffers, not only physically but also inwardly. He is uncertain, fearful, confused, anxious, without any sense of deep security. So our consciousness is common

to all mankind ... and therefore we are not individuals. Please do consider this. We have been trained, educated, religiously as well as scholastically, to think that we are individuals, separate souls, striving for ourselves, but this is an illusion. ... We are not separate entities with separate psychological content, struggling for results; we are, each one of us, actually the rest of humankind.

Although most Dutch people could speak English well, many of that large audience must have been unable to understand the language, let alone the complexities, of what K was saying, yet there was an even larger attendance for the second talk. He began this talk next day:

We are like two friends sitting in the park on a lovely day talking about life, talking about our problems, investigating the very nature of our existence. ... So let us go into the question of why we human beings live as we do ... always the brain, the mind, constantly occupied. There is never a quietness, never peace but always this occupation with something or other. That is our daily, monotonous, lonely rather insufficient life. And we try to escape from it through religion, through various forms of entertainment. At the end of the day we are still where we have been for thousands and thousands of years.

Later in the talk he was saying:

First of all we should observe that our brains never act fully, completely; we use only a very small part of our brain. That part is the activity of thought. Being in itself a part, thought is incomplete. The brain functions within a very narrow area, depending on our senses, which again are limited, partial; the whole of the senses are never free, awakened. I do not know if you have experimented with watching something with all your senses, watching the sea, the birds and the moonlight on a green lawn, to see if you have watched partially or with all your senses fully awakened. The two states are entirely different. When you watch something partially you are establishing more the separative, egotistically centred attitude to living. But when you watch that moonlight on the water making a silvery path with all your senses, that is with your mind, with your heart, with your nerves, giving all your attention to that observation, then you will see for yourself that there is no centre from which you are observing. ... Man has always sought something beyond the physical existence. He has always searched, asked, suffered, tortured himself, to find out if there is something that is not of time, which is not of thought, which is not belief or faith. To find that out one must be absolutely free, for if you are anchored to a particular form of belief, that very belief will prevent the investigation into what is eternal—if there is such a thing as eternity which is beyond all time, beyond all measure. ... A religious mind is a very factual mind; it deals with facts, with what is actually happening with the world outside and the world inside. The world outside is the expression of the world inside; there is no division between the outer and the inner. A religious life is a life of order, diligence, dealing with that which is actually within oneself, without any illusion.<sup>34</sup>

K was very happy to be in Holland where he had spent so much time when he was young. On September 21 we all went to Deventer to see the Krishnamurti Archive Centre at the Atheneum Bibliotek. It was fascinating for me to see albums full of photographs of the Eerde and Ommen days of the twenties. On the way back to the hotel, after lunching at Deventer, we went to see Castle Eerde, now a school, where small gatherings had been held from 1926 until 1929 when K dissolved the Order of the Star. He had then returned the Castle and its 5,000 acres of land (except for the land on which the Ommen camps were held up to the war) to Baron van Pallandt who had made it over to a Trust to be used for K's

work. As we drove through the beautiful beech woods leading to the Castle, K wondered, half seriously, why he had ever given it back, but when he got to the Castle he refused to get out of the car for fear of being seen and recognised.

On his return to Brockwood it was found that K had a high temperature. The school doctor attended him in Dr Parchure's absence. For over a fortnight he was ill with a very bad attack of influenza through which Mary nursed him. It was not until October 14 that he dressed and went down to lunch with the school. When he came to London two days later he told me what he had told Mary on the 11th: at four a.m. he could have 'slipped away. The door opened and then shut.' He had always felt that his hold on life was very weak; that if he let go he could easily 'slip away'; it was harder for him to stay alive than to die.

During his illness he talked to Mary at some length about his odd memory. He had two distinct memories, he told her—one of standing alone by the river at Adyar without a thought in his head (as described in his journal) and the other of Mrs Besant taking him by the hand, sitting him down beside her on her *chowki* and asking him whether he would accept her and the others present as his disciples. He had said he would accept only her. (This was in 1925)

K was well enough in a day or two to dictate another Letter to the Schools (dated January 15, 1982). In this Letter he asked, 'What does it mean to look at life as a whole? It means to observe human beings, ourselves, without any division of nationality, to see life as one single movement without a beginning and without an end, without time, without death. This is a difficult thing to understand because we think of the part not the totality. We divide, hoping to understand the whole from the part.'

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*‘What is it to be transformed?’*

Before K flew to Delhi on October 25 I had talked to him about a friend of mine, Anita Desai, who lived in New Delhi with her husband and four children. She was a distinguished writer whom I had first met at a party in London to launch one of her books (another, *In Custody*, was to be short-listed for the Booker Prize in 1984). I had spoken to her about K and knew that she wanted to meet him, and I felt sure that he would like her, for not only was she young, talented and beautiful, but very gentle and graceful. Her mother had been German and her father Indian and she had been brought up in India.

Asit Chandmal, who had come to Brockwood from San Francisco, flew with K to Delhi, and shortly afterwards Mary Zimbalist returned to Ojai. Dr Parchure was able to report to her from India that K’s energy was good, though the tremor in his hands, which he had had for some time, had increased. This shakiness of the hands was to get worse as time went on. K stayed in New Delhi with Pupul Jayakar at her house in Safdarjang Road, in the same street as Mrs Gandhi. After K’s death Anita sent me some notes about her meetings with him which are given below:

I had a telephone call from Pupul Jayakar’s secretary, asking me to come to a small private meeting in her garden one October morning in 1981. There were actually a few hundred people seated there on the grass under a coloured ‘shamiana’ but of course that made a smaller crowd than the public meetings that Krishnaji addressed. He spoke, then invited questions from the audience. When the meeting was over, someone asked on the loud speaker whether I was present and if I would come and meet Krishnaji. I did that and he greeted me as ‘Mary’s friend—Mary spoke of you.’ He said he had heard I walked in the Lodi gardens in the evenings and asked if I would meet him there. I used to take my dog Tensing to the park at the same hour of the evening that he was there. I saw him appear at the head of a small group of people, striding along at great speed that the others could not keep up with. We met at one end of the park and then walked together and it became a part of our routine to meet in the evenings and walk together during his stay in Delhi. The only evenings when he did not walk there were the ones when he gave public addresses. He was never alone. Usually members of Pupul’s family accompanied him (although she never did herself)—her sister Nandini Mehta always, sometimes her daughter Radhika Herzberger and Radhika’s daughters, always Mr Patwardhan of the Krishnamurti Foundation in Madras, occasionally Pupul’s nephew [Asit Chandmal], once or twice Radha Burnier. What struck me was that they neither walked beside K, nor talked to him (with the exception of Radhika Herzberger and Mr Patwardhan), and all tended to follow him at some distance. I wondered if he really liked striding ahead alone and feeling them trailing behind him. Since that seemed to be their custom, it embarrassed me somewhat to walk beside K and talk to him. I imagined it would be difficult but he talked volubly and with great charm and a lack of self-consciousness, something of his childhood (for instance, of how close he had been to his brother and how his death had affected him), of different episodes of his life, of people he had known (e.g. a visit to Bernard Berenson at I Tatti\*), and a great deal of time

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\* The entry in Berenson’s diary for May 7, 1956, when he was ninety, reads: ‘Krishnamurti to tea: affable, responsive, conceding all my objections, and indeed our discussion was scarcely controversial. He

about his schools, what his aspirations were for them, of the children who came to them, what he hoped for them. He seemed concerned above all about young people today, the environment of violence and fear, and what he could do to change that. (He liked talking to my daughters if they came along; he was interested in my older daughter's stories about her college, and the bad behaviour of young men on the bus; he told her with great passion, 'You should hit them; if I were there, I would have hit them.')

He asked me to go to Rishi Valley, the school of which he seemed particularly proud, and wanted me to stay for a while and talk to the students. My last meeting with him haunts me because it had no sequel and therefore cut off our dialogue, promising an answer that never came. I think we must have been arguing more and more passionately as we walked along in the autumn dusk. I couldn't understand his very ambivalent attitude to art and literature and learning—he often praised people of scholarship and achievement, and although he claimed to read nothing but the dictionary and detective stories, he did tell me of a time when he was quite alone at Ojai and played Beethoven's last symphony over and over again on his record player, just lived with Beethoven's music and was perfectly content. Yet he often said it was not necessary to read or write, one ought to be able to live in complete solitude, happy with the trees and plants and birds, and not requiring anything else. I must have been trying to tell him what books meant to me, how I felt they were an indispensable part of my life, both the reading and writing of them. It was quite dark; he stopped at the foot of the Lodi tomb and said, 'Let me ask you a question—why do you write?' I began to mumble and stutter and ran several answers into one, muddling them. I said my life would be incomplete if I did not write, that ever since I was a child no experience seemed complete to me till I had written it down, that I found I could put my thoughts in order as I wrote them down, that it was a way of bringing order and harmony to chaos and meaninglessness, and that I felt this was what I was made to do and that by it I could justify my existence. Naturally he got very impatient with my answer. 'No, no, no, that is not right,' he said with great passion. 'An artist should be like Beethoven—he felt the music inside him and it poured out of him and he could not stop it or control it, it just rose up and poured out.' Pupul's nephew was with us that evening, following us around with a camera, not taking part in the conversation but listening and nodding. He indicated that they had to leave, it was dark, and they were leaving Delhi next day. Krishnaji put his hand on my shoulder and said, 'But you will come to Rishi Valley, and when you come, I will tell you something.' I felt intensely curious to know what he wanted to tell me since it seemed it would bear on my writing and my life, and I thought he would also explain the ambiguities of his own response to art. But I did not go to Rishi Valley and he did not tell me any more on the subject.

I want to tell you of a few pictures I have in my mind of him: once my dog stalked and started to chase a squirrel; K immediately lifted his arms and started to flap them, shouted and ran after the dog while I ran after them crying, 'No, no, no, no, he never catches them, don't worry, he won't catch it.' He liked throwing a ball or stick for Tensing to fetch. Then I remember a group of people waiting for him to come up and K, on seeing them, looking around desperately, 'I wish I could hide. I hate—I hate—having to meet people.' I thought that strange, after so many years of public life. But the dislike and fear were plain to see on his face as he tried to suppress it and smile. A baby was lifted up to be blessed and he patted its cheek with evident embarrassment.

Twice Pupul invited me to lunch; she often gave small luncheon parties at which he could meet a cross-section of society in Delhi. Once the other guest was a suave civil servant who kept up the kind of conversation one might hear at a diplomatic cocktail party. K, not to be outdone, traded one joke for another with him. [K's jokes, and he loved telling jokes, were

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insisted nevertheless on a Beyond, and that this was a state of immobile, uneventful existence, no thought, no questioning, no—what? He rejected my contention that such a state was something beyond my Western cast of mind. I went so far as to ask him whether he was not after something merely verbal. He denied it firmly, but without heat.' (*Sunset and Twilight*, edited by Nicky Mariano, Hamish Hamilton, 1964.) K was staying at Il Leccio with Vanda Scaravelli who had taken him to I Tatti. She had often taken him there before.

mostly irreverent.] There were usually four to six people at these lunches and after them K would go to his room to rest.

Then there were the 'private meetings' in her drawing-room for some 50–100 at a time. Two or three of the audience, and Pupul herself, would sit beside K and put questions to him. Once there was a Buddhist priest whom K greeted with great respect and affection; the two seemed very happy in each other's company. The other guests frequently made him irritable and impatient. The meetings would last for an hour. They were always held in the morning, at that pleasant time of year when it is beginning to get cool, the sun filtering through the bamboo screens beginning to feel mild and gentle, and one could hear the calls of the birds in the garden. In my mind I always associate K with gardens and bird calls.

Then I'd like to tell you about a documentary I saw on television some time ago, in India. There was a scene of him crossing a bridge—perhaps in Benares—leaving others behind, and crossing it alone. And of the question put to him: 'You have spent all your life travelling and meeting people and talking to them. Please tell me, why do you do it?' He laughed, half-swung around as if looking for an answer, then said something unexpected: 'Out of affection, I suppose.' The words sounded both shy and impulsive.

The reference to the dictionary in Anita's notes is interesting. In early years K had used words in common parlance which his audiences readily understood. Later he became fascinated by the derivations he found in etymological dictionaries and often referred to definitions and usages which had become obsolete. This was a very rare instance of K relying on something he had read. For some, no doubt, these references to 'the dictionary' clarified his meaning; others, myself I must admit included, felt that the introduction of outside thought was a loss rather than a gain. As for the detective stories, reading them was perhaps the only true recreation K indulged in. They were a distraction and left no impression whatever. Every now and then he finished one without realising that he had read it before.

Anita did not see K after 1984 because she was lecturing in America the last time he went to Delhi in 1985. He wrote to me after first meeting her to say how much he liked her and how much he wished she would go to Rishi Valley.

K's ambivalent attitude to art and literature was always a puzzle. He loved certain classical music, Mozart almost as much as Beethoven, and Indian music, especially chanting (he would chant many of the ancient Sanskrit mantras himself). He loved the poetry of Shelley and Keats and certain passages from the Old Testament which my mother had read aloud to him (at one time he knew the 'Song of Solomon' almost by heart), but it is doubtful whether he ever read modern poetry. He had been deeply moved by some buildings and sculpture—the Parthenon, Chartres Cathedral, the statue of Themis in Athens, a stone head of Buddha in the Boston Museum, the Winged Victory at the Louvre, the huge Maheshmurti statue of Shiva in the Elephanta Caves near Bombay. (He kept a photograph of this in an envelope, for he said one must only look at it afresh and not get used to it.) But I never heard him praise a picture and I wonder whether any work of art moved him as much as a sunset.

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In India that winter K was kept very busy as usual. As well as public talks in Delhi, at Rajghat (his second-oldest school at Varanasi), at Madras and Bombay, and talking to students and teachers at Rishi Valley where he spent a fortnight in



December, he held long discussions with various swamis and pandits and the group of friends who usually surrounded him. (Many of these discussions are given in Pupul Jayakar's *Krishnamurti*.) At Ojai, Brockwood and Gstaad he would have breakfast quietly in bed and not get up until midday unless he had an appointment. It was these quiet mornings that enabled him to dictate his *Letters to the Schools* and write his Journal. (It is only in his writings that we have his lovely descriptions of nature.) In India, however, he got up for breakfast and the talk would start then.

Discussions with several people taking part and asking questions were the favoured way in India of delving into philosophy or religious teaching. The Indian way is no doubt the best way of reaching intellectual understanding, but it seems to preclude those leaps of intuition by which some people grasped more readily what K was talking about. Those who followed the way of discussion could probably explain his teaching better to others; the intuitive grasp serves only for oneself. However, as K himself had said over and over again that he wanted no interpreters, the intuitive way may be as good as the other. K himself enjoyed these discussions and was stimulated by them. He liked to go slowly, step by step, into his teaching, though he had told me that it came to *him* in the form of 'revelation'. I had said to him while I was writing his biography, 'Knowing you as K, the man, it is hard for me to think of you making the teachings,' to which he had replied, 'If I deliberately sat down to write it, I doubt if I could produce it. ... There is a sense of vacancy and then something comes. ... If it were only K—he is uneducated, gentle—so where does it come from? This person [K] hasn't thought out the teachings. ... It is like—what is the Biblical term?—revelation. It happens all the time when I am talking [giving talks].'<sup>35</sup>

It was also the Indian way to doubt everything that was said and question it. This K thoroughly approved of since faith, accepting unquestioningly the words of another, was to him an impenetrable barrier to truth.

At a Question and Answer meeting in Madras, K was asked, 'What is it to be transformed?' To this he replied:

When you are observing, seeing the dirt on the road, seeing how the politicians behave, seeing your own attitude towards your wife, your children and so on, transformation is there. To bring about some kind of order in daily life, that is transformation; not something extraordinary, out of this world. When one is not thinking clearly, objectively, rationally, be aware of it and change it, break it. That is transformation. If you are jealous watch it, don't give it time to flower, change it immediately. That is transformation. When you are greedy, violent, ambitious, trying to become some kind of holy man, see how it is creating a world of tremendous uselessness. Competition is destroying the world. The world is becoming more and more competitive, more and more aggressive and if you change it immediately, that is transformation. And if you go very much deeper into the problem it is clear that thought denies love. Therefore one has to find out whether there is an end to thought, an end to time, not to philosophise over it and discuss it but find out. Truly that is transformation and if you go into it very deeply, transformation means never a thought of becoming, comparing.<sup>36</sup>

When K stopped at Brockwood for a few nights in February 1982 on his way to Ojai he was feeling very strong and looked wonderfully well although his weight was down to 109 lb.

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K had known before he went to India that he was to have a hernia operation as soon as he returned to America. Mary Zimbalist had written to me from Ojai on January 12, 1982:

I have been arranging K's stay in hospital for this hernia repair and it turns out to be more than the equivalent of a visit to Mr Thompson [his dentist in London], which I suspect is rather what K imagined when he told me to arrange things. He will see our regular doctor three days after his arrival here on the 14th February and then is booked to go into hospital the following Saturday for the usual gamut of tests, etc. before surgery on the Monday. I have taken a 'suite', which means two rooms, one of which I will inhabit to try to make hospital life as uncomplicated as possible for him. The surgeon sounds nice on the telephone but we won't actually see him until K is already admitted to hospital. That is the way things are run these days. He is, however, chosen by our regular doctor as the very best and also as a sensitive, nice man as well. My concern now is the amount of time to recover from a hernia operation because the New York Talks loom at the end of March. There have been varying opinions on length of convalescence but the surgeon himself says 3-4 weeks should be enough. There is too little leeway in all this but I don't know what to do except to leave the plans in place. The priority of course is to get the hernia repaired as it is too dangerous for him to travel around the world with a possibility that a loop of intestines could slide down and be caught in the hernia. That would be serious and require immediate surgery of a more serious kind.

This was not the first operation that Mary had had to arrange for K. He had undergone a prostate operation in 1977. At Ojai and Brockwood, Mary not only acted as K's secretary and chauffeur but prepared his breakfast and supper, shopped for him, washed and ironed his clothes and looked after him when he was ill. He insisted on helping her by taking his breakfast and supper trays from his bedroom to the kitchen, stacking and unstacking the dish-washer, swabbing the formica surfaces and polishing the electric kettle every evening. He was always intensely interested in what she bought when she went shopping, and even liked to help unpack her basket of groceries.

On February 20, a few days after arriving at Ojai, K went into the UCLA Medical Center where Mary stayed on a couch in his room for the four nights he was there. The operation took place under a spinal anaesthetic as had his former operation. It was a great ordeal for him and as the anaesthetic wore off the pain became intense. He spoke of the 'open door'. Mary asked him to close it. Later on in the day he told her, 'It was very close. I didn't know whether I had the strength to close the door.' By the evening, however, he was sitting up reading a detective story.

He was allowed to go back to Ojai on the 24th but suffered some pain on and off for a fortnight and did not go for his first walk until March 7. On that day he spoke to Mary again about 'the impulse to slip off'. But, 'Not now,' he added. 'I still have too much to do.'

A few days before he flew to New York on March 20, it was discovered when he went to the Ojai Hospital for a check-up that his blood-sugar count was too high. He was put on a diabetic diet. He and Mary stayed in New York at the Hotel Parker-Meridien near Carnegie Hall where he was to give two talks. They heard that the hall had been sold out for the first talk, and, the following day, that tickets were being 'scalped' outside at \$85 for the second talk. K had several

times before spoken in New York, the last time in 1974, but this was the first time that the cost of renting a hall had made it necessary to charge \$10 for a ticket.

On March 26 K was interviewed at the hotel by Paul L. Montgomery for the *New York Times*. The article appeared, with a photograph of the speaker on the platform, on the morning of the second talk on March 28, a Sunday. It stated that every one of the 2,780 seats in Carnegie Hall had been filled for the first talk and that hundreds had stood outside the hall unable to get in. It then gave a résumé of K's early life, mentioned his Foundations and his present mode of travelling from place to place lecturing, then quoted what Henry Miller had once said about him: 'Here is a man of our time who may be said to be a master of reality. He stands alone. He has renounced more than any man I can think of, except the Christ.'

K told Montgomery, 'You see, I never accepted authority, and I never exercised authority over others. I'll tell you a funny story. During Mussolini's time, one of his chief workers asked me to speak in Stresa, by Lago Maggiore. When I got to the hall, there were in front of me cardinals, bishops, generals. They probably thought I was a guest of Mussolini. I talked about authority, how pernicious it was, how destructive it was. The next day, when I spoke again, there was one old woman in the audience.' On being asked by Montgomery 'if he thought his lifetime of work had made any difference in the way people lived', K replied, 'A little, sir. But not much.'

In the first talk K began by saying he was not giving a lecture but, 'Together, as two friends walking in a quiet lane, on a summer's day, we are conversing and seeing clearly why human beings throughout the world are behaving in the way they do. ... We are going to take our human existence as it is and find out for ourselves if there's any possibility of radical change in the whole human condition.' He then went into the subjects of knowledge, conditioning, freedom, human consciousness, thought, relationship, security, fear, desire, time, images, analysis. One reason for psychological fear, he said,

is comparison, to compare yourself with another. Or comparing yourself with what you have been and what you will be. ... Have you ever tried never to compare yourself with another, either physically or psychologically? When you don't compare you're not becoming. You understand this? Our whole cultural education is to become something, to be something. ... Religiously, socially, we're always wanting to become something. To live without any comparison whatsoever is an extraordinary thing that takes place when you have no measure.

About relationship he said that we all had images about ourselves and others and that there could be no real relationship between images. For instance, as long as you had an image about your wife and she had an image about you there was bound to be conflict. He went on:

As long as you have an image about yourself, you're going to get hurt. It's one of our miseries in life, from childhood through school, college, university (if you're lucky)—right through life, you're getting hurt. ... And what is it that is hurt? It is the image that you have built about yourself. ... Is it possible to be totally free of all image? Then there is no hurt, no flattery. But most people find security in the image they have built for themselves, which is the image that thought has created.

He then spoke of analysis, so pertinent to American life: 'If there is any trouble, we trot off to the analyst—he's the modern priest—we think he's going to solve all our stupid little problems. Analysis implies that there is an analyser and the analysed. Who is the analyser? Is he separate from the analysed? Or is he the analysed?' K was saying about the analyst and the analysed what he had been saying for years about the observer and the observed, the thinker and his thought. They were inseparable. There was no difference between them. This was true, he maintained, of all inward fragmentation. 'When you're angry,' he said, 'anger is you. You are not different from anger. When you are greedy, envious, you are that.'

A short way through this long talk, he pleaded, 'Please, please, if I may request you in the most friendly way, do not clap before or after the talk—it isn't worth it. If you clap, you are clapping for your understanding. It's not that you are clapping for the speaker. The speaker is not interested in any way in being a leader, in being a guru—all that stupid nonsense. We are together understanding something in life, life which has become so extraordinarily complex.'<sup>37</sup>

In the second talk, which was shorter, he spoke of the wholeness of life and asked why it was that we had made pleasure 'something totally separate from the rest of life'. From there he went on to discussing time and pointed out that psychological time did not exist at all.

Time as skill, knowledge, that is necessary, but psychological time has no truth in it; it is not a fact. Psychological time is an illusion, it has no reality. What has reality is the transformation of 'what is'; for example, I am violent; the desire to be non-violent is time. During that time I am still violent, whereas the observation of violence in myself requires no time. The attention to 'what is', which is violence, dissolves completely, instantaneously, that which is. You work it out if you are interested in it.

He continued with the subject of love, saying again that one could come upon love only by negating what love was not. 'One has to negate totally all self-centred activity. Then only that which is love blossoms into compassion. Compassion cannot exist if you are attached to any particular theory, to any particular belief, to any particular religious organisation. ... Out of that love, whatever you do is right, correct, true, for love is holistic, it is not divisive.'

He then turned to death and meditation, saying about them what he had said before, though in different words.

At the end of the talk he asked if he might get up and go, and was evidently a little dismayed when questions were put to him. He begged for no more than two. The last one was, 'Sir, could you describe to me God. Does God exist?' To this K replied:

We have invented God. Thought has invented God, that is, we, out of our misery, despair, loneliness, anxiety, have invented that thing called God. God has not made us in his image—I wish he had. Personally I have no belief in anything. The speaker only faces what is, what are facts, the realisation of the nature of every fact, every thought, all the reactions—he is totally aware of all that. If you are free from fear, from sorrow, there is no need for a god.<sup>38</sup>

In spite of his request for no clapping there was applause as he stood up.

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## *The Art of Meditation*

On K's return to Ojai a check-up at the UCLA Medical Center found that his blood-sugar count was till too high but that otherwise he was perfectly fit. A visit to the oculist, however, discovered the beginnings of cataract in both eyes and a threatening of glaucoma in his left eye for which he was given drops to put in daily.

