

Freeman Dyson

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY 08540

SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES

Winchester, England

October 19 1967

Dear YU-SU-FE

Thank you for your very warm letter from New Haven. I hope by now you are all reassembled with your belongings and able to enjoy a little peace and quiet. We are all so happy to hear the splendid news that you will return in 2 years. At our time of life 2 years pass by very quickly.

I am now visiting my 87-year-old mother for two weeks and so have time for writing a few letters. The old lady was dying of cancer during the summer but she refused to let me come to see her then. She said "Come in October when I am better." She had two big operations in August and now the doctors have pronounced her cured. She is now walking to town each day with her shopping-basket in

wind and rain, and her mental grasp is as firm as ever.

I love this town where I lived as a child. Nothing has changed; it is like returning to the womb. The same charming old ladies are still here, and the same gardens full of flowers. The town was once the capital of England, before 1066 when London was a mere swamp, and it has been in a state of continuous decline for 900 years. If you want a place where people know how to grow old gracefully, this is it.

Meanwhile my family in the future-oriented society is flourishing. Imme is enjoying Rebecca as much as any of the others. Esther began at Radcliffe a month ago and seems to be launched into orbit. George is a very ~~ser~~ serious hippie with long hair, bare feet, an enormous black hat, and firm ideals of universal human brotherhood. It is exciting to see how fast and unpredictably they grow up at this age, 14-16. The three little girls are more predictable but also full of individuality.

Love from us all Imme & Freeman

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PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY 08540

Telephone-609-924-4400

SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES

January 29 1976

Dear Feza

I am very sorry we did not find a place here for Günaydin. Yesterday we had our last meeting to fill the few remaining slots and he did not survive. I looked at his papers, and I think it is beautiful stuff; as you know I have always had a secret hope that God will find a place in his universe for the octonions and the exceptional Lie algebras. The snag is that I am now mainly doing astrophysics while the particle-physics people here are not sharing my enthusiasm for F_4 and E_8 . So in the end we filled up the

places with people who are working
in the more conventional areas.

I shall continue to be interested
in Günaydin's work and shall again put
in a good word for him if he
applies for membership here another time.

I am sorry we did not see you
and Suha for such a long time. It is
much too long a time since you were here.
Do let us see you some time when you
are not too busy to take a walk
in the woods, or stay a night.

Instead of trying to tell you our family
news by letter, I send you a copy of this
account of a visit to my son George last summer.
I wrote it for my family in England, but you
also belong to the family. Love from Imel & Freeman

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School of Natural Sciences

January 11 1973

Dear Feza & Co.

I see an intriguing title on a preprint list "Octonionic Representation of the Poincaré Group". Please send me a copy if you have one.

Happy New Year to you all!

It is too long since we saw you.

Now that Kitty Oppenheimer died I suppose there will no more of our February meetings.

I have been invited to Munich (Max Planck Institute) for the academic year 1974-75, So we shall pack up our family

and give the children a taste of the
European life. Will you be in Ankara
that year? If so, there might be a
chance we could see you there.

Love from us all

Freeman.

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VIA AIR MAIL

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