

I've also included a second attachment, from J's the novel, pp 763-773
<https://deanehshapirojr.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Book-Three-Seeking.pdf> a narrative of J's climb up Sinai (including challenges with camels!???)

I'd sent this to Nancy a few weeks ago with this note:

J(ohn) is attempting to climb Sinai. A note on type style Most of the type style is in italics. This is J(ohn) climbing Sinai. There is a passage with regular type. This is J(ohn) a few weeks before in Jerusalem, taking a class with the Rebbe. There is also some commentary from J(acob) (in bold) his future self in Safed reading his journal.

Nancy wrote back: When I first saw the passage was rather long, I took a deep breath and dove in. When I finished, I wanted MORE!

(Very kind of her). She added:

I read the passage twice while laughing (you are funny!), thinking, appreciating having a window into the life of "J" as a child and adolescent (which early 20's still is), and so enjoying. With raw honesty, J judges his and others thoughts and actions while trying to stop doing it, discloses his motives for continuing to push through pain and nausea to show how powerful he can be, and tries to eschew the materialism of his life while wanting to hold onto some of it. But the power of this passage is when he lets go of all of this and let's himself just be in the moment.....feeling the love past (from others) and present (for himself) while taking in the beauty of his surroundings.

She then wisely added (and I commend her advice to all of us):

When I climb Sinai this year, I take the journey without shame about the judgments I bring with me (about myself and others) at the start for I have learned I can let go of these but not before I face them head on.

So, I invite all of us to "go in and through", see what baggage we are carrying as we start our climb; see where we end up at the top.

Johanna wrote in response to Nancy's missive
Wow, this is a really beautiful response to the passage, Nancy. You see so well what is happening, both the bad and the good. And your philosophy of letting go but not before seeing clearly mirrors Deane's philosophy of "in and through" to a t. By nature, I'm more avoidant, but I've learned from your wise brother that you cannot release what you hold until you've faced yourself and others with as much honest yet compassionate discernment as possible. What a spiritually sagacious family I'm part of!:-) Love you both, Joie

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