David Bohm, fully recovered, and his wife now came to Ojai and on April 16 the first of four, hour-long discussions took place on 'The Nature of the Mind' between K, Bohm, Dr John Ridley, a psychiatrist in private practice in Ojai, and Rupert Sheldrake who was at this time a consultant to the International Crops Institute in Hyderabad. The first discussion was on 'The Roots of Psychological Disorder', the second on 'Psychological Suffering', the third on 'The Need for Security', and the fourth on 'What Is a Healthy Mind?'. These discussions, video-recorded in colour, had been sponsored by the Robert E. Simon Foundation, a private body giving substantial grants towards the furthering of mental health. There were immediate requests for these tapes from various university and training centres throughout the country who could either buy or borrow them to show. They were also shown on several Cable TV stations, including New York.<sup>39</sup>

K's birthday, his eighty-seventh, fell as usual in the middle of the Oak Grove Talks between May 1 and 16. (Mary kept his birthday on the 12th, the day on which he was born by Western time.) It was his only free day and they drove to Beverly Hills along the beach road where they had a picnic lunch and did some errands. He looked well and was particularly full of energy. He told Mary, 'Every night now meditation wakes me.' It was during his meditation that the 'other' was most present to him. What he meant by meditation, though, was very different from most people's understanding of the word. He spoke about it in at least one of every series of talks he gave. Each time he described it differently. The meditation that had woken him may have been as he described it in one of his books:

Meditation at that hour was freedom and it was like entering into an unknown world of beauty and quietness; it was a world without image, symbol or word, without waves of memory. Love was in the death of every minute and each death was the returning of love. It was not attachment, it had no roots; it flowered without cause and it was a flame that burned away the borders, the carefully built fences of consciousness. Meditation was joy and with it came benediction.<sup>40</sup>

In a talk given at Saanen he observed, 'Meditation is the emptying of the mind of the activity of the self, and this cannot be done by any practice, by any method, or by saying, "Tell me what to do."' <sup>41</sup>

On another occasion he wrote: ‘Man, in order to escape his conflicts, has invented many forms of meditation. These have been based on desire, will and the urge for achievement. This conscious, deliberate striving is always within the limits of a conditioned mind and in this there is no freedom. All effort to meditate is the denial of meditation. Meditation is the ending of thought. It is only then that there is a different dimension beyond time.’<sup>42</sup>

And again:

Meditation is one of the greatest arts in life—perhaps the greatest, and one cannot possibly learn it from anybody. That is the beauty of it. It has no technique and therefore no authority. When you learn about yourself, watch yourself, watch the way you walk, how you eat, what you say, the gossip, the hate, the jealousy—if you are aware of that in yourself, without any choice, that is part of meditation. So meditation can take place when you are sitting in a bus or walking in the woods full of light and shadow, or listening to the singing of birds or looking at the face of your wife or child.<sup>43</sup>

And in 1984, in a talk to scientists at Los Alamos, he was to say:

Meditation is not conscious meditation. What we have been taught is conscious, deliberate meditation, sitting cross-legged or lying down or repeating certain phrases, which is a deliberate, conscious effort to meditate. The speaker says such meditation is nonsense. It is part of desire. Desiring to have a peaceful mind is the same as desiring a good house or a good dress. Conscious meditation destroys, prevents the other form of meditation.

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In June K was to give two talks at the Barbican Concert Hall in London. It was the first time he had spoken in London in any hall larger than the Friends’ Meeting House and the Wimbledon Town Hall. On June 3, Joe and I met him and Mary Zimbalist at Waterloo (they had come from Brockwood) and drove them to the Savoy Hotel where they were to stay for three nights. The next morning we drove them to the Barbican. We had surveyed the Hall beforehand, discovering that there was no separate entrance for the artists. The only way K could get from the street to the Hall without going through the crowd in the foyer was by the service lift.

The Hall was packed, the overflow watching in the cinema on a lower level. I did not hear the talk because, with the help of one of my grand-daughters, I was manning the bookstall where K’s books were on sale outside the auditorium. In spite of the exorbitant price asked for the hire of the Hall (there was no charge for tickets) the loudspeaker failed to work. Terence Stamp, who had been an admirer of K’s for many years, came storming out saying that it was a disgrace. The books sold very well, however, and so did the cassettes of K’s talks which were being sold by Ray McCoy.

In the course of the second talk K said:

Perhaps some of you have heard the speaker for the last fifty years or more and are still caught in the old tradition, the old habits of attachment and attempting to become detached, struggling to be detached. Detachment leads to cynicism, cruelty, whereas if one understands the nature of attachment and goes into it deeply and sees the consequences of it, then that which

is false drops away. One hasn't time to go deeper into this, because there is something more to talk over together if you are not too tired.

We ought to talk over together the very complex problem of what is death—why human beings throughout the world, of whatever colour, whatever nationality, whatever race, whatever religion, are scared of death. Those who are really quite serious in their intent to find out the whole meaning of death must enquire, not only into the fear, but also into what is the ending—which means the ending of everything, ending of your possessions, ending of all your remembrances, of all your attachments, ending of all the pleasurable or unhappy habits. We ought to enquire not into what death is but rather into what is the ending of the known because one's mind, one's brain, is always functioning within the known, and when it is challenged, which is the ending of the known, which is death, it is scared, it is frightened, it shrivels up.

So is it possible to end it while living—not commit suicide, I'm not talking about that—but to end attachment, for example, attachment to one's work, to one's neighbour, to one's family, to one's ideas, beliefs and doctrines, to end one's god, if one has a god, to deny totally all the known, for that is the essence of death? The ending of the known is death. So can we live with death all the time? I wonder if you understand what I am talking about? While living, with plenty of vitality, energy, drive, live at the same time with this constant ending of accumulation, constant ending of every record. That requires a great deal of attention, awareness, energy. When once you perceive that, then it becomes like a river full of water that is flowing.<sup>44</sup>

Although the loudspeaker was working for this second talk, K disliked the atmosphere of the Hall so much that it was not one of his best. We felt disgusted with the whole Barbican complex.

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Vanda Scaravelli and Fosca had opened up Chalet Tannegg by the time K and Mary arrived on July 4, but as this year the downstairs flat had not been rented, Vanda insisted that Dr Parchure should stay at Tannegg while she herself stayed in a room in another chalet. K gave six talks at Saanen this year, followed by the usual Question and Answer meetings. Dr Dagmar Liechti, former Head of the Bircher-Benner Clinic at Zurich where K had been in 1960, was at the Saanen Gathering and went to Tannegg to discuss K's health with Dr Parchure, his blood-sugar count being still too high. They suggested to him that he should cancel the seminar of scientists arranged to take place at Brockwood in September after the Gathering there. K agreed to this; he felt that he ought to space out his activities better. In spite of feeling tired after the Saanen talks he dictated to Mary another batch of *Letters to the Schools*, one a day between August 1 and 12. He was also talking at this time about the possibility of building adult centres where people might come for the sole purpose of studying his teaching; there might be one in India, one at Ojai and one at Brockwood. He envisaged beautiful buildings, quite separate from the schools.

Instead of the seminar after the Brockwood Gathering, K, with Mary and Dorothy Simmons, went for a holiday to France. They were met in Paris on September 10 by Jean-Michel Maroger who drove them to Cellettes, near Blois, where he had taken rooms for them at the Château Lutaine, close to the Marogers' own place, La Mahaudière. (The Marogers could not have them to stay again because their eldest daughter was about to get married.) K and Mary stayed at the Château for over a fortnight (Dorothy had to return earlier because of the beginning of the school term), visiting Chaumont, Amboise and



Chenonceau as well as seeing a good deal of the Marogers. It was a most successful holiday—no talks for K, no serious discussions, no dictations, no schools, no one who knew him except the Marogers—a rare occurrence in his life.

Before K went to India that year at the end of October, I begged him to go on with his *Journal*. I felt that he was talking too much and not writing at all nowadays. It was so much easier to talk than to write. Writing needed discipline; his talks were discursive, and the easiest form of talking was answering questions. Besides, his talks and discussions had to be edited for publication and that inevitably put a filter between him and his reader, whereas not a word had had to be altered in his *Notebook* or his *Journal* which he had written by hand. And added to that was the greatest boon of all to my mind—his descriptions of nature which made his writing infinitely precious. When he said that writing was difficult now with his shaky hand, I suggested that he should dictate, while alone, into a tape-recorder, holding a pencil in his hand so that his words would flow as if he were writing. He liked the idea but said, as I feared, that he would have no time while he was in India. However, he said he would try it when he got back to Ojai.

This year K flew most of the way alone to India. Rita Zampese, Manager of public relations for the United Kingdom for Lufthansa in London, with whom Mary Zimbalist had made friends, went with him as far as Frankfurt and saw him on to the Lufthansa flight to Delhi where he arrived on October 24 to stay with Pupul Jayakar. His programme in India that winter was fuller than ever, for as well as giving talks in Delhi, Rajghat, Madras and Bombay, taking part in discussions with pandits and others and talking to the staff and pupils at Rajghat and Rishi Valley, he went to Calcutta in November to give four talks. He had never spoken there before.

Sunanda and Pama Patwardhan went ahead with Parameshwaran, the cook from Rishi Valley, to get ready the house that had been put at K's disposal in Calcutta. K followed from Rajghat with Achyut Patwardhan and Dr Parchure on November 18. He wrote to Mary Zimbalist next day that 'tremendous publicity' was 'going on', and on the 20th, the day of the first talk, he wrote: 'The papers are full of so-called teaching.' After the second talk on the 21st, he continued this diary letter: 'Huge crowds. On dit, the audience is larger than Bombay, between five and six thousand, absolutely quiet and silent, which they say Calcutta has never seen before. The papers are making a résumé of the talks. One wonders why. Newspapers don't usually do this kind of thing. Two prominent industrialists came to lunch today and we talked seriously. It's all rather odd.'

Pupul Jayakar went to Calcutta for two nights on the 25th, and Radha Burnier also arrived on the 25th and stayed until K and the others flew to Madras on the 30th en route for Rishi Valley. K told Mary that Calcutta was 'a filthy, noisy city, over-crowded; it's quite appalling. They have a communist government here, but fortunately quite ineffective, in name Marxist, opposed to Mrs Gandhi. It's such a chaotic mess. Chacun pour soi. Electricity goes off for hours on end and general darkness prevails mentally too.'

There were two more talks on the 27th and 28th. The Calcutta press gave both K's life and his talks full coverage. He spoke on all his usual themes, stressing the urgent need for self-transformation at a time of crisis for the world threatened by total extinction. Men as well as nations were becoming more isolated and there was no security in isolation. 'When you see the truth of something,' he said, 'you are absolutely alone.' Standing alone, according to him, was very different from being isolated. He spoke of the nature of intelligence: 'Knowledge, cleverness, is not intelligence. Where there is compassion, love, it has its own intelligence. Intelligence is the activity of the wholeness of life, not the fragmentation'. This meaning of the word 'intelligence' is important for an understanding of the teaching. 'Most of us have lust only,' he went on, 'and not passion. Only with the ending of sorrow is there passion.'<sup>45</sup> And sorrow could never end so long as there was attachment.

Unlike the crowds in Bombay, the Calcutta audience dispersed quietly after a talk, impressed apparently but rather bewildered. As the reporter for the *Economic Times* wrote: 'In the final analysis it must be said that no one can comprehend, in its entirety, the philosophy of J. Krishnamurti (or is it non-philosophy?) by merely attending a series of four talks.'

At Rishi Valley, where K went in December, Radhika Herzberger was now installed as Director of Studies, working closely with Narayan who was still the Principal. K was very pleased by the way things were going at the school. After speaking in Madras and Bombay, he returned to Ojai in February, 1983, in excellent spirits although tests in Madras had shown that his blood-sugar count was as high as it had been just after his operation.

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K had not forgotten his undertaking to try dictating alone as if he were writing, and on February 25 at Ojai, while in bed after breakfast, alone in his room, he dictated the first piece into a Sony-Walkman cassette-recorder. This piece began:

There is a tree by the river and we have been watching it day after day for several weeks\* when the sun is about to rise. As the sun rises slowly over the horizon, over the trees, this particular tree becomes all of a sudden golden. All the leaves are bright with life and as you watch it as the hours pass by, that tree whose name does not matter—what matters is that beautiful tree—an extraordinary quality seems to spread all over the land, over the river, and as the sun rises a little higher the leaves begin to flutter, to dance. And each hour seems to give to that tree a different quality. Before the sun rises it has a sombre feeling, quiet, far away, full of dignity. And as the day begins, the leaves with the light on them dance and give it that peculiar feeling that one has of great beauty. By midday its shadow has deepened and you can sit there protected from the sun, never feeling lonely, with the tree as your companion. As you sit there, there is a relationship of deep abiding security and a freedom that only trees can know.

Towards the evening when the western skies are lit up by the setting sun, the tree gradually becomes sombre, dark, closing in on itself. The sky has become red, yellow, green, but the tree remains quiet, hidden, and is resting for the night. If you establish a relationship with it, then you have relationship with mankind.<sup>46</sup>

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\* He was evidently describing a tree in some other part of the world, probably at Rajghat since he mentions a river.

K went on with these dictations, though not every day, until April 6 when he, Mary and the Lilliefelts flew to New York for two more talks. Most of the pieces he dictated begin with a description of nature, showing how every day was indeed for him a new day, a day such as had never been before. For me, these descriptions quieten one's entire being, making it intuitively receptive to the teaching that follows.

In March, Dr Jonas Salk, the discoverer of the polio vaccine, was at Ojai to hold a video-taped discussion with K. The discussion was started by Dr Salk: 'I would like you to tell me what is your deepest interest, your deepest concern.' After a little hesitation, K answered, 'I think any serious man must be concerned about the future, what's going to happen to mankind.'

A long exchange followed about the need for a transformation of the human psyche as the only hope for humanity, Dr Salk arguing that change was a process of evolution but that evolution could be accelerated, K maintaining that that involved time; change must be immediate or it would be too late to save humanity from destruction. K asked if time could end, psychological time, that was. There was no *means* by which one could bring about self-transformation but when once 'you actually see the truth that you are the rest of mankind—feel it in your guts, in your blood, then your whole activity, your whole attitude, your whole way of living changes.'

They both agreed that you could not change anyone by telling him what to do; compassion, though, might bring about change in another; and 'compassion,' K averred, 'could not be put together by thought. How can compassion exist when I have hate in my heart, when I want to kill somebody, when I am crying? ... It's like the sun. Sunshine isn't yours or mine. We share it. So if you want to help change another, be like the sun. Give him compassion, love, intelligence, nothing else. Don't say, do this, do that; then he falls into the trap that all religions have set.'

Dr Salk grasped the point: 'I hear you say something very positive, very important, very significant. I hear you say that people, individuals, a group of people exist who possess the qualities for emanating something that could help the rest of mankind.'

'You see,' K said, 'that's the whole conception—that there are such people who help. Not guide, not tell you what to do, because that's too silly. But, just like the sun, give light. And if you want to sit in the sun, you sit in it. If you don't, you sit in the shadow.'

'It's that kind of enlightenment,' Dr Salk said.

'It is enlightenment,' K replied.<sup>47</sup>

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This year in New York K stayed in a suite in the Dorset Hotel on West 54th Street and gave his talks on April 9 and 10 at the Felt Forum in Madison Square Garden which held over 4,000 people. On the 12th he gave an interview at the hotel for an hour and a half to two reporters for *East West Journal* (it appeared in the July number). In an introduction to the interview, one journalist wrote, 'Having been warned that "he is an extremely difficult man to interview and does

not tolerate small talk” we wondered how we would manage. Yet we met a polite and shy man who seemed to have infinite patience, yet at the same time exhibited a fierceness and sense of mission. ... His clarity and insightful comments put us on the spot many times, leaving us with the feeling that here was a truly free man who, without trying, had achieved what I feel is a type of spiritual anarchy—a deeply moral and sacred outlook completely independent of orthodox ideologies or religions.’

K *was* quite fierce at first:

EWJ: Now that we have massive worldwide communications, unique in history, do you think that a transformation of consciousness will emerge? I mean, specifically, using the media as a tool to raise consciousness. For instance, this film ‘Gandhi’ that has just won the Academy award is basically about peace and about Gandhi’s main message of non-violence.

K: That’s rubbish. Unless you go to the root of the matter you’re merely scratching the surface.

EWJ: But perhaps people could be inspired by scratching the surface to then try to go to the root.

K: Inspiration only lasts for a very short while. Very few people ever affect the psyche. Very few. Gandhi is totally forgotten in India.

EWJ: There was an article that said that the Indians were very impressed by the movie, but were somewhat bemused by the non-violent aspect of it.

K: That’s right. He was a very violent man. They’re trying to make a saint out of him as the only man who was helping India to be free, which isn’t true. There were hundreds. Annie Besant was one. She worked for forty years helping the country to be free. She is never mentioned. It’s all so lop-sided.

K went on to talk about human consciousness and asked whether one person who was ‘illuminated’, free from all conditioning, such as Buddha or Jesus, could affect the consciousness of the rest of mankind? He answered his own question; it had never been done:

Unless we radically change, the future is what we are now. It’s a serious fact. And nobody wants to change radically. If you want peace, you live peacefully. But nobody wants to live peacefully.

EWJ: It appears that we are at a unique time in history.

K: Yes, but the crisis is not in the world out there. Rather, it is inside us, in our consciousness. Which means that man has to change.

EWJ: Has your teaching and your writing made a change?

K: With some, perhaps. I’m not looking to see if somebody’s changed or not. It’s like this: you give food to me and if I’m hungry I’ll take it. And if not, I look at it, smell it, say ‘It’s very nice’, and then wander off. Very few people are hungry for this kind of stuff.

EWJ: Do you feel that your teaching has made a deep impression?

K: Some have given up their jobs, have said, ‘We’ll come to your schools.’ They are doing it because they are schools—not monasteries, not ashrams, but schools.

EWJ: So you feel that education is a place to really effect a change?

K: If teachers were concerned, if education all over the world was concerned, to bring about a new generation they could do it. But they are not concerned. They want to stuff the children with mathematics, biology, chemistry to make them become good engineers. Society wants good engineers—there’s money in it. Educators have an enormous responsibility because they hold the future. More than the parents. Educators must be concerned with the holistic view of life.

At the end of the interview K was asked, 'When you meet someone who is sick physically what is your approach? Do you heal?' K replied, 'Yes, but please, I want to make this quite clear. Healing is not my profession, my work.' K definitely had a power of healing but he rarely used it since he did not want people to come to him as a physical healer.

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Pupul Jayakar was in New York at this time in connection with the Festival of India, and while having dinner one evening with K and Mary in the suite at the hotel they began to talk about how K had become what he was, though without reaching any conclusion. A strange 'something' was felt in the room which always came when this subject was seriously broached. It had come at those times when I had talked to him at Brockwood about who and what he was. But on this occasion in New York he said what he had not said before, that the 'something' always came from the left.

When K returned to Ojai he began his dictations again while alone in the mornings. At this time he told Mary once more that she must write a book about him, writing a bit each day. He also discussed with her and Erna Lilliefelt his idea of starting a study centre at Ojai and wondered whether he should spend more time there, holding seminars. But ten days after returning from New York he was off with Mary to San Francisco where he had last spoken in 1975 and where he now gave two talks in the Masonic Hall. They stayed at the Huntington Hotel. As well as short interviews in *The Examiner* and *The Chronicle*, K gave an hour's interview on 'New Dimensions' radio on April 28 which was syndicated to fifty other radio stations round the country. The self-effacing interviewer allowed him to develop his themes with hardly any interruption, merely probing occasionally with an intelligent question, so that it was more like a talk, and one of his best. Whenever K was in San Francisco he saw Alain Naudé who had been his secretary and travelling companion in the sixties and with whom he remained good friends.

K was still in San Francisco when Dorothy Simmons telephoned to say that there had been a bad fire in the West Wing at Brockwood. It had started in the attic above K's bedroom which faced south. The attic, which comprised a small dormitory and a self-contained flat, was entirely burnt out, and K's bedroom was badly damaged, though some of the furniture and all his clothes had been saved. The drawing-room, under his bedroom, had suffered more from the water than the fire. The cause of the outbreak was presumably from a blow-lamp used by a workman repairing one of the attic windows; it seemed that an old bird's nest under the eaves had been set alight and left smouldering. If the school had not been in full operation that afternoon the whole house might have gone, for when the fire engines arrived from Alresford their hoses could not reach the swimming pool, the main supply of water. (The water for Brockwood is pumped up from a well into a tower.) While more fire engines were on their way from Winchester, teachers and pupils at the school kept the flames under control by a bucket-chain. K said that he had had a premonition of the fire. The insurance did not cover all the damage. Does it ever?

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In April the English Publications Committee received the first typescript from India produced within the three-year cycle agreement with the India Committee. We had been eagerly awaiting it, for we were most anxious to have an international book from India. It was a very bulky volume of discussions between K and others, entitled *Intelligence and the Mechanical Brain*. After reading it, I asked Mary Cadogan to send it to every member of our committee, including Alan Kishbaugh in California, without comment. The reports were unanimous: it needed a great deal of cutting and much more careful editing before we could submit it to Gollancz; therefore we most reluctantly returned it with this recommendation. The following year, the Indian Foundation brought out for the Indian market a short and impeccably edited book containing K's talks in India between October 1982 and January 1983. If only this manuscript had been sent to us for the international book all the later publication difficulties with India might have been avoided.\*

This month, my last sister, Elisabeth, the one nearest to me, died. K had known her well because she had been with us at Ehrwald and Pergine and twice in India. She had been ill since her flat caught fire two years before as the result of a faulty electric blanket and she had been rescued, unconscious from smoke, just in time. With my three sisters and my brother all dead, I was left with the irrational and sentimental feeling that K was the only remaining member of my family, so closely entwined had he been with my childhood and youth. He had always been there, dearer to me than my father or any of my siblings, the most abiding influence of my life. Yet when I turn to his *Notebook* it seems incredible that I could have felt so close to a being who had lived most of the time in another dimension—in a consciousness of sustained ecstasy. He had written, 'There is no reason for this ecstasy—to have a cause for joy is no longer joy; it was simply there and thought could not capture it and make it into a remembrance. ... It came wave upon wave, a living thing which nothing could contain and with this joy there was benediction. It was so utterly beyond all thought and demand.'

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\* We afterwards discovered that an Indian working for the Oxford University Press had helped with the editing of this book.

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## *The New Centre*

Dorothy Simmons and Mary Cadogan went to Ojai for the Oak Grove talks in May this year in fulfilment of K's wish that the trustees of the different foundations should meet as frequently as possible. One afternoon during the Gathering K sat through the whole showing of an hour-long colour film on his life and teaching which had taken five years to be made by Evelyne Blau, one of the American trustees. This film, called *The Challenge of Change*, produced by Michael Mendizza, is startling in that the supposed voice of K, reading from the essay he had written in 1913, is that of the American actor Richard Chamberlain. To have heard K impersonated by an Englishman would have sounded strange enough. But the film has been very well researched and there are some beautiful shots of K, especially in Switzerland and India. The film has not yet been shown on any wide commercial network but it has had some very successful public showings in various towns in America.

By the time K and Mary went back to Brockwood on May 28, the smell of burning had almost disappeared. K slept in the small room in the West Wing, facing north, looking on to the main entrance to the house. Mary's room was undamaged. Dr Parchure had arrived from India before them to stay with K for the rest of the summer.

K dictated one more piece alone in his room at Brockwood on May 30, the only one of this series that was done away from Ojai and the last of 1983. In this piece he described Brockwood:

It has been raining here for over a month every day. When you come from a climate like California where the rain stopped over a month ago, where the green fields were drying up and turning brown and the sun was very hot (it was over 90° and would get hotter still though they say it is going to be a mild summer)—when you come from that climate it is rather startling and surprising to see the green earth, the marvellous green trees and the copper beeches, which are a spreading, light brown becoming gradually darker and darker. To see them now among the green trees is a delight. They are going to be very dark as the summer comes on. And this earth is very beautiful. Earth, whether it is desert or filled with orchards and green bright fields, is always beautiful.

To go for a walk in the fields with the cattle and the young lambs, and in the woods with the song of birds, without a single thought in your mind, only watching the earth, the trees, the sheep and hearing the cuckoo calling and the wood-pigeons; to walk without any emotion, any sentiment, to watch the trees and all the earth: when you so watch, you learn your own thinking, are aware of your own reactions and do not allow a single thought to escape you without understanding why it came, what was the cause of it. If you are watchful, never letting a thought go by, then the brain becomes very quiet. Then you watch in great silence. And that silence has immense depth, a lasting incorruptible beauty.

K stopped dictating because on June 6 Dorothy Simmons suffered a heart attack and was taken to hospital. Thereafter he was fully occupied with the

question of who was to run the school while she was ill. There was no deputy Principal so K appointed a committee of four—Scott Forbes, Stephen Smith, who taught English, Harsh Tankha, the mathematics teacher, and Ingrid Porter, the Secretary of the School. Montague Simmons was too old to take charge.

Brockwood now had video colour equipment which was used for the first time to record two dialogues between K and David Bohm on June 11 and 25 for Bohm to show at a conference at Davos on ‘The Future of Humanity’ to which K had been invited but which he felt unable to attend.<sup>48</sup> Svetlana Peters (Stalin’s daughter) was staying at Brockwood for the weekend and listened to the second dialogue. (Many paying-guests would come to stay at Brockwood for a night or two in cell-like rooms, each with its own shower and W.C., in what are called The Cloisters, separate from the main house.)

I had recently become friends with Svetlana who had written to me out of the blue about the first volume of my biography of K. She was living at Cambridge then and had arranged with Dorothy Simmons to go to Brockwood before Dorothy had her heart attack. Svetlana was very lonely after twelve years in America. Her daughter, Olga, by her American husband from whom she was divorced, was at a Quaker boarding school and she was grievously missing the son and daughter she had left in Russia and her grandchildren whom she had never seen. She had written two best-sellers, one about her childhood and youth which she had managed to smuggle out of Russia, and the other about her defection and escape via India. She was now writing a third book, her impressions of life in America. By now, she told me, she had no language to write in—her English was very faulty and she felt she could no longer write in Russian, so she was trying to find someone to turn this new book into good English. She was distressed because the publishers she had approached seemed only to want more about her father and she was longing to get out of his shadow. She was very talented and well-educated and had great charm, warmth and simplicity, and I found her Russian accent irresistible.

I had told K about her and he was looking forward to meeting her. She arrived just as he was setting out on his afternoon walk and he immediately asked her to walk with him. K never saw her again after that weekend.

