

Yale University *School of Medicine*

STUDIES IN THE CREATIVE PROCESS

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Reply to: 139 Webb Circle
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September 9, 1974

Professor Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
Stanford University
Stanford, California

Dear Professor Lederberg:

I am very grateful to you for the extraordinarily helpful and informative session we had when I was in California. I have taken some time before writing to you and sending you the enclosed reprints because, frankly, I had considered asking if I could see you again to explore some of the very suggestive leads you presented and I wanted to try to keep you uninfluenced by my hypotheses. (The reference pertaining to the influence of the experimenter on the word association test, by the way, is as follows: Brenner, Arlene R. "Effects of Prior Experimenter-Subject Relationships on Responses to the Kent-Rosanoff Word List in Schizophrenics", Journal of Abnormal Psychology (1967) 72 (3) 273-276. I had thought there were also some more general studies; as soon as I can find them, I will send the references to you.) However, it now seems that it will be some time before I can return to California again and, in any event, I now believe that your reactions to the enclosed material would be as informative as any open ended discussion.

I am referring especially to my article on Janusian thinking (it contains, among other things, some discussion of James Watson's work which may interest you. Another version of this article will be published later this year in Psychoanalytic Study of Society and contains an extended reference to Einstein's thinking and discovery of the General Theory). I am interested in your comments first, because after reading your material on SUMEX, I thought there might be some particular pertinence of this material to that project. Second, I was very interested in your own description in our interview of a recent thought you had on enzyme reversibility. You said, if you recall, that you were thinking of that "transition state, when the enzyme doesn't know whether it's making or breaking the bond. And just thinking about the point of breaking sort of invoked the imagery about being made again." This thought process you described is, I believe, an example of what I presented in that article.

I would be most interested if you agree with my formulation and, if you have the time, if you would care to tell me of anything else in your own experience which either elaborates or disavows what I have said. I do not mean to presume on your already generous cooperation in

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asking this. If you prefer not to comment at this point or, if you do not have the time, I hope I may be able to talk with you further on my next trip out west.

Again, thanks for your help which, as you see, was very profitable to me.

Sincerely,



Albert Rothenberg, M.D.

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