

ATW-11a

A Footnote to "Mangoes"

San Francisco, California
October 25, 1972

Mr. Richard H. Nolte
Institute of Current World Affairs
535 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Nolte:

I have been meaning to send you a footnote to my news-
letter of last April about mangoes. For one thing, mangoes
have eluded me since I left Costa Rica. They were not in
season in Colombia, and I could not get a straight story as
to when they would be. Maybe November. Secondly, I wanted to
send you this quote from a letter I received from a friend*
during the summer:

The great Hindu saint Ramakrishna (1836-1886)
was so holy that, in the model manner of a
Hindu saint, he spent most of his last years
in samadhi and had to be carried about and
fed by his disciples. In support of your
point about the mango is the following ex-
change between Sri Ramakrishna and his chief
disciple:

Nanda: Is there no afterlife? What about
punishment for our sins?

Master: Why not enjoy your mangoes? What
need have you to calculate about
the afterlife and what happens
then and things like that? Eat
your mangoes. You need mangoes.**

Sincerely yours,

ATW

Andrew T. Weil

*Jeffrey Steingarten of New York City.

**Quoted in Philip Kapleau, The Wheel of Death, (New York:
Harper & Row, 1971), p. 57.