Her return to Russia was a complete surprise to me, but understandable, knowing how much she longed for her children. I wrote to her through the Soviet embassy in London wishing her happiness, and in due course a card came back posted in Moscow, acknowledging my letter and hoping that ‘our friend’ was well. In June 1986 I was to receive a long and beautiful letter from her from Wisconsin, saying that she had only just heard that ‘our Krishnaji is no more’ and going on to tell me what a terrible time she and Olga had had in Russia. It was only the thought of K and reading his books that had kept her going. She had made translations into Russian of some chapters from his *Commentaries on Living*, the *Notebook* and the *Journal*. Soon, one hopes, there will be a book on her experiences after her return to Russia and what she called ‘the MIRACLE’ of being eventually allowed to leave. ‘*The MIRACLE*’, she wrote, ‘*happened because K helped me to concentrate, to push, to collect all energy and not to give up.*’



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Every day until he left Brockwood for Gstaad, K talked to the assembled school and staff, giving all his energy to trying to bring about harmony in the school which was torn between rival groups following Dorothy's illness. He was not well during much of the time at Gstaad that summer, suffering chiefly from a feverish cough. His indisposition did not, however, affect the quality of the Saanen talks. He told Mary that he was going to live to be a hundred 'to see what it was like'.

On August 1, after the Gathering, K was to meet yet one more person who came into his life at just the right time. This was Friedrich Grohe. Mr Grohe was then fifty-four, a widower, born in Germany, who, four years earlier, had retired from the family business, known internationally for its manufacture of bathroom and kitchen taps. Reading one of K's books in 1980, *The Impossible Question*, determined the course of his life from then on, to use his own words. He was later to become a Trustee of the English and Indian Foundations, to support the schools at Brockwood and Ojai and the proposed study centres in Brockwood and India. At the time of his first meeting with K he was staying in a flat at Rougemont near Saanen (his main home was near the Lake of Geneva) and had come to see K because he wanted to start a Krishnamurti school in Switzerland. K advised him against the school idea; instead, Mr Grohe responded to K's suggestion of building a study centre at Brockwood.

On the way back to England Mary persuaded K to use a wheelchair at the airport for the first time. It was a great success for they swept past long queues at Heathrow on arrival. They found Dorothy back at Brockwood, looking much better, but K felt that she should no longer be burdened with all the business of the school.

A larger tent was needed that year for the crowds who attended the Brockwood Gathering. It had always amused K to look out of his window at the campers who would be staying for the whole week, setting up their tents, and at the people arriving on the days when the talks took place. This year, having to sleep in a room looking north on to the drive, he missed the view across the lawn to the campers, the two great marquees and the crowds assembling. He would speak at 11.30 for an hour; then, as the crowd waited for lunch to be served in the adjoining marquee, he would go back to the house for fruit and salad in the West Wing kitchen and return afterwards to the marquee to toy with a cooked dish on a paper plate with a plastic fork while he walked about talking for half an hour to the people who came up to him. He was very shy and shaky on these occasions.

Friedrich Grohe went to Brockwood for the night of October 1 and donated £50,000 to the school (this was quite apart from the money he was to put up for the study centre). K called him his A.G. (*Ange Gardien*). Brockwood, like the other Krishnamurti schools, was a fee-paying school with a certain number of free places financed by a special scholarship fund. It was not self-supporting; the building itself needed a great deal of maintenance and money was always short.

Until K flew to Delhi with Dr Parchure on October 27 most of his time was taken up with the many difficulties of reorganising the school. Mary was going to stay on at Brockwood for three weeks after his departure to see to the

redecorating and refurnishing of his bedroom, and he rather left to her the responsibility of bringing about the changes he wanted at the school as if, he told her, he was already dead. Nevertheless, he said that he was going to live another ten years.

It had been arranged for K to go again to Sri Lanka that winter but this visit was cancelled on Pupul Jayakar's advice because of the troubles there with the Tamils. K followed his usual programme, therefore—giving talks in Delhi, Rajghat, Madras (after a month at Rishi Valley) and Bombay in February 1984.

It was not only at Brockwood that K had difficulties. At Rajghat there were troubles both inside the school and outside with a neighbouring village. The latter trouble was long-standing. The Rajghat Education Centre comprises the school and a college for women occupying 140 acres on the west side of the Varuna river, at the point where it enters the Ganges. In addition to this there are 110 acres on the other side of the river which now contain a small hospital, a village primary school for 150 children and a rural centre with a number of training activities. Between this centre and the Ganges is a village which has gradually grown in population since the land surrounding it became part of the centre. The villagers have been given free education for their children and medical treatment as well as some five acres of Foundation land for their houses, but they still resent the presence of the centre on land which they feel should be theirs. The situation is complicated by the fact that the road leading to the village and the rural centre goes through the college campus and crosses the Varuna river by a small bridge which breaks down during the rainy season; the rural centre can then only be reached by boats operated by the villagers. It will be seen that much tact and some firmness are demanded of those in charge of the rural centre for a working relationship to be preserved.

There were difficulties too at Vasanta Vihar at Adyar which K felt did not have the truly religious atmosphere he expected. Did he spread himself too thin? He could usually change the atmosphere of a place when he was there, put people on their toes, but when he went away he took so much of this spirit with him. There was no one in his entourage in India, America or England who could act as his deputy; nor did he want such a person, for that would lead to authority. What he asked was that every person who worked for him should be a light unto himself—a light that would burn as brightly whether he was there or not.

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In 1984, before K arrived in England on February 15, Mary Zimbalist had returned to Brockwood to make sure that his room was ready for him. Rita Zampese, from Lufthansa, flew to Bombay for the sole purpose of accompanying him back to Heathrow. She has told me that just sitting beside him during the flight, hardly talking, had a profound effect on her. Afterwards she felt utterly committed to him and his teaching.

Friedrich Grohe went to Brockwood again on the evening of K's arrival, and for the next two days, while K and Mary remained there before flying to Los Angeles, they discussed what was soon to be called simply the Centre which K was going to build with Mr Grohe's financial help, and chose the site for it. This

was to be the old apple orchard, south of the main building and separated from it by the long lawn and a high yew hedge, with uninterrupted views to the south over fields that could never be built on. None of the big trees would have to be cut down and there would be a separate entrance from a lane which would make the building quite independent of the school. The first step was to obtain outline planning permission.

At Ojai K was at first exhausted by having to deal with problems arising from opening a secondary day school with some boarders, adjoining the primary Oak Grove School. The parents of the primary school pupils, who had moved to the Valley in order to send their children to a Krishnamurti school, had been pressing for this. All the same, K's annual medical check-up was very satisfactory and he was full of enthusiasm when, on March 19, he drove with Mary and Alan Kishbaugh to Albuquerque where they stayed at the Los Alamos Inn. Dr M. R. Raju had invited K to take part in a symposium at the National Laboratory Research Center at Los Alamos, New Mexico, on the subject of 'Creativity in Science'. On March 20, K gave a talk on the subject and next day he answered questions.

Los Alamos is situated at 7,000 feet on a plateau. When Dr Robert Oppenheimer, the celebrated physicist, discovered the site it was empty apart from a small private boys' school, but having been chosen soon after America entered the Second World War to be the centre of atomic research in the U.S., it has grown into a town of some 20,000 inhabitants.

K spoke for over an hour at 8 a.m. in an overflowing hall that held about 700 people, mostly scientists, though the talk was open to the public. His main theme was that knowledge could never be creative because it was incomplete. He asked:

Can we, as human beings, look at the world as we have made it? I wonder if we ever ask ourselves whether we are individuals at all. Our consciousness is made up of our reactions, our beliefs, our faith, all the prejudices that we have, the multiplication of opinions, the fears, the insecurity, the pain, the pleasure, and all the suffering that human beings have borne for thousands of years—all that is our consciousness. Our consciousness is what we are. And in this confusion, this contradiction, can there be creativity? ... So, if thought is not the ground of creation, then what is creation? When does it take place? Surely creation can take place only when thought is silent. ... Science is the movement of knowledge gathering more and more and more. The 'more' is the measurement, and thought can be measured because thought is a material process. Knowledge has its own limited insight, its own limited creation, but this brings conflict. We are talking about holistic perception in which the ego, the 'me', the personality, does not enter at all. Then only is there this thing called creativity. That is it.

The following morning he answered questions in a much smaller auditorium for an audience confined to Fellows of the Los Alamos National Laboratory. Of the fifteen questions handed to him on behalf of the scientists present, he answered only the first and the last. The first question was, 'What is creativity? What is meditation?' His answer to this took up most of the hour and a half allotted time and he repeated much of what he had said in his talk the day before. The last question was, 'If you were the Director of the Laboratory with the responsibility for the defence of the country and recognizing the way things are,

how would you direct the activities of the Laboratory and the research? To this K replied in part:

We have divided the world. You are a Christian, I am black, you are white, you are a Caucasian, and I am Chinese—whatever the beastly thing is. We are divided, we have fought each other from the beginning of time. ... Sir, a group of people like you at Los Alamos—you have given your time for destruction. You are doing a great deal of benefit, and on the other hand you are destroying every human on earth, because you have recognised *my* country, *my* responsibilities, *my* defence. And the Russians are saying exactly the same thing on the other side. India, which has immense poverty, is saying the same thing. Building up arms. So what is the answer to this? If I have a group of people who say, let's forget all nationalism, all religions, let's, as human beings, solve this problem—try to live together without destruction; if we gave time to all that as a group of absolutely dedicated people who have gathered together at Los Alamos for one purpose and are concerned with all the things we have been talking about, then perhaps there is something new that can take place. ... I am not asking you to do anything. I am not a propagandist, but the world is like this now. Nobody is thinking about it. Nobody has a global outlook—a global feeling for all humanity—not *my* country—for God's sake. If you went around the world, as the speaker does, you would cry for the rest of your life. Pacifism is a reaction to militarism, that's all. The speaker is not a pacifist. Instead, let's look at the cause of all this—if we all seek together the causation, then the thing is solved. But each one has different opinions about the causation and sticks to his opinions, his historical directories. So, sir, there it is.

*Member of audience:* Sir, if I may say so—I think you have convinced us.

*Krishnamurti:* I'm not convincing anything.

*Member of audience:* What I mean is, that when once we really try to understand this and do something in that direction, somehow we seem to lack the necessary energy ... what is it that is really holding us back? We can see the house is on fire, but still we are not able to do anything about stopping the fire.

*Krishnamurti:* The house on fire, which we think is over there, is here. We have to put our house in order first, sir.<sup>49</sup>

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On K's return to Ojai from Los Alamos he dictated three more pieces into his tape-recorder while quietly alone in his bedroom—on March 27, 28 and 30. These were the last we were ever to have of his reflections when alone and, ironically, the last piece of all was about death. He described how while walking on a beautiful sunny morning in spring, he saw a dead leaf, 'yellow and bright red', lying on the path. 'How beautiful that leaf was,' he wrote, 'so simple in its death, so lively, full of the beauty and vitality of the whole tree and the summer. Strange that it had not withered. ... That leaf was all the tree.' He went on:

Why do human beings die so miserably, so unhappily, with a disease, old age, senility, the body shrunk, ugly? Why can't they die naturally and as beautifully as this leaf? What is wrong with us? In spite of all the doctors, medicines and hospitals, operations and all the agony of life, and the pleasures too, we don't seem able to die with dignity, simplicity, and with a smile. ... As you teach children mathematics, writing, reading and all the business of acquiring knowledge, they should also be taught the great dignity of death, not as a morbid unhappy thing that one has to face eventually, but as something of daily life—the daily life of looking at the blue sky and the grasshopper on a leaf. It is part of learning, as you grow teeth and have all the discomforts of childish illnesses. Children have extraordinary curiosity. If you see the nature of death, you don't explain that everything dies, dust to dust and so on, but without any fear you explain it to them gently and make them feel that the living and the dying are one—not at the end of one's

life after fifty, sixty or ninety years, but that death is like that leaf. Look at the old men and women, how decrepit, how lost, how unhappy and how ugly they look. Is it because they have not really understood either the living or the dying? They have used life, they waste away their life with incessant conflict which only exercises and gives strength to the self, the 'me', the ego. We spend our days in such varieties of conflict and unhappiness, with some joy and pleasure, drinking, smoking, late nights and work, work, work. And at the end of one's life one faces that thing called death and is frightened of it. One thinks it can always be understood, felt deeply. The child with his curiosity can be helped to understand that death is not merely the wasting of the body through disease, old age and some unexpected accident, but that the ending of every day is also the ending of oneself every day.

There is no resurrection, that is superstition, a dogmatic belief. Everything on earth, on this beautiful earth, lives, dies, comes into being and withers away. To grasp this whole movement of life requires intelligence, not the intelligence of thought, or books, or knowledge, but the intelligence of love and compassion with its sensitivity. ... As one looked at that dead leaf with all its beauty and colour, maybe one would very deeply comprehend, be aware of, what one's own death must be, not at the very end but at the very beginning. Death isn't some horrific thing, something to be avoided, something to be postponed, but rather something to be with day and day out. And out of that comes an extraordinary sense of immensity.<sup>50</sup>

Asit Chandmal came to Ojai for ten days on April 1 and showed K the dummy of a book of beautiful coloured photographs he had taken of him throughout his eighty-fifth year, in India, Ojai, Brockwood and Saanen, which he hoped to have published in time to present to K on his ninetieth birthday the following year.<sup>51</sup> Asit flew with K, Mary and the Lilliefelts on April 11 to New York for another two talks at the Felt Forum where K had spoken the year before. K and Mary stayed again at the Dorset Hotel and had most of their meals at a little Italian restaurant, Il Nido. K had the pleasant relaxation one afternoon while they were there of going to see a Tarzan film.

After the talks, on the 17th, K was the guest speaker of the Pacem in Terris Society in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium of the United Nations. The invitation to speak there had been conveyed through Dr Patricia Hunt-Perry. Part of his talk is given below:

There have been many organisations including this one to bring about peace in the world, but there has been no peace for various obvious reasons: nationalism, tribalism, opposing religions, divisions of classes, races, and so on. ... Why is it that after all these millions of years human beings don't live in peace? Do we realise that we are responsible for this horror that is going on in the world? Every form of violence, terrorism, wars—we are responsible for it. War is not in Beirut. It is in our hearts and minds. We have created this society in which we live. We are this society, and until each one of us radically transforms himself, we will have perpetual wars.

Man is conditioned, his brain has been moulded according to a particular tradition, religion. ... Is it possible for human beings to be free of their conditioning? Why are human beings so conditioned? Is it because we want security—both external and inward? Is there any kind of security inwardly? If we are not sure about that, we try to seek security outwardly, externally, through nations, through religious organisations ... it seems that we should talk over together now and discover for ourselves if there is security in our relationships with each other, however intimate they may be. If there is security, why is there such contention between man and woman, such conflict in their relationship—each one pursuing his own ambition, his own fulfilment, his own desires and so on? To go very far, we must begin very near, and the nearest is man and woman, wife and husband. In that relationship, if there is conflict, as there is now, then that conflict is spread—ultimately to war. We have never given thought to this, that while

our house is burning—which is that society is burning, degenerating—we are also degenerating. If we don't alter our lives, how can we bring about peace on earth? It seems so logical, so rational, sane, but we don't do it. Unless the psychological world is quiet, sane, peaceful, that psychological state will always overcome every kind of organisation. The psyche is far more important than the external legislation, governments, and so on.

We have been conditioned from the beginning by religion, by society, by culture that each one is separate, individual, and therefore he must seek his own salvation, his own expression, his own fulfilment. And this so-called separate individuality is creating havoc in the world—which does not mean that we should all become the same, turned out in the same mould. On the contrary. Freedom is the highest form of existence. It's the greatest art to live free. But we are not free. One thinks one is free to do what one likes. Especially in this country, each individual thinks he is supreme to do what he wants. But when you travel around and observe very closely, every human being, whether he has great position, a great deal of money, status, power, is like the rest of the world. He goes through great pain, desperate loneliness and all the rest of the psychological world of uncertainty, confusion; we are the rest of humanity. We are not Africans and Europeans and all that nonsense. We are humanity. Unless we realise that one major factor in our life, that psychologically we are one, we are going to be eternally in conflict. And no organisation in the world is going to change that fact. So what is a human being to do if he is seriously concerned with the world? Form another group, another religion, another institution? Or become aware of his condition and radically change, bring about a deep mutation? Otherwise, there will be no peace on earth in spite of all the religions, in spite of every institution. It must begin with us, not with somebody else out there.<sup>52</sup>

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K had little rest at Ojai that year because a few days after returning from New York he was off to San Francisco again with Mary for two more talks and another hour-long interview with 'New Dimensions' radio. The same interviewer drew from him as good a talk as the year before. He was hardly back at Ojai before the Oak Grove talks started in a temperature of 106°. Friedrich Grohe was at Ojai for the Gathering and flew to London with K and Mary on June 1. K found that a compact-disc-player had been installed in his newly decorated bedroom at Brockwood which became a great joy to him.

A few days later Iris Murdoch lunched at Brockwood. Afterwards she and K talked for some time about the possibility of recording a videotaped dialogue in October. This meeting had been arranged through a friend of mine, Harold Carlton, who had boldly written to Iris Murdoch, whom he admired but had never met, suggesting it. After meeting K she seemed anxious to talk to him again, and he liked the idea too. He was always looking out for people with whom to have deep discussions, and she seemed an ideal person. He had never read any of her novels and had heard of her only as a philosopher. The date of a further meeting was arranged.

Scott Forbes was in hospital in Winchester at this time with acute appendicitis. He was determined not to have an operation until after the Saanen Gathering in spite of the danger, and was eventually discharged after a course of antibiotics. While he was still in hospital K suddenly had the idea of putting him in charge of the Brockwood Centre, to oversee both the building of it and the running of it when it was opened. Scott and his wife Kathy accepted this charge after thinking it over carefully. Scott was a dynamic young American who had been working at Brockwood for about ten years, first on maintenance and then in charge of the video. He was widely travelled, had lived for a time in Paris and

had run a successful small antique business in Geneva before coming across K. He had gone to Saanen one summer almost by chance, had listened to one of K's talks and had been utterly captivated. In going to work for K at Brockwood he completely changed his style of living while retaining all his energy. His youth, enthusiasm, vitality, knowledge of the world, fluent French and cosmopolitan ease of manner appealed to K, who enjoyed his company—he was someone he could laugh with—as well as appreciating his usefulness.

Scott approached one of the leading British architects. The specification for the Centre was for twenty simple bedrooms, each with its own shower and W.C., and each facing the view; a living-room, library, video-room, dining-room with its own kitchen, staff rooms and a flat for Mr Grohe. But K also envisaged what he called 'the quiet room' as the most important room in the building, rather difficult of access, perhaps approached by a winding staircase that would shut it away from the communal rooms. Here the people staying in the Centre would come for the sole purpose of sitting quietly, not talking or doing anything.

Friedrich Grohe and Scott were now asked to become trustees of the English Foundation. Dorothy Simmons was to remain Principal of the school while Harsh Tankha and Stephen Smith became co-directors of studies, Ingrid Porter school manager, and Gary Primrose and Christina West, who looked after the garden together, were given the special responsibility of seeing that K's teaching did not get swamped by the academic curriculum. When K announced all these new appointments to the assembled school there was a great deal of dissension. The students were critical and K was disturbed by the feeling that he had no real contact with the staff.

On June 18 I went to Brockwood to record a talk with K about his wish that no one should claim to represent him after his death. It was not a satisfactory recording because he was too occupied with school difficulties. He soon broke off and said that he must go and lie down because his head was bad. Later that afternoon he talked for two and a half hours at a school meeting. He spoke most intensely and was almost in tears at the end.

He was thankful to escape to Switzerland at the end of June. Tannegg had now been sold so another house, Chalet Horner at Schönried, had been rented, and there K and Mary found Vanda and Fosca. K, missing Tannegg after so many years, continued to take his usual afternoon walk through a wood to the river, but this now meant driving to Tannegg to begin the walk. Each time they came to the wood, K would ask aloud, 'May we come in?'. He did not much like Chalet Horner; therefore, for the following year Friedrich Grohe offered to lend him his own small flat at Rougemont while Vanda and Mary arranged for the lease of a larger flat in the same building. K said that next year he would come earlier to Switzerland and rest before the talks.

Although there was a larger tent this year for the Gathering it hardly held the crowds who came to Saanen. When K returned to Brockwood on August 14 he found an angry, divided staff. He said he could not live with such discord and that unless there was agreement he would close the door between the school and the west wing. It seemed that those who were close to K in their different ways were no nearer to living his teaching than those who had only read his books and

listened to his tapes. Indeed, the closer we were to the sun the more likely we were to get burnt.

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The Lilliefelts, the Patwardhans and Friedrich Grohe went to Brockwood for the Gathering held between August 25 and September 3 and stayed on for a six-day international meeting of the Foundations. Pupul Jayakar, Radhika Herzberger and Asit Chandmal came from India; Alan Kishbaugh and Evelyne Blau from America, and Alfonso Colón, with two of his colleagues, represented the Spanish Foundation from Puerto Rico. (Mary Zimbalist was a trustee of both the English and American Foundations.) Mary Cadogan, Jane Hammond and Scott Forbes were there as well as Jean-Michel Maroger and Count Hugues van der Straten, who had been a trustee of the English Foundation from the beginning.

I went for the one day set aside to discuss publications. This was a difficult meeting at which K was present, though taking little part. Pupul was not satisfied with the three-year publication cycle which had been legally agreed in 1980. She again asked to share the copyright in K's work. We believed that it would not be legally possible for the English Foundation, as a charitable trust, to give away one of its assets even if K had wanted to. (On later consultation with the Foundation's solicitor this was found to be the case.) We decided as a compromise to form an international publications committee with two representatives from each of the three English-speaking Foundations who would consult together on all publication matters. Mary Zimbalist and Alan Kishbaugh became the members for America, Sunanda Patwardhan and Asit Chandmal for India, and Mary Cadogan and I for England. Pupul declined to join this committee, yet we knew that the Indian representatives would not be empowered to make any decisions without the consent of the Indian Foundation, so really the meeting had achieved nothing. (In the event this International Committee never had an opportunity to act.) At the end of a tiring day we felt very despondent. Almost in tears, I had burst out emotionally at one moment against the terrible way we were wasting K with our squabbles, using up his energy which should have been going into his teaching.

Mary Zimbalist had to go to Rome for two nights at the end of October to see an old Italian maid who had worked for her at Malibu. On her return K told her, 'When you are away it is much more work for me. You must hurry to understand everything. I may live another ten years but you must understand.' Mary was not young, though she was not old, hence the need for her to hurry. But so many of those who had served K devotedly for years were old; he had demanded a great deal of them but never for himself, only for his work. He naturally felt an urgency now to bring forward and train young people to carry on after his death. The most we old ones could do for him was to try to help the young.

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Iris Murdoch went to Brockwood on October 18 and a discussion between her and K was recorded on video<sup>53</sup> before a small audience in another room, including Joe and me and Harold Carlton who had been instrumental in bringing them together. Alas, the conversation was disappointing. They never managed to



get on the same wavelength. Iris Murdoch seemed unable to approach K with a mind uncluttered by the mass of philosophy she had read. One could almost see her trying to pigeon-hole him as they talked. At last he said something which reminded her of Plato, after which she seemed more relaxed; she appeared to have dropped him neatly into the Plato slot.

The architect had now not only produced his plans for the Centre but a model because K could not understand plans. When K saw it, he did not like it; it looked to him too much like a motel. Scott Forbes, who felt that the firm of architects was not taking the project enough to heart, decided that it was best to cut losses and look for another architect.

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## *First Talks in Washington*

Mary Zimbalist flew to Delhi with K on October 28. Pama Patwardhan met them in a car at the aircraft steps, a great convenience arranged for K by Pupul Jayakar who was waiting for them in the lounge with her male secretary to see to the passports and luggage. K went to stay with her in Safdarjang Road while Mary was taken to the Taj Mahal Hotel, though she was to have her main meals at Pupul's. K was most insistent that Mary should take nothing in the hotel except tea; he was very concerned for her health in India. Nandini Mehta, Asit Chandmal and the Patwardhans were also staying with Pupul.

On the 30th, K, Mary, Pupul and the Patwardhans went to lunch with the Vice-President, Mr. Venkataraman, whom K knew quite well, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, as Viceroy's House, designed by my father, had been called since Independence. (When K first went there he had written to me to say how much he liked the palace. I had first been to Raisina, as New Delhi was then called, in 1923. It was still partly desert then and I had helped to plant some of the trees there. When I went back in 1957 and was shown over the palace and its marvellous garden, I experienced one of the most moving moments of my life: whereas all the statues of Kings and Queens and portraits of Viceroys had been relegated to some boneyard, I suddenly saw a bust of my father in a niche on the stairs, bearing the simple inscription 'Architect of this House'.)

Next morning came the horror of Mrs Gandhi's assassination. Mary did not know of it until she arrived at Pupul's at 11.30. Pupul had rushed to Mrs Gandhi's house close by with Asit who had returned with a message for K to say that Mrs Gandhi was dead. K and all the others in the house watched television for the rest of the day. It was not until 6 p.m. that the news of Mrs Gandhi's death and Rajiv Gandhi's election as Prime Minister was announced. Pupul did not get home until ten. She had been at the hospital with Sonia, Rajiv's wife. Asit took Mary back to the hotel through empty streets but the attacks on Sikhs had begun and the glare of fires could be seen in the outer districts.

The next day Pupul accompanied Mrs Gandhi's body to where it was to lie in state until the funeral. The violence made it possibly unsafe for K to stay in Delhi, and his planned departure for Varanasi was brought forward from the 5th to the 3rd. K, Mary and Nandini drove that afternoon with Asit through the empty streets of that part of the city round Safdarjang Road, which was closely guarded by the police, to an almost empty Lodi Park where they took a walk. K's ultrasensitive system was greatly affected by the disturbed atmosphere so Mary was relieved when on the 3rd they flew with the Patwardhans and Dr Parchure to the peace of Madras instead of to Varanasi which was considered dangerous on account of riots there. This was the day on which Mrs Gandhi's funeral took place in Delhi.

