

STANFORD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

S. Weinberg

DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS

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Dear Steve:

I wanted to thank you again for your book; the small gift of the copy, and the much larger one of your having written it.

Your last paragraphs were particularly moving. We do not have many other contemporaries taking the role that Eddington and Jeans did in conveying the wonder of knowledge, which I join with you in apotheosis as an axial religious principle. You may have noticed some remarks about that in the autobiographical section of the draft paper I wrote with Harriet Zuckerman. At the risk of overextending your time and patience, I am also sending you a few other fragments. But you have been far more eloquent than I knew how to be and all this is just by way of encouragement and enthusiastic reinforcement. There are a few concrete dilemmas that I hope we may have some chance to discuss further; please do let me know if your travels this way should make that convenient.

I wonder how convinced either of us is that cosmology and particle physics can have no 'useful' application. I guess your last paragraphs did not touch that as strongly as other physicists' statements have. Even if part (?) fantasy, the Semipalatinsk/ particle-beam story might illustrate hints to the contrary, and I wonder whether there will be some spread of the anti-DNA philistinism back (i.e. from 'the bomb') to your own field. In that sense, moon dust puts us in the same fold.

Yours,

Enc: Soc Res; UCLA Law Rev; Sam52; Hippocrates Revis.

Steve Weinberg