After six days at Vasanta Vihar, K insisted on going to Varanasi, although it meant flying there via Delhi, because a two-day camp had been planned at Rajghat for some 200 people who would be arriving on the 10th in spite of the danger of travelling by train at a time when the fever of revenge was running high.

K spoke to the campers on both days and stayed on at Rajghat afterwards for nearly three weeks, talking to the teachers and students and planning a study centre like the one at Brockwood, though on a much smaller scale, which Friedrich Grohe had undertaken to build. K also held discussions with several distinguished pandits. On November 30 he and Mary flew back to Madras, via Delhi again, and three days later they drove to Rishi Valley.

Narayan, Radhika Herzberger and Dr Parchure and his wife (who worked at Rishi Valley) were at the school when K arrived, and in the course of the three weeks he remained there the Patwardhans, Nandini, Pupul, Asit, Dorothy Simmons, Friedrich Grohe and Rita Zampese came to stay. K had specially asked Dorothy to come and be with him in India this year and she had gone, most gallantly, although she had been very ill when she had been there in 1980, and she hated the heat. Teachers from the Rajghat, Bangalore and Madras schools also came. For three days running K spoke to all the assembled teachers. He also spoke several times to the younger children and was exhilarated by their interest. He talked to them about mediocrity as he had talked to us at Pergine in 1924. He explained to them the meaning of the word and told them to avoid mediocrity above all things. You could rise to the highest position in the land and still be mediocre, he told them. To be mediocre was to have a mechanical, second-hand mind.

On one of his afternoon walks with friends, K went to choose a site where Friedrich had offered to build bungalows for a study centre as at Rajghat. On another afternoon, with Nandini, Radhika and Mary, K went along the road as far as a small temple at Tetu. On the way back, K told Mary that he had felt 'something following' him. He had 'done something' and said to it, 'That's enough', and it had stopped immediately. A few days later when they walked again to Tetu, K said that he 'did something at the temple and told it to stay in its place'.

When on December 26 they returned to Madras and Mary felt ill in the car, K put his hands on her to help her throughout the long drive. Since she did not feel at all well in Madras and both she and K were afraid of her falling really ill, she decided not to wait for K but to fly back to England with Dorothy and Rita Zampese in the middle of January.

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K went to Bombay on January 25, 1985, and after giving four talks there to larger audiences than ever he flew to London on February 12, accompanied by Asit Chandmal. Mary had already returned to Ojai. I went to Brockwood two days later to see K and as soon as we were alone he started telling me in a rather confused way about a talk he had recently had in Madras with a Brahmin pandit, Jagannath Upadhyaya, a well-known Buddhist scholar. The Pandit, it seems, was

studying some very early Tibetan manuscripts (K could not remember whether it was AD 600 or 900) which predicted the coming of the Lord Maitreya and actually gave the name of Krishnamurti as the human vehicle the Lord would inhabit when he came. K seemed excited and impressed by this revelation, though sceptical of it at the same time. I said that if it were true it would bear out the Theosophical conception of Krishnamurti as the vehicle for the World Teacher and dispel any mystery as to who and what he was. This K would not accept. He said it was 'too concrete'. He spoke to others about the Pandit's revelation but always in a shy, hesitant way.

Nine months later Mary Zimbalist and Scott Forbes asked him to record on tape what the Pandit had said to him and what he felt about it. This he did with reluctance, not allowing the Pandit to be identified by name. K said that he was a great scholar whom he had been talking to for years in Benares, and who sometimes came to Madras to see him. One evening in Madras, he could not remember how it came about—Achyut Patwardhan was there and Sunanda Patwardhan who took notes—the Pandit began to speak. (His words must have been translated from Hindi since he could speak no English.) The Pandit began with 'great hesitancy, a great sense of reverence, a feeling of non-verbal communication, a certain sense of awe, a quality of utter secrecy; he was very, very reserved about it', in K's words. When Mary and Scott tried to question him he told them quite crossly not to interrupt; he could not allow them to ask questions about it. *He* had listened to the Pandit and never said a word to him, he told them. He then repeated that the Pandit had 'said all this with the utmost reluctance and sense of holiness, a sense of not wanting to tell others, or commit himself. What he was talking about was sacred, not to be bandied about.' At the end, K had asked the Pandit, 'Do you really believe all this, sir?' The Pandit had answered, 'Perhaps a little, perhaps not.'<sup>54</sup>

It is curious that K was so intrigued by this story, and seemed himself to regard it as something sacred. It was as if he was becoming more and more interested in his own mystery.

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When K flew to Los Angeles with Asit on February 17, he had one more year to live to the very day. He felt a need to rest when he reached Ojai but after only a few days he started holding discussions with the staff of the Oak Grove schools. (Friedrich Grohe had become interested in the American Foundation as well as in the English and Indian Foundations.)

In March K had his annual check-up from a new doctor—Dr Gary Deutsch, at Santa Paula, only sixteen miles from Ojai. This doctor had been recommended by a friend of Mary's when it was considered wise by K's doctor in Los Angeles for him to have a practitioner nearer Ojai. K took at once to Dr Deutsch who was quite a young man. This was the doctor who was to attend him in his last illness.

It had been arranged by the author, Milton Friedman, at one time special assistant to President Ford and White House speechwriter, for K to talk in Washington this year instead of in New York. His subject was to be 'Do we really want peace?'. Friedman had met K the year before at Ojai after which he

had written a long article about him in the July/August 1984 number of *New Realities*, with the title 'Is Washington Ready for Krishnamurti?' 'Albert Einstein would have been delighted by the prospect of Krishnamurti coming to Washington,' Friedman had written. 'Einstein maintained that issues like nuclear war could not be resolved at the same level of understanding at which such problems evolved. A higher level of awareness was essential.' He continued:

Krishnamurti has no desire to provide Washington with a spectacle. ... There will be no flower-adorned puja in the Kennedy Center. No incense will waft down the aisles. No chanting nor the strains of the harmonium and sitar. Just Krishnamurti sitting, erect and serious, on a straight-backed chair all alone on the vast stage of the concert hall.

Krishnamurti renounces the role of guru. He is coming to Washington simply because he has been asked to come at a time when it is becoming apparent that old concepts of human existence are no longer credible—even to some who still espouse them. ... Krishnamurti said recently that, 'Whether it's the Buddha, Christ, the Pope, or Mr Reagan telling me what to do ... I won't. This means we have to be extraordinarily capable of standing alone. And nobody wants to do that.' ... He abhors those who self-righteously try to transform others. His credo is change yourself ... you are the world. ... Krishnamurti refers endlessly to 'choiceless awareness'. Choice implies direction, the action of the will involving egoism. In Krishnamurti's view it was awareness from moment to moment of all that has taken place inside oneself without any effort to direct or change it—a matter of pure observation, perception, which would result in change without effort. ...

Who in Washington will be open to the Krishnamurti philosophy? Certainly not those devoted to conservative dogmas. ... Krishnamurti emphasizes that he is no authority. He has made certain discoveries; he is simply doing his best to make those discoveries accessible to all who are able to listen. He does not offer a body of doctrine nor a method of obtaining a silent mind.

He is not concerned with establishing any new system of religious belief. Rather, it is up to each person to see if he can discover for himself that to which Krishnamurti is calling attention, and to proceed from there to make new discoveries on his own.

Before going to Washington, where he would be speaking publicly for the first time, K went with Mary to New York early in April and stayed again at the Dorset Hotel. On April 11 he spoke for a second time at the United Nations at the invitation of Pacem in Terris, on 'Peace', a subject suggested as part of the U.N. fortieth-birthday celebrations. At the end of his talk he was presented with a small silver peace medal which he forgot to take with him when he left the platform. There had been some muddle as to the hall he was to speak in and he was kept waiting half an hour. The audience was small and not much interested. As he left the building he said to Mary, 'No more United Nations.'

Next day he and Mary flew to Washington where they were met by Milton Friedman, taken to the Watergate Hotel to drop their luggage and then driven round the city and to the Kennedy Center to see the hall where K was to speak in a week's time. During that week he visited the Lincoln Memorial and was deeply moved by the statue. He wanted to see the new Vietnam War Memorial but there was too long a queue. He was interviewed by Michael Kernan for the *Washington Post*, gave a radio interview for 'The Voice of America', and an interview on education for the Washington radio, had tea with Senator Clairborne Pell at his office in the Senate Building and answered questions on thought and the origin of conflict by members of Congress.

Kernan's long article appeared in a prominent position two days before the first talk. It told a little of K's early life but consisted mostly of short quotations from his books, such as, 'It's terrible what gurus have done in America. People want to be helped. Look, this idea of being helped, asking for help, is a destructive way of living. We make ourselves helpless by asking for help, handing yourself over to someone else,' and, 'Thought has created God, thought has created ideology, created wars, murdered in the name of God millions of people. God was invented by man, it's so obvious, so clear. He is our image projected, what we want to be, wiser, more powerful.' And, 'Unless one is completely free from belief, from emotional attachment, one is a slave. ... When you end attachment completely, then love is.' And again, 'To learn about, to understand, oneself, all authority must be set aside. Obviously, authority is part of oneself. ... There is nothing to be learnt from anybody, including the speaker; especially one must not be influenced by the speaker. ... The speaker has nothing to teach you. The speaker is merely acting as a mirror in which you can see yourself. Then when you can see yourself clearly you can discard the mirror.'

He was asked in another interview: 'What if a listener takes your suggestions to heart and does indeed change, what can one person do? What use will that be in Washington, this citadel of power and fear?', to which K replied, 'I was speaking the other day at the United Nations and somebody asked the same question: what if one person changed? That is a wrong question. Change ... and see what happens.'

In a radio broadcast for 'The Voice of America' on April 18, K was asked his opinion of the religious revival taking place in America. A growing number of Americans wanted their children to pray in public schools. K's answer was predictable:

It's not religious revival at all. What's revival? To revive something that's gone, that's dead, isn't it? I mean, you can revive a half-dying body. Pump a lot of religious medicine into it, but the body, after it's revived, will be the same old body. That's not religion. Religion is essentially not to belong to a single organisation, because then you are free to observe, free to find out, what is truth. But you can't find out what is truth if you are anchored, tethered to a post and say, 'I'm free.' That's what's happening in the world.

Later in the interview he said:

If man doesn't radically change, fundamentally bring about a mutation in himself, not through God, not through prayers—all that stuff is too infantile, too immature—we will destroy ourselves. A psychological revolution is possible now, not a thousand years later. We've already lived thousands of years and we're still barbarians. So if we don't change now we'll still be barbarians tomorrow or a thousand tomorrows. ... If I don't stop war today I'll go to war tomorrow. So the future is now, very simply put.

There was a good audience for the first talk on April 20, but the second talk on Sunday morning was a triumph. The hall was sold out and so were all the 500 Krishnamurti books sent from Ojai. In the afternoon Milton Friedman brought reporters from the United Press International to interview K for an hour and a half.

In the two talks, K covered almost every aspect of his teaching. Towards the beginning of his first talk he said, 'Though we don't know each other we are going to have a conversation which is much more important than being lectured at, told what to do, what to believe. We are going to observe together dispassionately, impersonally, not anchored to any particular problem or theory, what mankind has done to the world and what we have done to each other. ... The society in which we live is put together by man. Whatever that society be, each one of us has contributed to it.'

In this talk he went into the question of fear:

What is fear? Humanity has put up with fear, has never been able to solve fear. Never. There are various forms of fear; you may have your own particular fear: fear of death, fear of gods, fear of the devil, fear of your wife, fear of your husband, fear of the politicians—god knows how many fears humanity has. What is fear? Not the mere experience of fear in its multiple forms, but the reality, the actuality of fear? How is it brought about? Why has humanity, which is each one of us, accepted fear as a way of life: violence on the television, violence in our daily life and the ultimate violence of organised killing, which is called war? Why do we accept violence?

Is not fear related to violence? We are enquiring into fear—the actual truth of fear, not the idea of fear—you understand the difference? The idea of fear is different from the actuality of fear. Right? So what is fear? How has it come about?

What is the relationship of fear to time, to thought? One may be frightened of tomorrow, or of many tomorrows; the fear of death—the ultimate fear—or fear of what has happened before in the past, or fear of what is actually going on now. So we must enquire together—please, the speaker keeps on repeating together; it's no fun talking to myself. Is fear brought about by time? Someone has done something in the past, hurt you, and the past is time. The future is time. The present is time. So we are asking, is time a central factor of fear? Fear has many, many branches, many leaves, but it's no good trimming the branches; we are asking, what is the root of fear? Not the multiple forms of fear, because fear is fear. Out of fear you have invented God, saviours. If you have absolutely no fear psychologically, then there is tremendous relief, a great sense of freedom. You have dropped all the burdens of life. So we must enquire very seriously, hesitantly, into this question: is time a factor? Obviously. I have a good job now, I may lose it tomorrow so I am frightened. When there is fear there is jealousy, anxiety, hatred, violence. So time is a factor of fear.

Time is a factor and thought is a factor: thinking about what has happened, what might happen; thinking. Has thinking brought about fear? As one sees, time has brought about fear, right? Time: not only time by the clock, but psychological time, the inward time: 'I am going to be', 'I am not good but I will be', 'I will get rid of my violence', which is again the future.

Are you prepared for all this? Do you want to go into all this? Really? I'm rather surprised because you've all been instructed, you've all been informed, you've been told what to do by the psychologists, by the priests, by your leaders; always seeking help and finding new ways of being helped. So one has become a slave to others. One is never free to enquire, to stand psychologically completely by oneself.

At the end of this first talk the audience started to applaud. 'I don't know why you clap,' K said. 'Perhaps you are clapping for yourself. You are not encouraging the speaker or discouraging him. He doesn't want a thing from you. When you yourself become the teacher and the disciple—disciple being a man who is learning, learning, learning, not accumulating knowledge—then you are an extraordinary human being.'

In the second talk he spoke of sorrow and whether sorrow could ever end. He said:

When there is sorrow there is no love. When you are suffering, concerned with your own suffering, how can there be love? ... What is sorrow? Is sorrow self-pity? Please investigate. We are not saying it is or it is not. ... Is sorrow brought about by loneliness—feeling desperately alone—isolated? ... Can we look at sorrow as it actually is in us, and remain with it, hold it, and not move away from it? Sorrow is not different from the one who suffers. The person who suffers wants to run away, escape, do all kinds of things. But to look at it as you look at a child, a beautiful child, to hold it, never escape from it—then you will see for yourself, if you really look deeply, that there is an end to sorrow. And when there is an end to sorrow there is passion; not lust, not sensory stimulation, but passion.

He also went into the questions of love and death. ‘We use the word love so loosely ... to find that perfume one must go into the question of what is not love. Through negation you come to the positive, not the other way round ... love is not hate: that’s obvious. Love is not vanity, arrogance. Love is not in the hands of power. ... Love is not pleasure, love is not desire. ... Love is certainly not thought. ... So love is something that cannot be invited or cultivated. It comes about naturally, easily, when the other things are not.’ About death he said in part:

What does it mean to die? ... Death comes through accident, through disease, through old age, senility. (Is senility only for the old? Is it not senility when we act mechanically, thoughtlessly? Isn’t that a form of senility?) ... Because we are frightened of death, we never see the greatness of it. ... I ask myself, is it possible to live with death all the time—not at the end of one’s life, but with all my energy and vitality live with death all the time? Not commit suicide—that’s too silly. But live with death, which means the ending every day of everything I have collected. ... Ending is more important than continuity. The ending means the beginning of something new.<sup>55</sup>

The next day K returned to Ojai. The Washington trip had been altogether highly successful. K considered that he had never before had such a responsive audience for a public talk.

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Pupul Jayakar arrived at Ojai in time for K’s ninetieth birthday on May 11 which coincided with the first Oak Grove talk on a lovely clear morning. It so happened that the Saanen and Brockwood Gatherings in this last year of K’s life, as well as the Ojai one, took place in perfect weather.

At supper at Pine Cottage that evening with K and Mary, Pupul talked of Jagannath Upadhyaya’s revelation about the Lord Maitreya taking the body of Krishnamurti. She also spoke of a long letter from Nitya to Mrs Besant, found in the Adyar archives, about the agonising pain K had suffered when ‘the process’ had first started at Ojai in 1922.<sup>56</sup> On one occasion during ‘the process’, according to Nitya’s letter, K had felt that someone was lurking round the house. Semi-conscious, he had insisted on walking to the low wall surrounding the cottage and had said in a loud voice, ‘Go away. What do you mean by coming here?’ When Pupul told them this, K seemed to understand what it meant and admonished Pupul and Mary not to enquire too far into esoteric matters because



‘if you open the door to “that”, you also open the door to what is beyond the wall.’ After Pupul had left the cottage that evening, K told Mary severely, ‘You must have no disorder because of that beyond the wall.’ He was concerned at this time about the amount of secretarial work Mary had to do. ‘You must not wear yourself out,’ he told her. ‘As long as I live you are with me. You must be able to look after me.’ And a few days later he told her again, ‘You must outlive me so that you can look after me. After that you can follow me.’ To understand these apparently heartless remarks to Mary, one should translate the word ‘me’ into ‘this body’. It was ‘the body’ that was important to carry on his work. While he was well he could look after his body himself; if he fell ill someone else would have to look after it and the only person he wanted to do this was Mary.

His sense of dissociation from his body was a phenomenon beyond one’s understanding. He obviously knew more about himself than he had ever yet divulged to anyone, yet there appears to have been a great deal that he did not know. And if he had known, could he have put it into words? He could feel ‘the other’ but he did not seem to know what it was. ‘The other’ was limitless, as he had often said. If it could be expressed in words it would be limited, it would be part of thought and, as he had emphasised over and over again, thought could never be anything but limited; therefore anything expressed by a process of thought in words could not be ‘the other’. Did ‘the other’ inhabit him? When talking to me at Brockwood about it he had said, it may be remembered, that if Mary and I ‘sat down and said, “Let us enquire”, I am quite sure you could find out. I can never find out. Water can never find out what water is.’ From this it would appear that ‘the other’ *was* him, that he was not separate from it. But it also seems that although it was always part of him, it was at times more present than at others. When he was in a state of meditation it was fully present; if he spoke seriously about it he said he could feel it in the room as if it were something that came from outside—‘always from the left’. But was it from outside? Or was it something in him made more palpable? Was it a form of energy? Shortly before he died he was to make an illuminating statement about the energy that had passed through his body.

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## *Dilemma*

Friedrich Grohe and Rita Zampese were at the Ojai Gathering that year. K had a stomach ache on and off during the Oak Grove talks which he attributed to the food in Washington. At the last talk on May 19, which was to be his last talk of all in California, he spoke among other things about attachment:

What is attachment? Why are we attached to something or other, to property, money, wife, husband, to some foolish conclusion, to some ideological concept? The consequences of attachment are fear of loss, and out of that fear there is jealousy; from jealousy there is hatred. Of course. Jealousy is hatred. And can you, if you are attached to something, some idea or some person, end that attachment now? That is death. Can you live with death all the day long? Ah, think of it, go into it, you will see the greatness, the immensity of it, living with that ending of all sense of attachment, all sense of fear, which means having a brain that is acting but never acting with preconceived direction and purpose. That is, to live with death every second, never collecting, never gathering or giving anything a continuity. If you do, you will see what it means. It is real freedom. And from that freedom there is love. Love is not attachment, pleasure, desire or fulfilment.

He ended this talk:

The brain, which has its own rhythm, is everlastingly chattering, praying, demanding help—you follow? It is tremendously active. Now, can that activity calm down, become very quiet, still, without any movement? Not an induced or cultivated silence. There is a great deal to be said about silence; the silence between two wars, peace, the silence between two notes, between two words, between two thoughts—yet all that is not the still, quiet, utterly peaceful brain which is empty of everything which man has collected and which man has always sought from the beginning, which is nameless.<sup>57</sup>

K was still feeling far from well when he flew to London on May 24 with Mary and Friedrich. Daily massage, however, from Dr Parchure, who was awaiting him at Brockwood, and injections of Vitamin B greatly helped him.

On June 1 Duncan Fallowell, novelist and travel writer, went to Brockwood to interview him for *Harpers and Queen*. It was a good article which came out in the December number. After giving a résumé of K's career, the author described him:

He is tiny and fragile and walks at a slow pace into the large, pale drawing-room, picking up his feet like a small wading bird, twinkling as he comes. He is dressed in blue jeans, soft slip-on shoes and a greenish-blue shirt open at the neck, and he sits on a hard, straight-backed chair because he doesn't like to sit on soft ones. His voice is tiny but carries and impresses itself very clearly on the magnetic tapes (sometimes bigger voices fail to do this, for no clear reason). He doesn't drawl but speaks precisely, clipping many words. He also giggles and laughs a great deal. Generally his talk is not smooth but full of gaps, switches, exclamations, changes of tempo. He uses his body a lot and has a number of characteristic gestures; the eyes roll up into the head showing their whites when he is thinking or embarking on a long statement; when

horrified (by the Bomb, by over-population, for example) he throws his hands up to his face and throws his body forward; and he is constantly grabbing one's elbow or shaking one's knee to emphasise a point.

The conversation that followed, though extremely well reported, was not remarkable to anyone who had already heard K speak. Duncan Fallowell found some of it irritating, for it raised as many questions as it answered. 'Krishnamurti is not in the business of customer satisfaction,' he truly remarked.

While K had been in India and Ojai, Scott Forbes had been looking for another architect for the Brockwood Centre. Having consulted several, he asked five of them to make rough drawings. Two or three of these, eager to secure the commission for a million-pound private building on a glorious site, sent in quite finished plans. None of them was wholly approved of. Then, by reading an article given to him by chance, Scott heard of Keith Critchlow, an expert on Islamic architecture, and immediately got in touch with him. There was no building of his in England but he showed Scott photographs of his work abroad, mostly religious buildings, which convinced Scott that he had found the right man at last. On June 5 Critchlow went to Brockwood, spoke of his ideas to K and showed him his first rough drawings. The van der Stratens and Jean-Michel Maroger as well as Friedrich Grohe happened to be there and they all liked his sketches and ideas. He was given the commission there and then. K himself was more impressed by the man than his designs (it turned out afterwards that Critchlow had had a long-standing interest in K's teaching). K felt that Critchlow understood perfectly what he wanted the Centre to be, especially the quiet room. 'There should be a room ... where you go to be quiet,' K had written. 'That room is only used for that and not for anything else ... It should be like a fountain filling the whole place. ... That room should be the central flame. ... It is like a furnace that heats the whole place. ... If you don't have that, the Centre becomes just a passage, people coming and going, work and activity.' K was insistent that all the materials used for the building should be of the very best. He wanted the highest standard of excellence throughout. Since Critchlow, although an Englishman and a fellow of the Royal College of Art, was not qualified to practise in England, the English firm of Triad was brought in to act as technical architects. At the end of June planning permission was granted.

Dorothy Simmons had now decided to retire and it had been proposed by the staff that Scott Forbes should become the new Principal. K agreed to this, but did not relieve Scott of responsibility for the new Centre. Many administrative matters in the school had still to be settled and K spoke every day to the staff or to the students. He said urgently to Mary one evening after he had been in bed all day with a cold and sore throat: 'You must listen—do you feel it? It—that thing has been with me all day. It is with me most of the time now that I am older. You must pay attention. You must outlive me, but not as an old person—not living in memories as people do; you must be alive, alert. I think I will live another ten years and you must take care of me. Do you understand?'

On the day before K and Mary flew to Geneva on June 23, he spoke to the whole school—for the last time, as it happened.

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That summer in Switzerland K and Mary stayed at Rougemont in the flat Friedrich Grohe had lent K, as had been planned. In a larger flat in the same chalet Vanda and Dr Parchure stayed and also Raman Patel who was in charge of the kitchen at Brockwood and who cooked for K that summer since Fosca, now aged ninety, had at last been obliged to give up work. It was sad that she was not there for the last summer at Saanen. She died in August. From Rougemont, as from Schönried the year before, K had to drive to Tannegg for his favourite walk. On his first walk that year he went ahead alone into the wood ‘to see if we are welcome’.

On July 1 Pupul Jayakar came to stay at Rougemont for three nights and again brought up the subject of the copyright in K’s works. She said that only two alternatives were acceptable to the Indian Foundation—either sharing the copyright with England or for the Indian Foundation to bring out an international book every third year with any publisher of their own choosing without submitting it to the English Publications Committee. Failing either of these alternatives K must himself decide the issue. (It was of course entirely to avoid this that we had been appointed and, presumably in both countries, had agreed to serve.) Mary Zimbalist telephoned to Mary Cadogan in London so that Pupul could put the position to her; Pupul wanted an answer next day. Mary Cadogan naturally said that she could make no decision until she had put the matter to the other members of the Publications Committee, particularly to me who happened to be the chairman. She also pointed out, what Pupul knew already, that we could not legally share the copyright. My immediate reaction when hearing of Pupul’s request was ‘anything for peace, anything to save K from involvement in our disputes’. I then wondered whether we had any right to shirk the responsibility K had laid upon us.

When Mary Cadogan arrived at Saanen for the Gathering she told K that the difficulties with India over publications had been going on for over thirteen years. K said it was ridiculous and that he was going to take the matter into his own hands since Pupul had given him that option, and settle it once and for all as soon as he got to India. He wanted no advice from anyone, only a memorandum of facts.

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There was a sense of euphoria that summer at the Saanen Gathering, perhaps because of the beauty of the weather; the crowds were larger than they had ever been. It so happened that Mark Edwards was there at the request of the English Foundation to photograph the Gathering from the putting up of the tents to the ending of the last talk.<sup>58</sup> Mark was a sought-after free-lance photographer, best known for his work on the Third World. He had first become interested in K in 1968 when a friend of his had insisted on his reading one of K’s books. In September ’68, after taking his degree, he had got in touch with Mary Cadogan to ask to be allowed to photograph K. Having for many years refused to have any photographs taken, K had recently relented, so Mark’s request was well timed and Mary Cadogan made an appointment for him one afternoon. This was his

first professional assignment. Since then he has done a great deal of photographic work for the Foundation, rarely charging more than his bare expenses.

During the Saanen talks an international meeting was held of the three Foundations. The Lilliefelts were there representing America, Dr Parchure and J. Y. Sathaye, the Principal of the Rajghat School, represented India and all the English trustees were there. These now included Jane Hammond. (Jane had been doing the transcripts at Saanen ever since a tape-recorder had been used. She would transcribe a talk immediately it was finished to give to the translators into French, German and Dutch. Later on, when video came into use, there would be video showings of the morning talk in these three languages by the late afternoon.) K brought up at the meeting the idea of having only one set of talks a year in Europe in order to cut down his travelling. He suggested one more year at Saanen, after which the international annual Gathering should be held at Brockwood.

At a later and larger meeting Dorothy Simmons's retirement was announced. K spoke very warmly of all she had done in creating the Brockwood School; this drew loud and genuine applause, for Dorothy was very much loved. It was then announced that Scott Forbes was to be the new Principal of the School. Dorothy would remain a trustee, and a much nicer flat at Brockwood would be made for her and Montague than the one they had occupied all the time she was Principal.

K was not at all well during the talks. One evening he had felt so ill that he had said to Mary, 'I wondered if my time had come.' The fourth talk on July 17 was a special one. Mary wrote in her diary, 'He began in a remote voice which deepened and strengthened as he went to greater depths. It was the pure essential K teaching coming from that fragile, gentle, utterly commanding figure, as it had all these many, so many, years. There was complete stillness of the audience at the end, then he made a gesture that he would get up only when they did.' In this talk he spoke of beauty among other things:

What is beauty? Is beauty in a person, in a face? Is beauty in museums, in painting. ... Is beauty in music? ... Is beauty in a poem? In literature? Dancing? Is all that beauty? Or is beauty something entirely different? ... When you look at those mountains, those immense rocks jutting into the sky—if you look at them quietly you feel the immensity of it, the enormous majesty of it, and for the moment, for the second, the tremendous dignity of it, the solidity of it, puts away all your thoughts, your problems—right? And you say, 'How marvellous that is.' So what has taken place there? The majesty of those mountains, the very immensity of the sky and the blue and the snow-clad mountains, drives away for a second all your problems. It makes you totally forget yourself for a second. ...

Is that beauty? To be absorbed by the mountains, the river, or the green fields, means that you are like a child absorbed by a toy, and for the moment you are quiet, taken over, surrendering yourself to something. Is that beauty? ... Is there beauty where there is self-conscious endeavour? Or is there beauty only when the self is not—when the 'me', the observer, is not? So is it possible, without being absorbed, taken over, surrendering, to be in that state without the self, without the ego, without the 'me' always thinking about itself? Is that at all possible, living in this modern world with all its specialisations, its vulgarity, its immense noise—not the noise of running water, of the song of a bird? Is it possible to live in this world without the self, the 'me', the ego, the persona, the assertion of the individual? In that state, when there is really freedom from all this, only then is there beauty.

After this talk, on the way back to Rougemont in a car driven by Mary, K fell against her shoulder in a faint, something that had not happened for some years. She drove on very slowly and he soon recovered.

The day before the fifth and last talk, on July 21, Hugues van der Straten, Jean-Michel Maroger and Mary Cadogan went to Rougemont and urged K not to hold even one more Gathering at Saanen but to start his new programme of having the international talks at Brockwood the following year. K listened carefully and then agreed. Dr Parchure and Dr Dagmar Liechti, who was again at Saanen, very much approved of this decision on medical grounds. At the end of the last talk, therefore, it was announced that after twenty-five years there were to be no more Gatherings at Saanen.

Two days later K began the first Question and Answer meeting characteristically: 'I have been told that there are so many people who are sad leaving, ending Saanen. If one is sad it is about time that we left.' But at the last meeting he spoke with intense feeling: 'We have had the most marvellous days, lovely mornings, beautiful evenings, long shadows and deep blue valleys and clear blue sky and snow. A whole summer has never been like this. So the mountains, the valleys, the trees and the river, tell us good-bye.'

\* \* \* \*

K was tired and disturbed after the Gathering, pondering his future programme. He intended to give only one series of talks in America in 1986 and cut down his Indian programme; he would go to Rajghat and Bombay one year and the next year to Rishi Valley and Madras. He did not intend, though, to shorten the time he stayed in India. Mary pointed out how unhealthy Bombay had become, so he said he would spend only a fortnight there just for the talks. Mary then asked him if he intended to spend three months at Rajghat where it got very cold in the winter. He said no, he could not do that. He was in a dilemma. Travelling had become too tiring, yet he could not stay too long in one place. He had become so hypersensitive that he felt people were focusing on him if he stayed too long; it was a pressure he could no longer stand. And he must go on talking; he was there to talk. He needed someone to challenge him. No one he knew could do it any longer. He needed someone new with whom to go much deeper. Mary foresaw great difficulties with this paradox of his needing to rest more yet not being able to stay long in one place. He was not at ease in new surroundings. He missed Tannegg.

He talked at length to Mary, trying for himself to find the answer to his dilemma. Mary was learning to let him talk without interruption in the way he liked to do, stating well-known things as if 'laying a ground work of the known in order to come upon the new'. A letter had just come from a Greek couple asking him and Mary to visit them on a Greek island. K was tempted and enjoyed looking up the island on the map but wondered whether there would be enough shade in Greece. (He had once had sunstroke and could not bear sitting or walking in the sun.)

He said one day, 'It is watching.' Mary noted, 'He speaks as if that something is deciding what happens to him; "it" will decide when his work is done and

hence by implication his life.’ On another day at Rougemont, Mary jotted down an exchange she had with him when discussing travel plans:

K: It is not the physical effect of the brain. It is something else. My life has been planned. It will tell me when to die, say it is over. That will settle my life. But I must be careful that ‘that’ is not interfered with by saying, ‘I will give only two more talks.’

M: Do you feel how much more time it gives?

K: I think ten years more.

M: Do you mean ten years of talking?

K: When I don’t talk it will be over. But I don’t want to strain the body. Also too long a holiday is bad. I need a certain amount of rest but no more. A quiet place where nobody knows me. But unfortunately people get to know me.

He told Mary once again at this time that she should write a book about him—‘even if only 100 pages. What it was like being with him, what he said.’ He also asked her to make some notes as to what he wanted the Centre at Brockwood to be: ‘1) Look at trees, nature, be aware of everything. 2) Study K’s teaching to know (even intellectually) all he has said. 3) Are you interested in all this? If not, do your job as well as you can but ease out.’ He also asked her to make a separate note: ‘If anyone gets hurt by what I am about to say they haven’t listened to the teaching.’

Before Erna Lilliefelt left to return to California, K told her and Mary that they must see that he had things to do while he was at Ojai. He wasn’t just going to sit there, but they mustn’t arrange things just to please him: ‘It must be something you think is necessary.’ Walking in the woods the next afternoon he said, ‘The spirit has left Saanen, probably that’s why I feel so uncomfortable. It has moved to Brockwood.’

Vanda Scaravelli, who had been back to Florence, returned to Rougemont on August 9. She advised K to have a long rest and suggested his going to Cortina d’Ampezzo next summer instead of to Switzerland. K suddenly became cheerful and enthusiastic. ‘We can go to the French Alps or the Italian mountains,’ he said to Mary. ‘When we are in Ojai let’s study French and Italian one hour a day.’ Two days later he said he would like to go to Florence, Venice and Rome.

He was leaving next morning for England and said to the trees on his last walk, ‘Good-bye, we’ll see you in two or three years.’ He also spoke that day about using the apartment that was to be built on the Saanen land where the tent had stood when the land was sold—something that could not exist for at least five years. ‘All this is music to me,’ Mary wrote in her diary, ‘and lets in a blessed sense of ease and summer light.’

On August 12, K said good-bye to Vanda at Rougemont. It was their last good-bye.

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Three days later Joe and I went to Brockwood and sat with K and Mary in the kitchen catching up on all the summer news. K told me among other things that he was going to settle the publication matter himself, and he repeated what he had said to Mary Cadogan that all he wanted from me was a memorandum of facts. I said it would be best to get that from Mary Cadogan who had all the

correspondence. We then turned to a pleasanter subject: ever since he had moved back to Pine Cottage from Malibu, K had been inviting us to go and stay at Ojai in the spring in the flat next to the cottage which Mary had done up for guests. We had been going this year but then we suddenly had to move from our flat after thirty years, so it had not been possible. Now, however, the visit was fixed for April, 1986. Mary had most thoughtfully and generously put a sitz-bath into the guest flat, knowing how I hated showers, and during this day at Brockwood K told us that he was going to hire a car for us with Miss Dodge's money. How he loved to give—not only presents but himself. I think he was quite excited at the idea of our visit but not, of course, nearly as much so as I was.

The next day he was too tired to do his exercises—a very rare occurrence. He mentioned to Mary that day that since the end of the Saanen Gathering (July 25) 'something had been going on in him'. He said, 'If something decides everything that happens to K it is something extraordinary.' Mary asked whether he considered as true what had been told to him by Pandit Jagannath Upadhyaya. 'I am sceptical,' he replied. Mary pointed out that he had seemed impressed by it. 'I don't know,' he said. Mary then asked him if he was aware of certain changes in himself. 'What changes?' he asked. 'In manner. A roughness that is unlike you.' 'I am rough to others?' 'No.' 'Just to you?' 'Yes.' He said that he never did anything unawares, but that she had to hasten to change and therefore he had been rough. He was bothered by the situation in India. He felt that Brockwood had at last been pulled together but that India was unsettled. He wanted 'to end discord and set all right' before he was 'gathered to his fathers'. Mary felt he was 'burning' with impatience to settle everything in India. The next day he was sick several times. In the evening when he was better he said, 'I mustn't be seriously ill; no accident or it will be nip and tuck [a close-run thing]. I have to hold on to it. Death is always so close.' Mary sat with him while he slept in the afternoon. She noted, 'He is so frail, so extraordinarily beautiful. There is no age on his face, only total beauty.' In spite of his impatience to get to India, he was thankful to have time to rest at Brockwood. His physical strength was waning. His walks were getting shorter. 'No one in all these years has changed,' he said to Mary. 'I want to give you a new brain.'

A fortnight later, in the middle of the Brockwood Gathering, he told Mary one evening that he had been looking at his irritability: 'Either I'm getting old or I've fallen into a habit [of picking on her] and it is my fault and it must stop. My body has become hypersensitive. Most of the time I want to go away and I mustn't do that. I'm going to deal with this. It is unforgivable.' On the same day he told Mary and Dr Parchure that 'the body exists to talk'. He thought little of discussions any more because no one could be found to challenge him sufficiently. He considered having talks the following year at Boston or Toronto, but if such talks were arranged he was not sure whether he would be able to fulfil the engagements after a heavy Indian tour. He had not attempted to cut down his usual programme in India that winter.

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The talks at Brockwood had begun on August 24 in superb weather—hot, sunny and windless. A camera crew was there for the third talk to make a film. They had a crane so that they could take pictures of the whole scene. The film, called *The Role of a Flower*, was shown on Thames Television on January 19, 1986. It could not have been a better film of the Gathering as a whole, though the interview with K at the end was too short.

After the talks, K and Mary lunched with us for the first time in our new little house near the Regent's Canal. It was the only time K came there, for we still usually lunched at Fortnum and Mason. K always went to Huntsman in Savile Row when he came to London if only to take in a pair of trousers to be altered. The evening before coming to London he would carefully choose the suit he was to wear and lay out the shirt and tie to go with it and polish his shoes, even the insteps. His suit would always look pristine, yet he took pride in showing one how old they were by looking inside the inside pocket of the jacket where a good tailor always inscribed the date. London-tailored gentlemen vied with each other over the longevity of their suits. But on this occasion K ordered a new suit and a new pair of trousers, very heartening to Mary and me because it showed a confidence that he did not expect to die soon. So little pleasure did he have in his life that it was a joy to see him at Huntsman. Strangely enough he looked more at home in this masculine English shrine than when speaking on a platform.

On his way to London a few days later he told Mary, while they were waiting on the station platform at Petersfield, that Scott had asked him how long he was going to live. He had answered that he did know but would not tell him. 'Do you really know?' Mary asked.

K: I think I know. I have intimations.

M: Are you willing to tell me?

K: No, that would not be right. I can't tell anyone.

M: Could one at least have some vague idea of time?

K: Scott asked me if I would still be here when the Centre was built at Brockwood. I said I would. [The Centre could not be completed before September 1987.]

M: Is one to live thinking that at any moment K might leave?

K: No, it's not like that; it won't happen for quite a while.

M: How long have you known?

K: About two years.

At lunch that day at Fortnum's he told me also that he knew when he was going to die but could not tell anyone. I gathered that it might be within two or three years. There no longer seemed a possibility of ten years. He also talked about India that day at lunch and said that he must 'put the house in order there'. He refused any comment or opinion from me or Mary. It was as if talking aloud helped him to explore his own mind. He said that he found it insulting the way people said he had been 'influenced', maintaining that it was not his own opinion when he said or wrote something they did not like to hear.

This accusation of being 'influenced' had dogged him most of his life. As early as 1916 Nitya had written to Mrs Besant: 'He [K] has a great deal of insight into character and he is able to judge for himself ... and although he is not aggressive and never will be, some people are irritated by what they call his

sudden firmness and attribute it to the influence of the person who happens to be nearest to him. I think they forget his judgement is not likely to be far wrong.’<sup>59</sup>

K also spoke at lunch that day of wanting to find someone with whom he could go deeper into his teaching. He said surprisingly that the only person he would like to hold a discussion with was Jonathan Miller whom he had seen in some television programme.

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At this time K started teaching Scott Forbes some of his yoga exercises. He was a severe and exacting teacher. Scott would have found K’s suppleness extraordinary even in a much younger man.

K also had a long tape-recorded talk with Scott this autumn at Brockwood about the school and about Scott himself. He asked if the group of teachers chiefly responsible for the school knew, even intellectually, what he was talking about? Scott replied that they responded to ‘the otherness’ which was there. Then K wanted to know what was taking place in Scott: what was his feeling about K? What was his attitude to K’s teaching and to all the work that was going on in America, India and Brockwood? Why was he, Scott, at Brockwood? Was his contact with the teaching only because of K himself? Was he dependent on K? Supposing K died tomorrow? Having come in contact with K, ‘with that whiff, that breath, or that feeling, will that die after K’s death or will that flower grow, multiply? ... Will it flower by itself? Not be dependent on circumstances? Nothing can corrupt it once it is there. It may pass through different circumstances but it is always there.’ Scott replied that it was ‘not solid yet’.

‘Don’t use the word “yet”,’ K admonished him. ‘Yet means time. Will you allow it to become solid, strong and take deep roots, and flower? Or will it depend on circumstances?’ They went on:

S: No, sir. One would do everything ...

K: No, no, no, sir. Not you do anything. The thing itself, the seed itself—like in a womb, you have nothing to do. It grows. It is there. It is bound to grow. It is bound to flourish—that is a better word. ... Is Scott aware that the seed is there? Is Scott preventing the flowering of it by too much activity, too much organisation, not giving it sufficient care? Sufficient air to flower? What generally happens is that organisations smother that thing. ... You must be quite sure that the seed is there, not invented by thought. If the seed is strong you really have nothing to do with it. But you can smother it. ... Wash away any sense of power, position, all that stuff. ... There can be no conflict at all in you. They [the students] can have conflict but you cannot. ... They may offer opinions. You can’t have opinions. That’s very difficult. You have to listen to them, see what they are saying, listen to each one, not react to it as Scott or from your background, but listen to them very, very carefully ... let them come out so that they feel you are not blocking them. Can you be free of your background? That’s very difficult. ... That really demands all your energy. ... Background being all your American training, your American education and so-called culture. Freeing all that is a deliberation, not just saying, ‘I must leave it’. Discuss with it, weigh it, take counsel together. Not say, ‘Well, I must get rid of my background’—that you can never do. ... You can be aware of the background and not let it react, not let it interfere. I think there [for that] a deliberate act is necessary because you are going to run this place. You have got the energy, you have got the drive. Keep it. Don’t let it gradually wither because of this burden.

S: Sir, if one is doing the things here you are describing, and if the seed is there, is that enough to keep the school absolutely ...?

K: Yes, yes. If the seed is there and it is active, living.

S: Sir, if all that is brought about then what will happen when I die?

K: Oh, don't bother about that. You have to find somebody. That is part of it. No apostolic succession.<sup>60</sup>

The idea that the organisation and busy-ness of the schools might be swamping the teaching was very present with K at this time. It was not organisation that would keep the Foundations together. 'The unifying factor should be intelligence,' he told Mary and Scott. 'To be free in the real sense and that freedom is intelligence. Intelligence is common to all of us and that will bring us together, not organisation. If you see the importance that each one of us is free and that freedom implies love, consideration, attention, co-operation, compassion—that intelligence is the factor to keep us together.' He also asked Mary to note down: 'Independence without freedom is meaningless. If you have freedom you don't need independence.'<sup>61</sup>

On September 21 he asked at a staff meeting: 'How do you instantly, without time, make the students see that self-interest is the root of conflict? Not only see it but instantly be transformed?' He went on to say that of all the hundreds of students who had passed through Rishi Valley not one had been changed. After the meeting, when they were alone, Mary asked him what was the point of having students if no students in all these years had changed? If, with all his influence, no student had been transformed, how could the rest of us, who had apparently not changed either, bring about change in the students? 'If you haven't done it, is there any likelihood that we can?' she asked. 'I don't know,' he replied, but he said it rather jokingly, evidently not wanting to continue with a serious subject.

K had what he called 'remarkable meditations' at this time, as he told Mary, which meant that 'the other' was very much a part of him.

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Pupul Jayakar went to Brockwood for two nights on September 28. According to what K told me, she repeated the request she had made at Rougemont about publishing. He said that he was going to decide the question himself. He would make his decision after talking to everyone concerned in India, including all the Trustees of the Indian Foundation, at the Foundation's meeting in Madras. From Pupul's own account, he also told her during this visit, as he had told Mary, Scott, the Lilliefelts, me and probably others as well, that he knew when he was going to die but could not tell anyone.<sup>62</sup>

Pupul saw Mary Cadogan in London after leaving Brockwood and stated her position again over the Indian books. According to Mary she insisted that the administration was separate from the teachings and that we ought to be able to settle this publication matter without involving K. Mary could only say that K had taken it out of our hands and was determined to make the decision himself as Pupul had suggested.

Keith Critchlow was at Brockwood again on October 23 with detailed plans for the Centre and samples of the two different coloured bricks he wanted to use, and of the roof tiles. These met with general approval. K, Mary and Scott had

just held a video discussion on what the Centre was intended to be. After some false starts and hesitations, as in all such discussions, K had said ultimately:

It should be a religious centre, a centre where people feel there is something not cooked-up, not imaginative, not some kind of 'holy' atmosphere. A religious centre, not in the orthodox sense of the word; a centre where a flame is living, not the ashes of it. A flame is alive, and if you come to that house you might take light, the flame, with you, or you might light your candle or be the most extraordinary human being, not broken up, a person who is really whole, has no shadow of sorrow, pain, all that kind of thing. So, that is a religious centre.<sup>63</sup>

During Critchlow's October visit, details of the building were discussed at length. K told Critchlow at one moment that he did not want it to look '*nouveau riche*' or like 'a country hotel'. 'Will it make me want to dress properly—clean?' he asked. Not dirty clothes. Make me feel I must be very careful in my dress—in my walk?' Critchlow replied that if the building was 'respectful to the people, the people would be respectful to the building'.

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K would not allow Mary to go with him to India that year for fear of her falling ill. She wondered whether she would ever see him again after he left Brockwood, it was so evident that he was growing physically more frail. 'If I'm going to die, I'll telephone to you right away,' he assured her. 'I won't die all of a sudden. I'm in good health, my heart, everything is all right. It is all decided by someone else. I can't talk about it. I'm not allowed to, do you understand? It is much more serious. There are things you don't know. Enormous, and I can't tell you. It is very hard to find a brain like this and it must keep on as long as the body can; until something says enough. If I die you mustn't mourn as you would have in the past.'

The last time I saw K before he went to India was on October 21. Joe and I met him and Mary at Waterloo as usual—then Huntsman, a haircut at Truefitt in Bond Street where he had been for years, lunch at Fortnum's, Hatchard's bookshop and home. It was what Mary called in her diary 'a happy day in the familiar and cherished ways'. He talked as he so often did now about what would happen when he was gone. He seemed reluctant to go to India and yet eager to put 'the house in order' there as soon as possible. I asked him if he would wear my turquoise and diamond ring at lunch as he sometimes did. He put it on his little finger. He knew it well because my mother had worn it. When he gave it back the diamonds sparkled as if they had just been cleaned by a jeweller as they always did after he had worn it. All the time he was talking he was looking round alertly at the people within view, noticing what they wore, what they ate, how they ate. He had an extraordinary awareness of his surroundings. I have never known anyone with such keen powers of observation. He looked so ageless and beautiful that day that talking about his death seemed hypothetical.

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## *'A jewel on a silver plate'*

Friedrich Grohe, who had been at Brockwood for a few days, accompanied K to Delhi on October 24. Mary drove K to Heathrow. 'I will be back,' he told her as they left the house.

K spent a week with Pupul Jayakar in Delhi, eating and sleeping very little. In the course of those days he saw Mr Venkataraman again, and Rajiv Gandhi twice. Friedrich was staying at an hotel but he walked with K every afternoon in Lodi Park. Friedrich has recorded that one day in the Park a man approached K and asked, 'Are you Krishnamurti? You should stay in India; here is your source.' K replied: 'I am nobody.' Afterwards he lifted his hands and said to Friedrich, 'You see, they have a fixed idea and they stick to it.' 'He was always friendly,' Friedrich wrote 'especially to the poor people. At the entrance to the Park there was an ice-vendor he used to greet and to whom he gave much attention.'<sup>64</sup>

On November 2, K flew with Friedrich to Varanasi where Dr Parchure, who had returned to India from Brockwood some weeks before, was awaiting him. From that day until K's death the doctor never left him and kept a record of his state of health. The doctor believed that K's frequent abdominal pains in 1980, before his hernia operation, could have been 'preparation for his chronic pancreatitis and late-aged diabetes'. Dr Parchure had seen his growing tiredness and drop in energy at Saanen and Brockwood. When he arrived at Rajghat he seemed very weak but caught up on his sleep, ate more and went for walks to fit himself for the small Gathering there of some 300 campers. There was no actual illness but on two occasions his legs were so weak that he had difficulty in climbing a staircase. This disturbed him very much; nevertheless, he refused to be helped, saying, 'If I fall on the steps that is my affair.' He gave four public talks while he was there and conducted discussions with a group of Buddhist scholars, including Pandit Jagannath Upadhyaya.

Friedrich was very struck by how beautifully the grounds were kept at Rajghat. This was the responsibility of R. Upasani, the Principal of the Agricultural College in the compound, who had worked for K for thirty years and to whom K was devoted. One afternoon Upasani and Friedrich, with Radhika Herzberger and Nandini Mehta, who had joined K at Rajghat, went with him to look at the site near the old British cemetery where a small Centre was to be built, financed by Friedrich.

One of the first tasks K had to perform in India was to choose a new Head for the Rajghat School (or Rector, as he was called) after trouble among the staff and students had resulted in J. Y. Sathaye's resignation, much to K's regret. K's choice fell, by what seems pure chance, on Dr P. Krishna. Dr Krishna was Professor of Physics at the Benares Hindu University; he had worked in the U.S.A. and Europe and had such an impressive record that he could have

commanded a professorship anywhere. His father was a brother of Sri Ram, former President of the Theosophical Society, and of Rukmini Arundale. His wife was a gynaecologist working at the Hindu University. He had first met K in Delhi in 1958 with Shiva Rao, an old family friend. Thereafter he had read all K's books, had gone to his talks at Rajghat, had been to Brockwood in 1977 and taken part in a discussion there with David Bohm and Asit Chandmal, but apart from that he had had very little personal contact with K. Now, in November 1985, he had been asked by his cousin, Radha Burnier, to bring his parents, who were staying with him, to meet K at Mrs Besant's old house, Shanti Kunja, in the Theosophical compound at Benares. That evening Dr Krishna was surprised to receive a telephone call inviting him and his wife to lunch at Rajghat next day. They went, and after the meal Dr Krishna was 'overwhelmed' when K asked him to take charge of the Rajghat School. Dr Krishna said that he did not know anything about the place nor what K expected him to do. K replied: 'I will tell you. I want you to come and live here, make this your home for life. You understand, I mean for life. It is yours to build, to do what you like with. It is being offered to you like a jewel on a silver plate. And I am asking you, will you take it?'

A dialogue followed, part of which is given below:

PK: Sir, I am not sure you should trust me so much. You hardly know me.

K: Don't say that. I know you enough and I trust you completely.

PK: But, sir, I am a very ordinary man. I don't know if I can do as you want.

K: Sir, sir, I am also a very ordinary man. Don't say all this. The son does not say all this to his father when he is dying and wants to leave him something. He doesn't say no, he accepts it.

PK: Sir, I am not saying no. I am saying I would like to do it for you, but I am not sure if I can, if I am the right person for it. I am so young and inexperienced. Don't you think you should consult someone like Radha Burnier who knows both me and the Foundation?

K: No, sir, I don't need advice. I don't do things that way. I have never lived that way. I go by what I feel here [points to his heart] and that's it.

PK: Sir, give me time to consider it. Let me see all that there is here, what needs to be done, whether I can do it. I don't want to accept something I cannot do well. I would be letting you down.

K: No, sir, I don't want you to do it that way. Look, sir, when you fell in love with your wife and wanted to marry her, did you say, 'I will consider, I will decide it tomorrow, I will think it over?' No, you didn't. So I want you to tell me 'Yes' from here [pointing to his heart]. Then if it is all right with you we will sort out all the other problems together. I want you to say yes before you go today, but I am not persuading you, sir, if you understand what I mean.

PK: Yes, sir, I understand you are not persuading me and I have told you that I would very much like to do it but I want some time to consider all the implications of it for my family, for myself and above all whether I can make a success of it. I am not looking at it as a job offer and I am not trying to bargain with you but I have never taken decisions in life this way. I have always considered things carefully and planned my life, so I want to have some time to consider all aspects of it and then give you my final acceptance.

K: Wait, sir, let me ask your wife [takes her hand into his and looks at her intensely]. My dear darling, will you do this for me? Will you make this your home?

MK [in tears]: Yes, sir, we will do anything for you. We will come and live here.

K: Right. It's done. That's all, now you can come another time and we will sort out all the details of how to do it and the rest.

PK: Yes, sir. I will come tomorrow and we will discuss the details. You must rest now.

K: No, sir, I am all right. Are you accepting?

PK: Yes, sir I very much want to but I do not feel confident if I am the right person.

K: Sir, don't worry. Come here and it will come to you. You know, sir, all this intelligence up here [points to his head], I must park it some place before I go. I want you to know that I trust you completely.

PK: That's what makes it so difficult, sir, but thank you and I will come again tomorrow and we will work it out together. I want to do it together with you, because if it is good for you it is good for me. I am not looking at my good as separate from yours.

K: Yes, sir, I like that. We will do it together. Together.

The next day, when all the trustees of the Indian Foundation who were at Rajghat had agreed to the appointment, Dr Krishna's hesitation was swept aside. He had to cancel the agreement he had made to spend a year at Birkbeck College, London University, as a visiting professor from September 1986. He then suggested that he should come to Rajghat after the current session at the Hindu University ended in May 1986. 'No,' said K, 'that is too late for me.' 'When would you like me to join?' 'Tomorrow.' Eventually it was decided, after Dr Krishna had spoken to the Vice-Chancellor of his University, that he should take over Rajghat on February 1, 1986. K was concerned that Dr Krishna and his wife and two teen-aged daughters should be happy living at Rajghat and that they should not lose financially by their new life. A house at Rajghat was put at their disposal.<sup>65</sup>

It had been K's habit to write diary letters to Mary Zimbalist from India. This year he dictated his letters to her on to a cassette which he posted weekly. This was an unexpected joy to her.

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At the end of November K went, with Friedrich among others, to Rishi Valley where, according to Dr Parchure, 'though there was no actual illness [in K], his feebleness showed when he dragged while returning from evening walks and leaned on the right side so much that he might fall.' He was also feeling the cold as he had never done before, probably because he had lost so much weight. True, it did get quite cold at night at Rishi Valley but now K could not get warm however many blankets were piled on him. He was considering cancelling his Bombay talks because his strength was rapidly failing.

In the middle of December, at K's request, teachers gathered at Rishi Valley from all the Krishnamurti schools for a conference. David Moody, now the Director of the Oak Grove School, and his wife, Vivienne, and Michael Krohnen came from Ojai. Six teachers came from Brockwood, including Scott Forbes and Stephen Smith, second in charge there. All the Rishi Valley teachers were there, of course, as well as teachers from Rajghat and the three other Indian schools. K regarded all the schools as one, as he did the Foundations.

When Scott, on his arrival on December 12, saw K, he was struck by his weakness and the amount of weight he had lost. By that time he was already having some fever which persisted in spite of Dr Parchure's efforts to bring down his temperature. His mind, however, seemed very much alive and he was continuing his afternoon walks almost every day. Different people from Ojai and Brockwood were invited to accompany him on these walks on a rota basis so that no one should be left out. His walks were much shorter now and seemed to be

taken more as a form of therapy than for pleasure. Radhika Herzberger always accompanied him on these walks, as did Scott as soon as he arrived.

There was a great deal of talk about a small study centre that was to be built at Rishi Valley, financed again by Friedrich Grohe as at Rajghat. There was, in addition, to be a retreat and centre at Uttar Kashi in the Himalayas near Dehradun, on a piece of land presented to the Foundation, very difficult of access, the last two miles from the nearest village having to be covered on foot and not accessible in winter. (Friedrich was financing this building also.)\*

On December 19 a very long discussion took place in K's room between Radhika, Scott, Friedrich, Dr Parchure and one or two others as to the purpose of the study centres. Scott started, at K's request, to outline what the Centre was to be at Brockwood. 'In general,' Scott said, 'we are building a place which is dedicated and designed exclusively for people to study the teachings. And so we have included everything that is necessary for that.' He added that the architect was sending plans to Madras so that they could be shown to all the Indian Trustees. K then turned to Radhika and asked for her opinion. She felt that Scott's definition was too narrow; that the Centre should be open to anything sacred, that people should be allowed to come there if they seemed likely to become interested in K's teaching, even if they had no knowledge of it when they arrived. Scott maintained that that was 'too loose', at any rate for Brockwood. The danger would be that people would say, 'This is sacred and that is sacred and the other is sacred.' They might feel that Jesus or the Buddha had said the same things as Krishnamurti so why should they not go and stay at the Brockwood Centre, in that wonderful environment, to study Jesus or the Buddha? The argument went on for a very long time with Radhika and Scott both ably and firmly putting their points of view without influencing the other while K kept a balance between them.<sup>66</sup> It became obvious that the different centres would be run in accordance with the sentiments of those in charge of them and that no definition was possible which would be acceptable to both sides. The meeting ended amicably with them all going off to look at the site, suggested by Radhika, where the Rishi Valley Centre might be built. K had already made clear what he wanted the Brockwood Centre to be but he seemed equally sympathetic to Radhika's view. The year before he had said publicly:

If I went to the Study, first of all I would want to be quiet, not bring my problems there; not my household problems, business preoccupations and so on. And also I think I would want what K says to be entirely part of my life, not just that I have studied K and I repeat what he says. Rather, in the very studying of it I am really absorbing it; not bits of it here and there, not only just what suits me. ... If I went there to study what K is saying, I would want to investigate it, question it, doubt it: not just read something and then go away. I would be reading not just to memorise; I would be reading to learn to see what he is saying and my reactions to it, whether it corresponds or contradicts, whether he is right or I am right, so that there is a constant communication and interchange between what I am reading and what I am feeling. I would want to establish a relationship between what I am reading, seeing, hearing and myself with my

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\* The Uttar Kashi retreat with twelve bedrooms was opened in 1986 when the Rajghat Centre, consisting of two bungalows, was also opened. At the time of writing, the Rishi Valley Centre is in process of being built.



reactions, conditioning, and so on; a dialogue between him and me. Such a dialogue must inevitably bring about a fundamental change.

Let us say that a man like you comes to this new Study. You take all the trouble to come to this place, and for the first few days you may want to be quiet. If you are sensitive you realise there is something here which is different from your home, totally different from going to a discussion somewhere. Then you begin to study, and not only you but all the people living here are studying, seeing, questioning. And everyone actually listening with their whole being will naturally bring about a religious atmosphere.

That is what I would want if I went there. I would be sensitive enough to quickly capture what K is saying. And at lunch, or walking or sitting around together in the sitting-room, I might like to discuss. I might say, 'Look, I didn't understand what he meant by that, let's talk about it'—not, you tell me about it, or I know better—'let's go into it'; so it will be a living thing. And in the afternoon I might go out for a walk, or do some other physical activity.

The Study will be a place for all serious people who have left behind them their nationality, their sectarian beliefs and all the other things that divide human beings.<sup>67</sup>

K was not expected to take part in the teachers' conference because by then it was generally recognised that he was ill and should conserve his strength for the Madras talks. He did take part, however. According to Stephen Smith, 'Krishnaji seemed to be looking to us (to Scott in particular) to give some kind of lead to the Conference and not let it centre merely around curriculum and the day to day functioning of a school. He spoke three times at the Conference. On the first occasion he came in as an "observer", and really, as was his wont, set the whole thing on a different footing. The third talk was particularly eloquent and intimate. He spoke of and radiated greatness.'<sup>68</sup> Scott wrote:

The people at Rishi Valley were very conscious of his frailty, and all the students and staff were very gentle and cautious with him. There was a sense of foreboding in the air. People were not openly speaking about it—at least not to me—but there were lots of broad hints that they did not expect Krishnaji ever to come back to Rishi Valley. Krishnaji must have been preparing the people for this because gradually it became accepted that he would probably not come back to India.

Radhika was playing hostess to everyone, running this conference and trying to take care of Krishnaji as well as meeting her continuing responsibilities in the school. I remember several times thinking to myself that she did this very well and was handling a very, very difficult situation as well as it could be done.<sup>69</sup>

At Rishi Valley, a Hoopoe bird, rather like a woodpecker, with a short tail, very long beak and high crest, would sit on the windowsill of K's bedroom, pecking at the glass, wanting to get in. Once, when it had managed to get in, K had said to it, 'I don't mind sharing a room with you but when I leave, the room will be closed and you won't like being shut up in it.' K never fed it and it seemed to have no reason for wanting to get in, yet it was nearly always there, pecking at the glass. K said they were friends; he talked to it and it liked the sound of his voice. (It tried to get in three times during the discussion about the Centre. One can hear it on the cassette.)

K now had all his meals in bed instead of eating as he had always done before in the dining-room of the old guest house where his room was situated. The devoted Parameshwaran did his utmost to tempt his appetite, though K himself was most anxious not to have any food that the rest of the school was not having.

Before K left Rishi Valley for Madras on December 22 he had cancelled the Bombay talks and had asked Scott to go with him to Ojai instead of returning to England with the other Brockwood teachers. K had also asked Scott to change his and Dr Parchure's tickets and get one for himself in order to fly across the Pacific to Los Angeles without stopping anywhere en route. He could not face the cold of Europe in January. He wanted to leave as soon as the Madras talks, and the Trustees' meetings which were to follow them, were over.

Radhika knew he would not be returning to Rishi Valley and probably everyone else there at least suspected it. She wrote, 'Even though I was to say good-bye to Krishnaji three more times, I found this parting was the most painful. The thought that he would never again set eyes on those ancient hills continues to be difficult to bear.'<sup>70</sup>

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Dr Parchure, alarmed by K's loss of weight at Rishi Valley, arranged for him to have a check-up, as soon as he got to Madras, by a distinguished doctor, Thiru Venkadam. The doctor wanted to make further investigations, for he suspected some malignancy, but K refused to have any tests done which would disturb him during the period of the talks.

It had been arranged for K to give two talks on December 28 and 29, to hold Question and Answer meetings on the 31st and January 2 and to give the last two talks on the 4th and 5th, after which there were to be several days of Trustees' meetings. Dr Thiru Venkadam advised, though, that K should have at least two days' rest between talks. K did not like to disappoint people by changing his schedule so it was decided that he should give the first talk and then see how he felt. If he needed to make a change it could be announced at the meeting.

Scott found there were only three flights a week considered direct to Los Angeles, with a change of planes at Singapore and a stop at Tokyo. K chose to leave on January 17 and refused to stop over on the way, so Scott procured three first-class tickets for that day. Fortunately he had an American Express card. Some members of the Indian Foundation felt that this was the most tiring route to take; they wanted him to give at least one talk in Bombay and leave from there. But K was adamant. He could not get warm even in Madras; he was running a temperature and wanted to get to Ojai as soon as possible. He must have known better than anyone how limited his strength was.

Before the talks at Vasanta Vihar started, people would come and see K in his bedroom in the mornings, and Nandini Mehta would have lunch with him there and sometimes supper. After lunch he would have a short rest; then more people would come to see him until his walk in the late afternoon. Nandini and Scott would drive with him through the Theosophical compound to Radha Burnier's house on the beach, almost opposite the place where it was said that K had been 'discovered'. Tired as he was, K would sometimes go into Radha's house for a few moments to put his hands on the eyes of Radha's niece who was in danger of losing her sight. (I understand it has now stabilised. Two years before, he had treated Radha's brother, who had already lost the sight of one eye, for threatened

blindness as the result of a detached retina in the other eye. His sight was saved after K had put his hands on him every evening for a month.)<sup>71</sup>

K's talks coincided with the annual Theosophical Convention, so there were thousands of Theosophists in the T.S. compound waiting to greet him as he drove through. Usually, after leaving Radha's house, he would walk south along the beach as far as the fishermen's village, then turn and walk north to the Adyar river and to the end of the unfinished footbridge that jutted out a short way across the river. Then he would turn again and walk back to Radha's house where the car awaited him. Radha, with others, would always accompany him on these walks. K would now hold on to Scott's shoulder when they walked along the bridge which had no parapet. He said that if he fell he was afraid he would hurt his watch! (He had a watch pocket in his *bundi*, a waistcoat worn over his *kurta*, a long shirt.)

Before the first talk K asked Scott to bring forward the day of their departure to an earlier flight; he intended to cancel some of the Trustees' meetings. The first direct flight before the 17th was the 12th. K decided to leave on that day.

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Mark Edwards had arrived in Madras on December 22 to photograph the talks. He had been in India for over a month, taking pictures for the United Nations of some of the poorest parts of Bombay and Delhi, and he was feeling mentally drained. The next afternoon he went from his hotel to Vasanta Vihar in a bicycle rickshaw. He found Pupul and Sunanda just starting out in a car for Radha Burnier's house to fetch K after his walk and they took him with them. He went out on to the beach and turned right to meet K and his friends who were just returning from the fishermen's village. Mark was reassured when he saw the tracks of K's footsteps in the sand (unmistakable from their narrowness even though he was wearing sports shoes) and noticed that he was walking with his usual long strides. It was all the more of a shock, therefore, to find how thin and frail he had become since he had photographed him at Brockwood in October when, according to Mark, he had 'radiated good health and had seemed always on the point of laughter'. Nevertheless, when K greeted him, taking his hand in both of his, 'all the strain of the previous month emptied out of' Mark: 'That healing touch he had for others was not affected.' K asked Sunanda to invite Mark to have his meals at Vasanta Vihar.<sup>72</sup>

K now weighed only 97 lb. and continued to have fever all through the talks which were held in the evenings in the large garden of Vasanta Vihar. People closely surrounded on all sides the dais on which he sat cross-legged. At the Saanen and Brockwood Gatherings he had been able to slip out of the tent through an opening behind the platform.

At 4 p.m., before the first talk on December 28 which was to start at 5.30, K complained to Dr Parchure that he was feeling very low. It was found that he had a temperature of over 100°. This was no doubt the reason why the first talk was a poor one. He sounded rather truculent with his audience. When he tried to leave the dais at the end of the talk the crowds pressed around him so closely, trying to touch him or his clothes to receive his blessing, that he had great difficulty in

making his way back to the house although Narayan, Parameshwaran, Scott and Mark endeavoured to clear a way for him. While he was being mobbed, he kept saying, 'I don't want all this', giving the impression to Mark that not only did he not want the crowd pressing on him but he did not want people holding back the crowd either.

As soon as he regained the house, Dr Parchure persuaded him not to talk next day. An announcement was made, therefore, before the crowd dispersed, that he would be giving only two more talks, on January 1 and 4.

During the night before the second talk K got out of bed, fell and dashed his head against the wall, hurting himself quite badly. After this fall, Parameshwaran slept outside K's screen door so that he would be able to hear K if he moved. K refused to have a bell rigged up with which to summon Parameshwaran from where he normally slept because it would, he said, be treating his old friend like a servant.

Stephen Smith who, with the other Brockwood teachers, had come to Madras for the talks, has written:

It was obvious the talks were taking their toll of his health, physically. (He had to run the gauntlet of the crowd both to get to the platform and get back to his room.) His voice was sometimes strident; he looked mortal like the rest of us. (Among groups of intimates he remained peerless, unimpaired.) The last time I saw him was the day we left Madras. All the Brockwood people—apart from Scott—were leaving. We went up to his room; he was sitting upright on his bed. He asked Alan Rowlandson [the piano teacher] about the concerts he was giving. The sparkle was in his eyes and he seemed relaxed. Throughout the Madras period I had a strong sense of the presence of death. It was in the air as a tangible presence but unrelated—as far as I could tell—to anyone in particular. Obviously, with hindsight, it had come from Krishnaji.

Mark too felt very strongly, and quite independently of Stephen, the presence of death at Vasanta Vihar, but he felt it in connection with K.

At some time between the first and last talks, K asked Scott to move his departure forward again to the 10th. This was the earliest he could leave if he was to talk to the Indian Trustees at all. ('He was almost rushing back to Ojai to hand over himself to Dr Deutsch's care,' Dr Parchure recorded.) It was generally understood by then that he intended never to return to India, for he was giving away all his Indian clothes, yet none of those around him seems to have suspected that his death was so close. When Mark left after the talks K said in good-bye, 'See you in London.' But when Scott begged him to conserve his energy so that he would be there when the Brockwood Centre opened he said, 'Old boy...' and shook his head as though it was most uncertain. (K would sometimes use old-fashioned English expressions like this; the most frequent was 'By Jove'.)

It seems probable that K expected to recover sufficiently at Ojai to talk at the Oak Grove Gathering, at the first International Gathering at Brockwood, to lay the foundation stone of the Centre and then to return to Ojai, perhaps to die. There is little doubt in my mind that he intended to die when the time came in his bed at Pine Cottage.

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At the end of the second talk K spoke about death:

We are trying to find out what it means to die, while living—not committing suicide; I am not talking that kind of nonsense. I want to find out for myself what it means to die, which means, can I be totally free from everything that man has created, including myself?

What does it mean to die? To give up everything. Death cuts you off with a very, very, very sharp razor from your attachments, from your gods, from your superstitions, from your desire for comfort—next life and so on. I'm going to find out what death means because it's as important as living. So how can I find out, actually, not theoretically, what it means to die? I actually want to find out, as you want to find out. I am speaking for you, so don't go to sleep. What does it mean to die? Put that question to yourself. While we are young, or when we are very old, this question is always there. It means to be totally free, to be totally unattached to everything that man has put together, or what you have put together—totally free. No attachments, no gods, no future, no past. You don't see the beauty of it, the greatness of it, the extraordinary strength of it—while living to be dying. You understand what that means? While you are living, every moment you are dying, so that throughout life you are not attached to *anything*. That is what death means.

So living is dying. You understand? Living means that every day you are abandoning everything that you are attached to. Can you do this? A very simple fact, but it has got tremendous implications. So that each day is a new day. Each day you are dying and incarnating. There is a tremendous vitality, energy there because there is nothing that you are afraid of. There is nothing that can hurt. Being hurt doesn't exist.

All the things that man has put together have to be totally abandoned. That's what it means to die. So can you do it? Will you try it? Will you experiment with it? Not for just a day; every day. No, sir, you can't do it; your brains are not trained for this. Your brains have been conditioned so heavily, by your education, by your tradition, by your books, by your professors. It requires finding out what love is. Love and death go together. Death says be free, non-attached, you can carry nothing with you. And love says, love says—there is no word for it. Love can exist only when there is freedom, not from your wife, from a new girl, or a new husband, but the feeling, the enormous strength, the vitality, the energy of complete freedom.<sup>73</sup>

In the last talk on January 4, the last talk K ever gave, he covered many of the subjects he had gone into so often before—the origin of life, religion, computer technology and genetic engineering, the difference between the mind and the brain, creativity, meditation, knowledge, thought, conditioning, and back to the origin of life. He asked at the end:

Is there a brain, your brain, which is not muddied up, muddied by environment, by tradition, by society and all the rest of it? So what is the origin of life? Are you waiting for me to answer? This is much too serious a subject for you to play with, because we are trying to enquire into something that has no name, no end. I can kill that bird; there is another bird. I can't kill all birds; there are too many of them in the world. So, we are enquiring into what makes a bird. What is creation behind all this? Are you waiting for me to describe it, go into it? You want me to go into it? Why?

[From the audience]: To understand what creation is.

K: Why do you ask that? Because I asked? No description can ever describe the origin. The origin is nameless; the origin is absolutely quiet; it's not whirring about making noise. Creation is something that is most holy. That's the most sacred thing in life and if you have made a mess of your life, change it. Change it today, not tomorrow. If you are uncertain find out why and be *certain*. If your thinking is not straight, think straight, logically. Unless all that is prepared, all that is settled, you can't enter into this world, into the world of creation.

It ends. [These two words are hardly audible, breathed rather than spoken. They can just be heard on the cassette. They could not have been heard by his audience.]<sup>74</sup>

Then, after a long pause, he added: 'This is the last talk. Do you want to sit together quietly for a while? All right, sirs, sit quietly for a while.'

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The Indian Government had given an Arts grant for G. Aravindan, a well-known producer, to make a film about K, *The Seer Who Walks Alone*. The end of this film had been shot at Rajghat during K's last visit. (This was no doubt the documentary that Anita Desai had seen. Friedrich Grohe has written about the film: 'K crossed the river and walked up the path that the Buddha had walked to Sarnath, the place of his Enlightenment. K said to the producer, "I'll do everything you want me to." Once, at sunset, on a hill above the Varanasi river, K stood against the setting sun, like one of the ancient sculptures.' On January 4, everyone at Vasanta Vihar, except K, went to the premier of this film which had been completed in a remarkably short time. The photography, according to Scott, was 'absolutely stunning'.

The Trustees' meetings that followed the talks were not happy ones. K had certain things to say, some changes to make which he had been dreading for months. One result was the appointment of a new secretary for the Foundation—Mahesh Saxena, a comparative newcomer among K's associates. Mahesh had had an interesting career. He had resigned from his job as head of the central police in Delhi, put on a sannyasi's robe and lived in the Himalayas for several years. He then started wandering until he came to Rajghat and found in Krishnamurti what he had been seeking.

The question of publications was evidently gone into at one meeting because Scott telephoned to us in London to ask whether cheap, paperback editions of K's books could be made available in India. India already had the paperback rights in several of K's books which they had not yet published. The paperback rights in other books had already been sold, but we were able to tell Scott that there was no reason why India should not be given the Indian rights in all future books. This telephone call from Scott left us as much in the dark as ever as to what decision K had come to over publications.

Also during the meetings K 'had insisted that the houses where he had lived should not become places of pilgrimage, that no cult should grow around him'.<sup>75</sup> And he asked for the following memorandum to be inserted in the rules and regulations of the Foundation:

Under no circumstances will the Foundation or any of the institutions under its auspices, or any of its members set themselves up as authorities on Krishnamurti's teachings. This is in accordance with Krishnamurti's declaration that no one anywhere should set himself up as an authority on him or his teachings.<sup>76</sup>

The flight to Los Angeles on January 10 was scheduled for midnight. This last day, people were continually coming to say good-bye. K went for his usual walk on the beach that evening, having previously driven through the grounds of

the Madras School to say good-bye. He went to bed at an early hour, the plan being that he should be woken in time to be taken by car to the steps of the aircraft as had been arranged for him. Scott and Dr Parchure went ahead to check in the luggage and go through the controls. Asit, who would be going with them as far as Singapore where he had an apartment, would go later with K. When Scott got to the airport, almost an hour's drive away, he found that the plane was to be two hours late. This would still leave forty-five minutes to change planes in Singapore. Not wanting to remain at the airport, he and Dr Parchure, having checked in the luggage, returned to Vasanta Vihar to find that those in charge there, having heard that the plane was to be late, thought it wiser for K to postpone his journey until the 12th in order not to risk missing his connection and having to wait two days in Singapore; therefore they had not disturbed his sleep. Scott felt that K should be woken so as to make his own decision. This was done and after being informed of the situation he decided to go.

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## *'I am still the Teacher'*

K had been driving himself so hard in Madras that once relaxed on the aircraft all his exhaustion was released. In Singapore, where they had just enough time to change planes after a four-hour flight, K complained of acute stomach ache. He was given pills and the pain gradually subsided so that he was able to sleep on and off during the six-hour flight to Tokyo, but he had great difficulty in keeping warm because of the air-conditioning.

At Tokyo, where he wanted to stretch his legs, he needed Scott's help in walking. As they were going out of the departure lounge to continue the flight, a middle-aged Japanese gentleman came up and asked, 'Are you Mr Krishnamurti?' This turned out to be Mr S. Takahashi who had given us much good advice on the translation of K's books into Japanese. Having heard from a friend in Madras that K would be on this flight, he had taken a return ticket to Los Angeles simply in order to travel with him. He sensitively realised at once that K was too ill to talk to anyone. He felt, though, that merely sitting with him in the same aircraft had been fully worth the journey. From the Los Angeles airport he flew straight back to Tokyo.

They arrived at Los Angeles at 9.30 a.m. after a twenty-four-hour journey. Mary Zimbalist was there to meet them and drove K back to Ojai, leaving the others to deal with the luggage. As soon as they were alone K told her that for the next two or three days she must not leave him or he might 'slip away'. He said, '*It* doesn't want to inhabit a sick body, one that couldn't function. We must not have an accident, because if I were hurt that would be the end.'

When he arrived at Pine Cottage all his friends were there to greet him. He seemed delighted to be back in his own room. That evening he had a temperature of 101° and was very drowsy from jet lag. Mary slept that night on a mattress on the floor of his room. Scott slept all the time he was there on the sofa in the living-room while Dr Parchure slept at Arya Vihara but spent his waking hours at Pine Cottage. It was Mary, though, who looked after K at night.

I have three independent accounts of K's last illness—Mary Zimbalist's daily diary notes, Dr Parchure's daily report, couched for the most part in medical terms, and Scott's recollections written after K's death. In essentials all three accounts tally exactly. A combination of the three will be given here, using layman's language and omitting the brand names of the particular medications K received.

Mary had made an appointment for K to see Dr Deutsch at 10 a.m. on the 13th; she and Dr Parchure accompanied him to the doctor's office at Santa Paula, and went afterwards to the Santa Paula Community Hospital for a full range of blood tests. The results showed an inflammation of the liver and a very high blood-sugar count. K was given an antibiotic, a sleeping pill, and his dose of anti-



diabetes medicine was doubled. Dr Deutsch wanted a sonogram done of the liver, gall bladder and pancreas. This was arranged for the 20th at the Ojai Hospital.

K was now finding it very difficult to eat. All food seemed to him too rich, however carefully it was prepared. Mary gave him breakfast and supper while his main meal was cooked in the kitchen at Arya Vihara where the Moodys lived. Michael Krohnen, who had cooked devotedly for him for a long time at Ojai, used all his art to tempt his appetite just as Parameshwaran had done in India.

On the 19th, K felt stronger and wanted to go out for the first time since his arrival. He walked slowly down the length of the drive, about a quarter of a mile, with Mary and Scott on either side of him in case he needed support. The drive sloped downwards, so unfortunately it was up hill all the way back. When he reached the pepper tree outside Pine Cottage he sat down to rest for five minutes on the low stone wall that surrounded it before continuing the short distance to the house.

The sonogram next day showed 'a mass' on the liver, and Dr Miller of the Ojai Hospital asked for a CAT scan to be done on the 22nd. K's weight had dropped to 94 lb.

On the 21st he went for what was to be his last walk. It was a longer one than two days before, down the drive, round by Arya Vihara, and back through the orange grove to the pepper tree where he again sat and rested before returning to the cottage.

At 1 a.m. on the 22nd he began to have bad pain which could not be relieved. Three hours later it had become almost unbearable. K had suffered some agonising pain in his life and he never complained until it was really intolerable. At 8.45 he started to vomit. Mary called Dr Deutsch who said that he needed the facilities of a hospital to be able to deal with the case. Years ago, K had told Mary never to put him in hospital; he would rather die at home. When he had gone into hospital for his two operations it was he who had taken the decision. When Mary told him now, in the presence of Dr Parchure, the Lilliefelts and Scott, what Dr Deutsch had said, he looked at them for a few moments and then said, 'All right.' The CAT scan for that afternoon was cancelled and K, in his dressing-gown and wrapped in blankets, was driven the sixteen miles to Santa Paula Community Hospital where he was admitted to a private room in the intensive care unit.

Dr Deutsch met them there. An immediate X-ray showed an obstruction of the bowel. K agreed to have a tube passed through his nose to pump out the fluid and relieve the pressure, and hyper-alimentation was given intravenously when he was found to be seriously undernourished. He said to Scott when all these unpleasant things had been done to him, 'I must accept. I have accepted so much.' But what he accepted gratefully were the injections of morphine which were given after the pain-killers had failed to act.

Dr Deutsch asked for a reclining chair to be put in K's room, and, during the eight nights he remained in the hospital, Mary, Dr Parchure and Scott took it in turns to stay with him at night while the Lilliefelts spent every day there.

On the 23rd K was examined by a surgeon and an oncologist (a specialist in tumours). After the examination K, according to Scott, 'began to tell Dr Deutsch

[who had been to some of the Ojai talks] something of what he was. He seemed to need to do this in order to help the doctor know how to take care of him, i.e., that it was not an ordinary body, that something extraordinary used the body, that the body was extraordinarily sensitive, that somehow, regardless of how experienced the doctor was, he had no experience of dealing with what he was now going to deal with.' K then gave the doctor 'the most wonderful brief sketch of his life'. He also talked to him about 'Patek Philippe watches, Huntsman suits and Jacquet ties'.

This was a critical day, Dr Parchure noted in his report, because of the danger of K's falling into a coma from hepatitis. Injections of morphine were given to him every two hours as well as other medication. At 5 p.m. Dr Parchure 'explained to him the nature of the crisis'. In fact Dr Parchure had told him that he probably had cancer for which there was no treatment. This upset Mary and Scott who felt that the diagnosis was not yet definite. They understood, however, when Dr Parchure explained to them that a long time ago he had promised K to tell him immediately if he ever saw any danger of death and, because of the fear of a coma, he felt it right to fulfil his promise.

When Mary and Scott next went into K's room, K said, 'It seems I am going to die,' as if he had not expected it so soon but accepted the fact. Later he said, 'I wonder why "the other" doesn't let the body go.' He was to wonder this often in the succeeding three weeks. On another occasion he said to Mary, 'I'm watching it. It's most curious.' And at another time, he remarked, "The other" and death are having a struggle.' Once after he knew definitely that he had cancer he said to Mary in a faraway voice, 'What have I done wrong?', as if he had somehow failed to look after the body as he should have done.

The 23rd was the day on which Mary telephoned to Vanda Scaravelli in Florence and to me in London to warn us of how ill K was. A final diagnosis would not be made, she said, until he had had a CAT scan on the 27th. Erna Lilliefelt was keeping Pupul Jayakar in Delhi fully informed, and Erna and Scott were in constant touch with Mary Cadogan in London.

On the 24th there was an improvement. The bowel obstruction was dispersing and the signs of jaundice were receding. The surgeon changed the intravenous connection from a vein in K's hand to a larger tube inserted under the collarbone so that more fluid could go through. This released both his hands which was a relief to him. Dr Deutsch asked him if he would accept a transfusion of a pint of blood to give him strength. He said he would if the donor was a vegetarian who did not drink alcohol. Any of his friends at Ojai would, of course, have been happy to give their blood but it was not whole blood that was needed, only some part of it which would take too long to process from fresh blood. K therefore accepted what he was given. That evening he asked Mary and Scott not to leave him until the end because he wanted the body looked after as he had looked after it himself. There was nothing at all sentimental or pathetic in the way he put this request.

The next day the nose tube was removed which made him feel 'like a new man'. This day he asked that three people should be requested to come to Ojai as soon as possible. These were all Indians—Radhika Herzberger, Dr Krishna and

Mahesh Saxena, and ‘possibly Upasani’. K wanted to see his old friend Upasani because he had not had a chance to say good-bye to him in India. He wanted to see the other three because they were the young ones whom he trusted to carry on his work in India in a non-authoritarian spirit. These were the only people he did ask to see. In the event, Upasani could not go because it took so long to get a passport.

K also asked Scott that day to make a recording of what should be done with his ashes. He wanted them divided into three—one part to stay in Ojai, the other parts to go to India and Brockwood. He did not want any ceremonies and ‘all that nonsense’, and the ground where his ashes were buried ‘shouldn’t become a holy place where people came and worshipped and all that rot’.<sup>77</sup>

After spending the night of the 25th in K’s room, Mary wrote in her diary:

K had many awakenings in the night but spoke of meditation having been present. I barely doze and become immediately alert if he makes the smallest movement. It is as if there is some invisible connection to him. For hours I watch the pattern of his heartbeat on the monitor. Life becomes the beat, the rise and fall of his breathing. He is alive and so all the ugliness, the violence, the wretchedness of the world is held at bay by that small body and vastness of spirit. He is, as always, infinitely beautiful. He turned his head this morning to look out of the window where he can just see the hills, and his face seemed suddenly 30 years old.

On the 27th K had a CAT scan in a large van that went round the local hospitals. He was wheeled out on a stretcher and a fork-lift raised him into the van. Dr Parchure sat with the doctor while the scan was being done. K was intensely interested in the machinery of the proceedings as he always was in anything mechanical. The scan confirmed that there was a three-inch mass in the liver with calcification in the pancreas, suggesting that the latter was the primary seat of the malignancy. When these findings were conveyed to K by Dr Deutsch, K asked to be allowed to return to Pine Cottage; he did not want to die in hospital. But he was put through one more ordeal the next day—a liver biopsy which was so painful, in spite of a local anaesthetic, that it set him back for twenty-four hours without achieving its object of reaching the growth. That day Mary telephoned to Vanda and to me again.

On the 29th the result came through of a new and highly specialised blood test. As Dr Parchure reported: ‘This almost clinched the diagnosis of malignancy of the head of the pancreas with secondaries in the liver.’ That day K had to have morphine again. He asked Dr Deutsch if he could last until the three Indians arrived. The doctor wanted to know what his wishes were. K replied that he wanted to be clear in his mind until the end but that he did not want to suffer great pain; ‘the other’ could not get through when there was too much pain.

The next morning, free from pain, and having gained weight as a result of the hyper-alimentation, K returned to Pine Cottage. A hospital bed, lent by Mark Lee, had been put in his room and arrangements made for round-the-clock nurses. He was still almost entirely relying on nourishment from the intravenous drip, but at the relief of getting home he asked for something to eat—a tomato sandwich and some ice cream. It was not a success; after a mouthful or two he was sick. His spirits, though, were still high and he asked Mary to put on a record

of Pavarotti singing Neapolitan songs. But in the evening the pain returned and he was given morphine again.

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The moment I heard from Mary on the 24th how ill K was, I longed to fly to Ojai, yet I hesitated because I knew that if I went it would be for my own sake, not for his. He had not asked for me. Mary Cadogan went at once but then she had been invited by Erna Lilliefelt with whom she stayed. She arrived on the 26th and was taken next morning to see K in hospital. He looked weak but appeared cheerful and pleased to see her. He enquired courteously about the details of her journey. It was after Mary Cadogan arrived that he asked someone to find out from Pandit Upadhyaya in India what the Indian tradition was with regard to the treatment after death of a holy man, not, he said, that he intended to follow the tradition.<sup>78</sup>

If I went to Ojai, Joe would go with me, so we applied for visas. After Mary Zimbalist's second call on the 28th I found it impossible not to go. We left on the 30th, the day K returned to Pine Cottage, and were delighted to find Dorothy Simmons and Jane Hammond on the same flight. We arrived next day on a pouring wet afternoon (Californian time is eight hours behind English time) to be met at the Los Angeles airport by Evelyne Blau. The traffic congestion on a wet Friday afternoon was appalling and the eighty-mile drive to Ojai seemed longer than the twelve-hour flight. Evelyne was charming but one realised what an ordeal it must be for those at Ojai to have to do that journey to and from the airport to meet people coming to see K on his deathbed. Thank goodness we four had arrived together. Dorothy was staying with Alan Hooker and his wife Helen, and Jane with Evelyne. We were to stay in the guest flat next to Pine Cottage where we would have stayed if our happy April plan had materialised. The flat was over the Krishnamurti office, approached by an outside flight of stone steps.

We had hardly entered the flat when Mary Zimbalist appeared. We hugged silently and she then asked me to come and see K at once. I had not expected to be able to see him that day and could not possibly go to him without at least washing my hands and cleaning my teeth after that long journey. Mary went back to the house and I followed in five minutes.

K was lying flat on his back in the hospital bed, his hair spread out wildly on the pillow. He said in a weak voice, 'This is not my usual style,' and he indicated the bed and the drip-bottle on the stand above him. I felt strongly at that moment how right my first instinct had been not to come, what an imposition it was on him. I felt sure he did not want to be seen like that. I stayed only a few minutes but they were minutes in which he had to make the effort to ask after our journey and how Joe was and to hope we would be comfortable in the flat.

Because it was still pouring, Evelyne came to fetch us that first evening for dinner at Arya Vihara where long tables had been placed end to end to accommodate all the guests. We were introduced to Michael Krohnen whom we were fortunate to have to cook for us (he also did some teaching at the Oak Grove School), and to his young Finnish assistant. David and Vivienne Moody I had already met at Brockwood as well as the Hookers, and the Lilliefelts I knew

well. (Erna, in addition to all her other work, and seeing K daily, took responsibility for the visitors.) I met Mark Lee and his Indian wife Asha, and K's niece Indira (Narayan's sister), who was there with her husband from the school in Connecticut where they both worked. Friedrich Grohe and his new wife Magda, whom he had first met at Ojai and had married the year before, were also there; he now had a house at Ojai. Dr Krishna, a tall, handsome man, looking more like a soldier than a professor, had arrived before us as had also R. Morali, a trustee of the Indian Foundation. Pupul Jayakar, with Radhika Herzberger and Asit Chandmal, was expected later that evening. They came in a chauffeur-driven car. Mahesh Saxena was waiting for a visa and did not arrive until February 5. The Indians stayed at Arya Vihara. Radhika has recorded that when she saw K next morning one of the first questions he asked her was, 'Has it rained in Rishi Valley?' He was happy when she told him that it had rained nearly three inches at the time he left Madras.<sup>79</sup>

The next morning, February 1, the rain had stopped. Some kind person, I never discovered who, had stocked our kitchenette-cupboard with everything conceivable one could want for breakfast. Directly after breakfast I went across to Pine Cottage, past the black granite *nandis* I had heard about and some flower beds, and through the Pompeian-red front door into the new house. I noticed in time that shoes were left outside which I had not noticed the evening before. The house was on one floor—a large living-room with a high, raftered ceiling and a great fireplace for burning logs, a dining-room, a small office for Mary, and a beautifully fitted, spacious kitchen with laundry room beyond. To the right of the entrance a short passage connected the house with the old cottage\* where two bedrooms, two bathrooms and a small sitting-room for K were situated. The floors throughout the new house were underfloor-heated and laid with white, flower-patterned tiles. All the fittings, furniture, curtains and covers showed Mary's (to my mind) perfect taste.

I felt worried about Mary who was evidently suffering from strain and lack of sleep. (She did not sleep more than two hours a night the whole time K was ill.) It was easy to see that her entire being was concentrated exclusively on caring for him; she was not really aware of anyone else. Scott also looked strained. K was shy of the nurses and wanted either Scott, Mary or Dr Parchure to help him with intimate functions. Mary continued to be the one who ministered to him at night. Since he refused to have the discomfort of a catheter he was disturbed very frequently in the night and sometimes in the daytime too. Because of this he asked Scott to stay in the room when he saw people for more than a few minutes. He would catch Scott's eye and Scott would ask whoever was with him to go out for a little while. This was hard on Scott, for it tended to make him unpopular with those who did not understand the reason for his being in the room when they wanted to be left alone with K.

I talked with Mary and Scott in the kitchen for a while that morning and then went in to see K. He was propped up a little and his hair had been neatly combed so that he looked more himself. He was weak and sleepy, though. Later he saw

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\* The cottage was painted white. When my mother and I had stayed at Ojai with K for four months in 1926–27 it was of dark pinewood.

Joe for a moment and, of course, he saw all the Indians who were there. When Dr Deutsch came that afternoon he was fully awake and free from pain. The doctor spoke to the Indians afterwards and answered questions from Asit. All agreed that K should be given what he wanted to relieve the pain and enable him to sleep.

That night he slept without morphine or sleeping pills and, according to Dr Parchure, looked alert and fresh next morning. He talked to Mary about being strong after he was gone; she must live in the way she had lived with him. He told Dr Deutsch, when he came that afternoon, that he had woken up in meditation and that the pain, jaundice, morphine and other drugs had left no effect on his brain. In the course of the day he saw everyone from India and England.

Six years before, K had tried to describe what this night meditation was like:

For a long time he [K was referring to himself] has been awakening in the middle of the night with the peculiar meditation which has been pursuing him for very many years. This has been a normal thing in his life. It is not a conscious, deliberate pursuit of meditation or an unconscious desire to achieve something. It is very clearly uninvited and unsought. He has been adroitly watchful of thought [not] making a memory of these meditations. And so each meditation has a quality of something new and fresh in it.<sup>80</sup>

I had now discovered by chance that Radhika Herzberger and Dr Krishna had been made the two Indian members of the International Publications Committee in place of Sunanda Patwardhan and Asit. I asked them, therefore, whether they would come and have a talk that afternoon with me, Mary Cadogan and Jane Hammond in our flat. We liked them both enormously and had a very friendly conversation. It transpired that they had only been appointed by the Indian Foundation on January 13, after K had left India, and that they knew next to nothing of our publishing difficulties with India. As far as I remember, most of the meeting was taken up with filling in the background for them. We English did not yet know what K's decision over publications was. They did know, it turned out, but they did not tell us. No doubt they thought we knew already. We also discovered to our disappointment that they were no more empowered to make decisions on their own than their predecessors had been.

The next morning, February 3, K called together into his room all those concerned with publications. He had not slept well but had had no pain or sickness and had spoken to Mary of having had a 'marvellous meditation'. Dr Parchure confirmed this and added that he was 'fresh and strong'. The meeting was tape-recorded. Those present were Mary Zimbalist, Radhika, Dr Krishna, Mary Cadogan, Jane Hammond, Scott and I. Scott had nothing to do with publications; he was there because he had to stand by the bed holding the tape-recorder. (In the middle of the meeting he had to turn us all out of the room for a little while.)

K began by saying that since England and India had been quarrelling over publications for thirteen years he had decided to 'take charge of it'. 'You have nothing more to do with it,' he said. In future he wanted India to be concerned only with translating his books into the many vernacular languages. All his talks

and discussions in India were in future to go to England to be edited. The Indian Foundation would be given the paperback rights of our edited manuscripts for distribution in India.

It was with dismay that I heard this. K was taking away from the Indian Foundation the right it had been given in perpetuity to edit and publish for the Indian market all K's talks and discussions in India without any reference to England. Besides, it would put an extra burden on our small team of editors. K's wishes were paramount, however, and we said we would carry them out although it would involve much more work.

K asked Dr Krishna whether he agreed to this decision. Dr Krishna replied that, although he would personally agree and could put K's wishes to the Indian Foundation, he did not represent the Foundation so he could not say whether the Foundation would agree. He said that 'Pupulji' was 'not agreeable' to what K wanted; she was his President and he could not overrule her. (It appeared from this that the matter had already been thoroughly discussed by the Indian Foundation.) And again, when K repeated what his wishes were, Dr Krishna said, 'If Pupulji agrees to this, sir, there is no problem,' to which K replied, 'I don't see why should she agree, or why you all say "yes" to what she agrees.'

This to-ing and fro-ing went on for some time, Mary Zimbalist insisting that K's wishes superseded every other argument, K asking for agreement and Dr Krishna explaining that he had no authority to agree to anything. I asked K at one point whether this decision was really his own since it might be said afterwards that he had been influenced when he was ill. 'I understand,' he said. 'Just listen: you're not enforcing this on me, you're not trying to convince me, you're not saying, be on this side and not on that side. You have nothing to do with it. Right?'

K said towards the end of the meeting that the Indian Foundation felt they were separate—they felt they understood him better than others because he had been born in India. 'You see, Dr Krishna,' he said, 'I am not an Indian.' 'Nor are we Indians,' Radhika interposed; 'in that sense I don't think I am an Indian either.' 'Nor am I English,' Mary Cadogan put in.

Radhika told K that we had had a very good meeting the day before, and I twice assured him that we had established a very good relationship with Radhika and Dr Krishna. In the end we reached a compromise, which was that anyone in any part of the world who knew English really well might do the editing for the Indian editions.\* (I did not want to point out at this stage that there was more to editing K than just speaking or writing good English.)

K seemed very relieved that the discussion was over. 'May I say something?' he asked. 'You have finished the discussion—right? This is over?' He went on:

My brain is very clear. I had a very good—I won't go into it—I couldn't sleep last night but marvellous meditation was going on for me. And I would like to go away as quickly as possible. According to the doctor the thing is increasing very rapidly. I can go through the cycle of stopping the pain by morphine. A few days quiet and then begin again. I don't want to go through all that. I am going to find out from the doctor whether there is a way of getting the

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\* G. Mohan, the man who had edited so well the book *Mind Without Measure* for the Indian market, is now helping the Indian Foundation again with the editing.

whole thing out [over?], finished. I doubt if he can tell me but that is what I want to say. While my brain is clear as it is this morning I can talk, you know, easily, but when the pain begins and all that I won't be able to talk freely, openly, easily. That's all.<sup>81</sup>

Jane Hammond, Mary Cadogan and I had two more friendly talks with Radhika and Dr Krishna in the course of which we worked out an arrangement which we hoped would fulfil K's wishes and be acceptable to Pupul: the material for the Indian international book should be selected in India, given a first editing there, and then sent to England for a final revision which might well not be necessary.

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In the afternoon after this morning meeting K felt well enough to go out in a wheel-chair. Unfortunately the chair turned out to be a wheel-walker with a seat on it. Scott raised the seat as high as it would go and K sat on it cross-legged. With his bottle of fluid suspended above him, he was wheeled out of the door of his sitting-room on to the verandah and carried down the few steps to the path. Mary, Scott, Dr Parchure and Mark Lee went with him. It was a sunny day and he asked to be left alone in the shade of the pepper tree from where he could see across the valley to the hills. Scott, afraid that he might fall backwards, remained a few paces behind him. K sat there perfectly still for some time before being wheeled back to the cottage. It was the last time he went out.

That evening Scott's wife Kathy arrived from Brockwood with revised plans for the Centre which Scott had to discuss with the architect over the telephone and which K, with his unabated interest in the new building, was pleased to see. Kathy's presence was a blessing for she undertook unobtrusively many of the chores in the house.

Next day, the 4th, K was so well that Dr Deutsch, when he came to see him in the afternoon, spoke of a possible remission. K asked the doctor whether he would be able to travel again and give talks. The doctor said, not as before but he might be able to write or dictate or hold discussions with individuals. The doctor also promised him that if the pain returned he would not let him suffer. Before he left, after over an hour, the doctor suggested that K should go into the living-room in the wheel-chair.

Scott built up the log fire in the living-room which had been kept going since K's return from hospital, and K sat there, delightedly watching the flames. At first he asked to be left alone (there were usually a few people sitting quietly in the room as if in some holy place) but consented to Scott remaining behind the chair in case he fell backwards, for he was again perched cross-legged on the seat. Mary noted, 'I guessed that he wanted to do whatever it is he does to cleanse rooms from all evil and bring about that extraordinary atmosphere that is his.' (He had always done this in any new room he was to occupy.) Scott wrote, 'He did something to the room. One could see him doing it, and the room was not the same afterwards. He had all the power and magnificence he had always had. Though he was sitting in his wheeled walker, covered up in blankets, being fed intravenously from these bottles, yet he was immense and majestic, and he absolutely filled the room and made the whole thing vibrate. And he glowed.'



When after half an hour he wanted to return to bed he amazed everyone by walking back unaided to his room. It was impossible not to hope that a miracle had occurred.

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The next morning, the 5th, K called a meeting and asked Scott to record it. Those who attended were the Lilliefelts, Pupul, Radhika, Dr Krishna, Mahesh Saxena (who had only just arrived), Mary Zimbalist, Mark Lee, David Moody, Dr Parchure, Mary Cadogan, Jane Hammond and I. It was a very painful meeting because K kept breaking down and apologising for it. ‘I don’t want to cry in front of you,’ he said. ‘It is not pleasant to see a man crying.’ He was obviously crying from sheer physical weakness, and our concern for him was not helping him. It was impossible to keep back one’s own tears (for me at any rate; the others may have been more self-controlled, though they would have felt it just as much. I did not notice anyone but him and Scott standing by the bed with the tape-recorder).

K started by telling us what Dr Deutsch had told him the day before that the body could go on in that condition for a month, two months, but there would be no more travels, no more talks. At the moment he had no pain, he said, and his brain was ‘very, very, very clear. ... As long as this body is living ... I am still the teacher. K is here as he is on the platform. ... I am still the head of everything, the schools, the Foundations ... I am still the *head* of it. I want to make this very, very clear. As long as the body is living K is there. I know it because I have marvellous dreams all the time—not dreams, whatever happens.’ He wanted, he said, to be informed in detail of what was happening in India and Brockwood. ‘Don’t tell me everything is all right.’

He then asked all the visitors, as politely as possible, to leave. ‘Please don’t waste your time sitting here. You can’t help me, I’m sorry to say. You can’t keep the body alive.’ The only exceptions he made were of Mahesh, because he had only just arrived and he wanted to talk to him quietly—he could stay as long as he liked and go when he liked—and perhaps Dr Krishna for a while, though he had his family and Rajghat to get back to. He repeated, ‘I would request you most earnestly, don’t waste your time here.’

He went on to say that he had lived without any hierarchy. ‘I like to talk to lots of people, not that they influence me.’ Nobody, not even Mrs Besant, had ever told him what to say. When he dissolved the Order of the Star, he did it; when Saanen came to an end it was *his* decision. ‘So please be good enough, generous enough, not to the body, [but] to that teaching, not to bring hierarchy into this: no priests, no temples, no rituals.’ When he was dead he did not want people to come and ‘salute the body’. He did not want ‘any of that business—sandalwood and all that put over the body’. He did not want good shawls destroyed by putting them round the body. He repeated that it was a waste of time our staying there, and then he asked Scott not to change the words that were being recorded. ‘Tell them, sir, that you promise.’

‘None of the recordings will ever be altered and things won’t be erased,’ Scott said.

‘No, you must be more firm. Say, I swear it will never be altered.’

Scott turned to us. 'I swear nothing will be altered on any of the tapes. Nothing ever has been and nothing will be.'<sup>82</sup>

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I had been sitting on the far side of the room, out of K's vision, I would have thought, but with his extraordinary powers of observation he had evidently noticed everything, for when I went in next morning to see him, he said, 'I'm sorry I upset you yesterday.' Joe and I decided to leave that day in accordance with his wishes, though it was agony leaving him. I heard afterwards that he was grateful to us for leading the way.

Everyone at Ojai had been wonderfully kind to us. I had been delighted to meet Mahesh who was very warm. He and Dr Krishna were like the close Indian friends I had made when I first went to India at fifteen and had fallen in love with the country. They had the great gift of showing immediate affection.

Vivienne Moody had taken us round the Oak Grove Schools which occupied several disparate buildings of arrestingly successful modern architecture, and one day the Hookers had asked us all to lunch at their well-known Ranch House Restaurant. They gave us a delicious meal and afterwards a group photograph was taken for which we all succeeded in looking cheerful. Mary Cadogan, Dorothy Simmons and Jane Hammond went to see K that afternoon. He seemed in excellent spirits, Mary Cadogan has recorded, and was anxious to know every detail of what we had had to eat at the restaurant. He said after they had told him, 'You obviously had a better lunch than I did,' indicating his feeding bottle, and he laughed naturally and easily. Dorothy asked him whether the scent of the orange blossom brought on his hay fever. He replied that he did not get hay fever until June; he then added, 'It won't bother the poor chap this year.' His laughter at this was so infectious that they could not help joining in.

On the afternoon of the 6th I said good-bye to K. I asked him if there was anything I could do for him and he said no. So then there was nothing left but to embrace him and leave as quickly as possible. We had hired a car to take us to the airport and characteristically K sent Mary out after we had said good-bye to her to see what make of car it was. He was satisfied to hear it was a good car.

Dorothy Simmons, Jane Hammond, Dr Krishna, Radhika and Asit left within the next few days, but the last two were to return. Mary Cadogan remained until the 15th since she had promised to give a talk to the school, and Pupul, who moved from Arya Vihara to the Grohes' house, stayed until the 16th. K found visitors very trying. One day, when a couple came to see him in the living-room where he was sitting, he started to cry. When they left he turned to Scott and said, 'Too much emotion, too much devotion. Not good for me.'

What he did look forward to were the visits of Dr Deutsch although he was worried by the amount of time he was taking from the doctor's other patients. But Dr Deutsch came now more as a friend than as a doctor. K had given him his beautiful Patek-Philippe clock which we had brought with us from Brockwood at his request, and it was as a friend, not as a doctor, that Dr Deutsch accepted it. K also gave him a Huntsman suit and some Jaquet ties from Geneva. (Dr Deutsch never sent in a bill.) K was giving away all his clothes as fast as he could; he also

gave instructions that all his clothes at Brockwood should be given away. Apart from the Patek-Philippe clock, and his clothes, his only possessions were two Patek-Philippe watches, one of which, with a Greek coin attached to it on a short chain, he had worn for years.

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‘...if they live the teachings’

On February 5 Mary Cadogan had written a letter of appreciation to Mary Zimbalist for all she had done and was doing for K. At the end of it she wrote:

Although I don't want to bother Krishnaji with anything just now, there is one question I would dearly like to put to him. Perhaps if you or Scott feel that the moment is right, you might be able to put it to him? I know the traditional answer to it, of course, but would so much like to hear what K says about it. The question is: When Krishnaji dies what *really* happens to that extraordinary focus of understanding and energy that is K?

On the morning of the 7th, when K seemed to be feeling fairly strong, Mary Zimbalist told him that Mary Cadogan had given her a question for him to answer but only if he felt like it. ‘Bring it,’ he said, so Mary read it aloud to him and scribbled down on the side of the letter his immediate reply: ‘It is gone. But if someone goes wholly into the teachings perhaps they might touch that; but one cannot *try* to touch it.’ Then after a moment he added, ‘If you all only knew what you have missed—that vast emptiness.’

It seems that Mary Cadogan's question may still have been in his mind when in the middle of the morning he sent for Scott and asked him to record something he wanted to say. ‘His voice was weak,’ Mary noted, ‘but he spoke with intent emphasis.’ There were pauses between most of his words as if it was an effort for him to bring them out:

I was telling them this morning—for seventy years that super energy—no—that immense energy, immense intelligence, has been using this body. I don't think people realise what tremendous energy and intelligence went through this body—there's twelve-cylinder engine. And for seventy years—was a pretty long time—and now the body can't stand any more. Nobody, unless the body has been prepared, very carefully, protected and so on—nobody can understand what went through this body. Nobody. Don't anybody pretend. Nobody. I repeat this: nobody amongst us or the public, know what went on. I know they don't. And now after seventy years it has come to an end. Not that that intelligence and energy—it's somewhat here, every day, and especially at night. And after seventy years the body can't stand it—can't stand any more. It can't. The Indians have a lot of damned superstitions about this—that you will and the body goes—and all that kind of nonsense. You won't find another body like this, or that supreme intelligence operating in a body for many hundred years. You won't see it again. When he goes, it goes. There is no consciousness left behind of *that* consciousness, of *that* state. They'll all pretend or try to imagine they can get into touch with that. Perhaps they will somewhat if they live the teachings. But nobody has done it. Nobody. And so that's that.<sup>83</sup>

When Scott asked him to clarify some of what he had said in this statement for fear it might be misunderstood he became ‘very upset’ with him and said, ‘You have no right to interfere in this.’

As I said earlier, K knew far more than anyone else can ever hope to know about who and what he was, and in this last recording he ever made was he not

sharing with us all something of what he did know which he had never revealed before? This sharing is surely an ineffable privilege. Did he not intend this message to be for all of us? Is he not telling us that the work is done, that it will not, and does not need to, be done again—at any rate not for a very long time? Nor is he taking away hope from us, for he tells us again, as he had maintained most of his life, that if we live the teachings we may be able to touch ‘that’. *If*. The teachings are there. The rest is up to us.

\* \* \* \*

After this last tape K had nine more days to live. On February 8, Dr Deutsch ordered a higher alimentation with a pump instead of a drip to give him more strength. K allowed this although he did not want to go on living, having now said all he had to say. He asked what would happen if the feeding-tube was withdrawn; he was told that the body would quickly dehydrate. He knew that he had a legal right to ask for the drip-feed to be removed, nevertheless he felt that nothing must be done that might cause difficulties for the doctor or for Mary Zimbalist in whose house he was. (Mary did not consider it to be her house. She always looked upon it as K’s.) He also felt that it was very important not to precipitate the ending of the body. That night he seemed to feel some special danger and asked Mary and Scott to be near him, so they brought cushions and spent the night on the floor on either side of his bed.

The next day K at last agreed to have a catheter which he did not find uncomfortable and which enabled him to sleep without constant interruptions. That afternoon he went into the living-room where he lay on the sofa watching the fire. It was a welcome change from his bedroom. Mary sat beside him for a time and ‘felt emanating from him and filling the room such a sense of peace and power and stillness that all life seemed contained in that room. All that he is was there, all that mattered in the world.’

Throughout his illness K continued to look after his body as he had always done. He cleaned his teeth as regularly as ever (he would clean the roof of his mouth as well as his tongue) and even asked for something to chew because, he said, ‘if I don’t my teeth will go bad.’ His hair was shampooed and almond oil was rubbed into his scalp. He was no longer shy of the nurses giving him a bed bath. He continued to do his Bates’s eye exercises every day and to put drops against glaucoma into his left eye. As a result of lying in bed, a little fluid had collected in the base of his lungs. When Dr Deutsch suggested that blowing into a surgical glove would help to clear this, K inflated the glove every hour until he no longer had the strength to blow. It seemed that ‘the body’ about which he had spoken in his last recording had been given into his charge to care for and that he was determined to fulfil his responsibility towards it to the very end.

He was worried that he had put Mary into a position where she would grieve at his death. He made her go out walking again with Erna Lilliefelt in the early mornings as she used to do. (She had not wanted to leave the house for an instant.) He wanted her to enjoy herself after he was gone, to travel, to go to Venice with Joe and me (where we went every year) and to the Dordogne with Scott and Kathy. He asked her, ‘Who will you go to Huntsman with? Will you go

on lunching with Mary at Fortnum's?' (We have frequently lunched together there since his death—a precious place to us—still full of his presence.)

On the 10th, Pupul brought to K the answer from Pandit Jagannath Upadhyaya to his enquiry about the traditional Indian treatment of the body of a religious man after death. On hearing it, K said that he did not want any of it. He did not want any ceremony, any flowers, any lying in state; he did not want anybody to see his body after death and there should be as few people as possible at his cremation.

He spent the whole of that day in the living-room and was able to stand to get in and out of the wheel-chair, but in the evening the pain came on and he needed morphine. Patrick Linville, a male nurse who was now on the nursing rota, was amazed that he was able to stand alone even for a moment. Patrick was French and K liked him very much. He enjoyed talking French to him.

K spent also the whole of the 11th in the living-room and saw a few people, but on the 12th he had acute pain and his temperature went up to 104°. Dr Deutsch, who had come for the fourth day running, believed that he had had an internal haemorrhage. He was too weak to see anyone that day. Mary sat with him holding his hand for a long time in the evening and he asked her, as he often did now, to press with her hand on his stomach as hard as she could. He would also ask Scott to do this. It seemed to give him some relief. All the same, he was anxious to know 'what the gossip was', and he listened to the evening news.

By the 13th K was too weak to get into the wheel-chair, so Scott, Dr Parchure and Patrick carried him to the sofa in the living-room in a hammock of his sheet. Their progress made him laugh. At 4 a.m. on the 14th the pain came on. He was given morphine and during the ten minutes it took to work he said to Mary, 'Too good to be true—sorrow I thought I'd lost you,' meaning, 'I thought I had lost suffering, but this was too good to be true.' Mary noted, 'The high voice groaned with pain and the low voice came in—"Don't make such a fuss about it".' He was again carried into the living-room that day in a hammock of bedclothes.

On the 15th K began talking to Scott about the state of the world; he then asked, 'Do you think Dr Deutsch knows about all this? Do you think he sees it? I will have to talk to him about it.' This he did when the doctor came that afternoon. Scott has written:

What Krishnaji said to Dr Deutsch on that occasion was an extraordinary ten- or fifteen-minute encapsulation of so much of what he says about the nature of the world. It was eloquent and concise and complete, and I stood there astonished and impressed, listening at the foot of the bed with Dr Deutsch sitting next to him by the side of the bed. The one thing I do remember Krishnaji saying to Dr Deutsch was, 'I am not afraid of dying because I have lived with death all my life. I have never carried any memories.' Later the doctor was to say, 'I feel like I was Krishnaji's last pupil.' It was really lovely. It was also extraordinarily impressive that Krishnaji, as weak as he was and also as close to death as he was, could have summoned up the strength to make that encapsulation that he did, and it's also an indication of the affection he felt for the doctor.

Dr Deutsch had discovered that K was a Clint Eastwood fan, as he was himself, and he had brought him some Eastwood films which he had videoed and also some slides of the Yosemite, knowing how much K loved trees and

mountains. Someone had sent K a postcard of an eagle in flight which had been selotaped to the blank white cupboard door opposite his bed. He asked Scott to get him a picture of a bear or a deer to stick beside it. Scott was deeply regretful that he neglected to do this.

K was so weak that day, the 15th, that he could hardly lift his arms and he did not go into the living-room, yet he asked Scott to tell him any news he had heard about the Brockwood school. He also talked about the new Centre. As he knew, there was not enough money to finish it, and efforts might be made to cut it down or abandon the project altogether. He implored Scott, 'Don't diminish it. Don't reduce it. Make it first class.' (The Foundation Stone was laid in September 1986.)

On the same day Mary Cadogan left for London, and Radhika and Asit, who had never left the States, returned. Radhika had been to see her daughter in Philadelphia. She was to leave with Pupul on the afternoon of the 16th but Asit asked Mary Zimbalist if he might stay on until the end. He said he could no more leave than if his father were dying. Mary said that of course he could stay if he wished and that he was welcome to come to the house whenever he liked. She also put a car at his disposal since the Grohes' house, where he was staying, was some way from Pine Cottage. When Mary told K that Asit was staying on he said again that he did not want anyone to see him after he was dead. When she pointed out, however, how hard this was on people who had been close to him, he agreed that 'after he had been bathed and his body wrapped, his face might be uncovered for a while'.

That evening Mary massaged almond oil into his scalp after cleaning his hair with a hot flannel and brushing it carefully. Afterwards she wrote in her diary, 'I stood doing this behind the top of his bed, holding in my hands this warm and beautiful head that holds the brain that is the light of the world. It is there, alive, marvellous beyond any knowing, the source of his teaching, his endless giving.'

On the morning of Sunday the 16th, K was woken at 3 a.m. by pain which continued in spite of repeated doses of morphine. Dr Deutsch was on weekend leave but when contacted he ordered a separate drip of morphine to be started. In spite of the morphine and pain, 'Krishnaji was looking clear,' Dr Parchure reported, 'talked without slur, even his eyes did not look droopy.'

Pupul and Radhika came to say good-bye in the morning. They were leaving after lunch. Mary assured Pupul that she would do everything she could for K. Neither of them had any idea that death was quite so near.

Towards evening the pain gradually subsided. At 7 p.m. K took a sleeping pill. The end comes in Mary's words:

Parchure, Scott and I were there as usual and as usual K was thinking of others' welfare. He urged me, 'Go to bed, good-night, go to bed, go to sleep.' [He repeated this several times.] I said I would but that I would be close by. He fell asleep and when I moved to sit on his left and hold his hand it did not disturb him. The upper part of his bed was raised as he had been more comfortable with it that way and his eyes were half open. We sat with him, Scott on his right and I on his left, Dr Parchure quietly keeping watch and coming and going, the male nurse, Patrick Linville, in the next room. Slowly Krishnaji's sleep deepened into a coma, his breath slowed. Dr Deutsch suddenly and quietly arrived around eleven. Somewhere in the night one's desperate wanting him to be better had to change to wanting him to be free at last of his

suffering. Dr Deutsch, Scott and I were there when Krishnaji's heart stopped beating at ten minutes past midnight.

Mary, Dr Parchure and Scott washed him and wrapped him in a length of unused *khadi* silk given by Mark Lee. Then they laid him on his own bed which had been moved into his sitting-room when he returned from hospital and covered him with a woolly cover he had often used. Only a few people came in to see him. Asit put a white camellia at his feet.

'The hours until eight o'clock [a.m.] when the funeral people were to come,' Mary wrote, 'gave a blessed space of time to sit quietly near Krishnaji, seeing that face, that infinite beauty. When the time grew shorter I held his feet, his child's feet, pliable as ever. Just before eight, when Scott came in, I said we would cover his face from the strangers coming.' (Mark Lee had made all the arrangements for the early cremation.)

Only Mary, the Lilliefelts, Asit, Mark Lee, Mahesh, Dr Parchure and Scott attended the cremation at Ventura. Mary went with him in the hearse, faithful to her promise that she would stay with him to the end.

Krishnamurti's body has gone—the spark has entered into the flame. But the teaching which is the treasure he gave us remains immaculate and uncorrupted for anyone in the world to draw upon.



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5. *The Last Four Lives of Annie Besant* by A. H. Nethercote, p. 193n (Hart-Davis, 1961)
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55. These Washington talks are being prepared for publication
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## *Illustrations*

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Krishnamurti (right) with Hubert van Hook and Nitya, Adyar, 1909. *Photograph by courtesy of the American and English Krishnamurti Foundations*

Krishnamurti at Ommen, 1927. *Photograph by courtesy of the English Krishnamurti Foundation*

Mary Zimbalist on the verandah of Pine Cottage. *Photograph by Krishnamurti, courtesy of Mary Zimbalist*

View from Krishnamurti's bedroom at Rajghat. *Photograph by courtesy of Dr P. Krishna*

Krishnamurti at Rishi Valley School, December 1980. *Photograph by courtesy of Mary Zimbalist*

Krishnamurti under the cedar tree at Brockwood, October 1984. *Photograph by courtesy of Mary Zimbalist*

Krishnamurti at Brockwood, October 19, 1985. *Photograph by courtesy of Mark Edwards*

Krishnamurti walking at Rishi Valley, December 1985. *Photograph by courtesy of Scott Forbes*

Krishnamurti walking on the beach at Adyar, December 24, 1985. *Photograph by courtesy of Mark Edwards*

Krishnamurti's last talk, Vasanta Vihar, January 4, 1986. *Photograph by courtesy of Mark Edwards*

Outside the Ranch House Restaurant, Ojai, February 1986. *Photograph by courtesy of Alan Hooker*

Cover photograph. Krishnamurti in India, January 1981. *Photograph by courtesy of Mary Zimbalist*



K (right) with Hubert van Hook and Nitya, Adyar 1909



K at Ommen, 1927

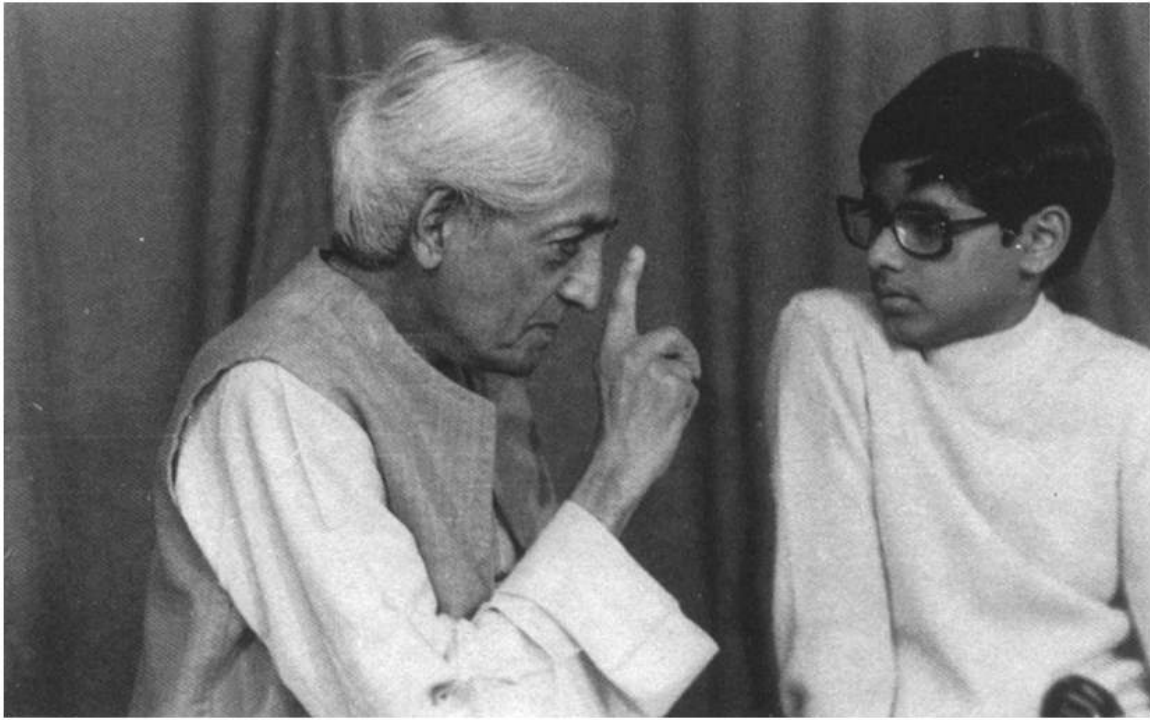


Mary Zimbalist on the verandah of Pine Cottage

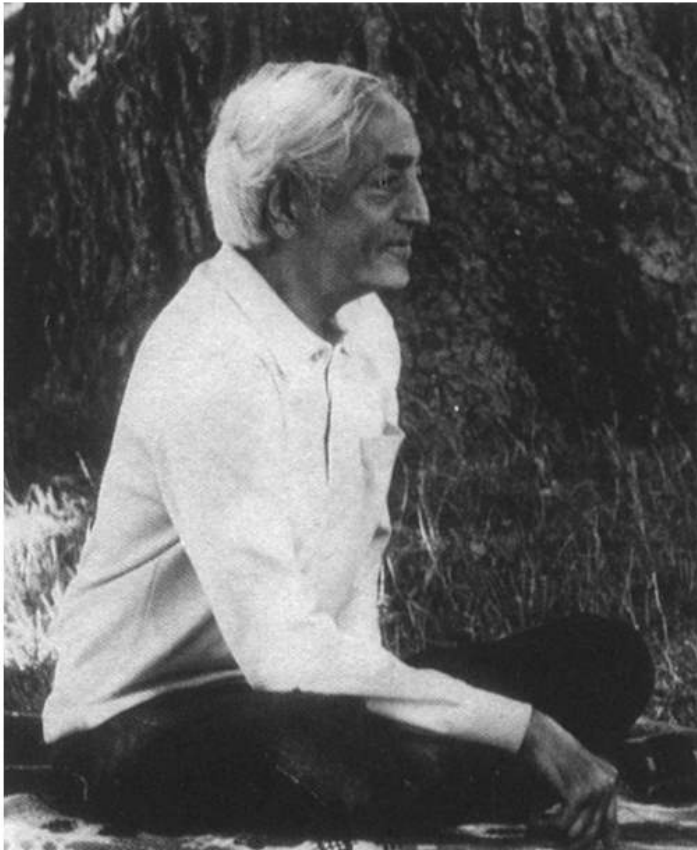
View from K's bedroom at Rajghat



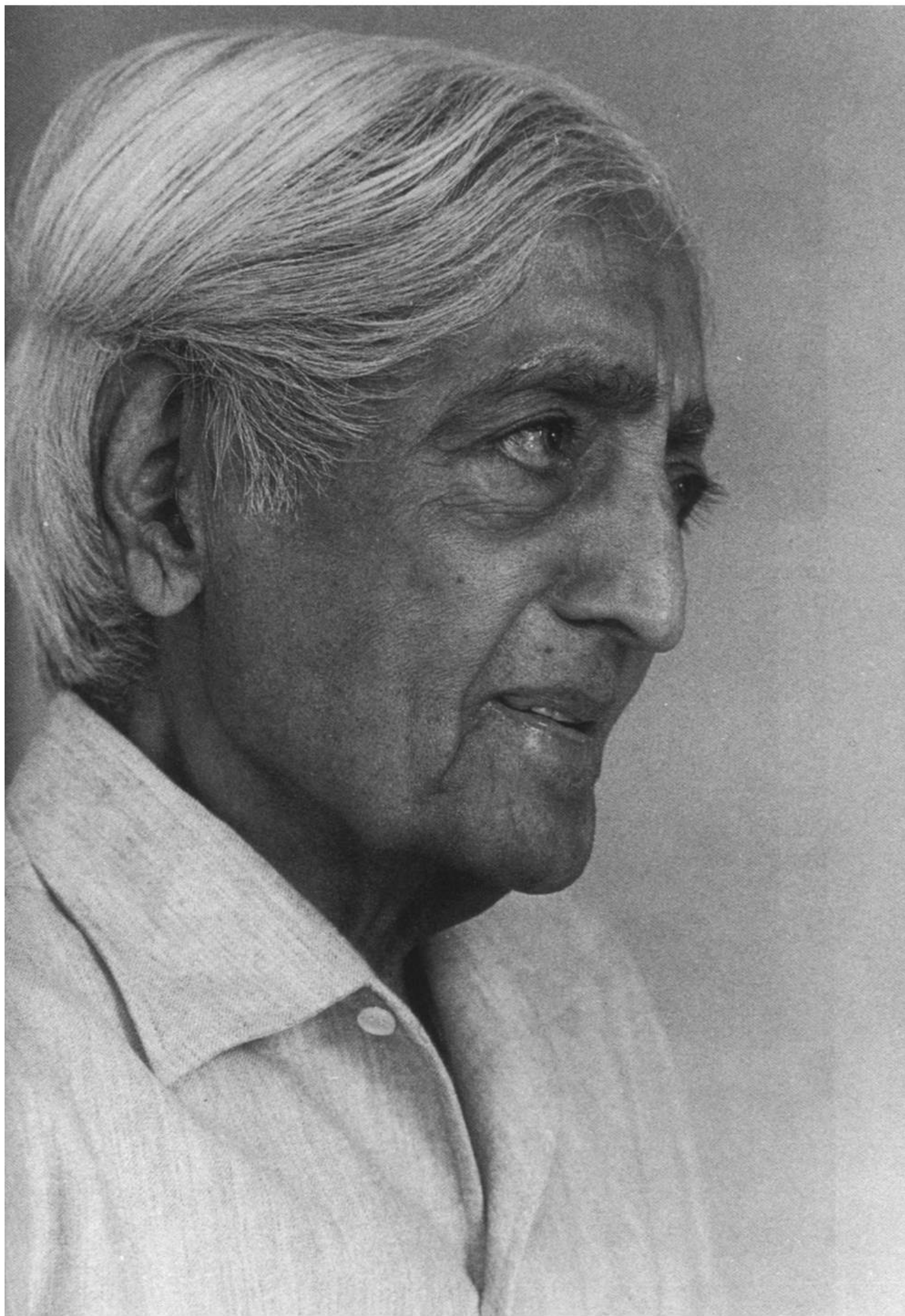




K at Rishi Valley School, December 1980



K under the cedar tree at  
Brockwood, October 1984



K at Brockwood, October 19, 1985





Walking at Rishi Valley, December 1985. *From left:* Lakshman Rasiah, Christina West, Mahesh Saxena, Friedrich Grohe, K, Stephen Smith, Gary Primrose, Michael Krohnen

Walking on the beach at Adyar, December 24, 1985. *From left:* Radha Burnier, Pama Patwardhan, Jayant Sathaye, K, Radha Burnier's niece, Scott Forbes, Mahesh Saxena





K's last talk, Vasanta Vihar, January 4, 1986



Outside the Ranch House Restaurant, Ojai, February 1986. *From left, back row:* Helen Hooker, Theodore Lilliefelt, Alan Hooker, Dr Krishna, R. Morali, Mary Cadogan, Joe Links, Dorothy Simmons, Evelyne Blau. *Front row:* Asit Chandmal, Radhika Herzberger, Mary Links, Pupul Jayakar, Erna Lilliefelt, Jane Hammond



# J. KRISHNAMURTI

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