What do you think is intelligence? It is a very complex problem, is it not? It is very difficult in a few words to say what intelligence is. So let us begin to find out. The person who is afraid of public opinion, afraid of the teacher, afraid of what people say, afraid of losing his job, afraid of not passing an examination, is not an intelligent person; the mind that is afraid is not an intelligent mind, is it? What do you say? Is that very difficult? If I am afraid of my parents, that they may scold me, that they may do this and that, that, am I intelligent? I behave, I act, I think according to them because I am afraid to think freely, to act independently. So, fear prevents me, does it not, from being what I am. I am always copying, I am always following, trying to do things which other people want me to do because I am afraid. So, a mind which is imitative, which is copying because it is afraid, is not an intelligent mind, is it? What do you say?
Is it not the function of education to help the student to understand these fears, to show how you are frightened of your teacher, of your parents? So that you may not say, ‘As I am frightened, I will do what I like’—which is equally stupid. Education should help us to understand these fears and to be free from them. It is very, very difficult. It requires a great deal of digging, understanding, going into it. You know what ‘to thaw’ means. You know it freezes when the weather is very cold, and when the sunshine comes out, it begins to melt.

This morning, we all feel frozen because we do not know each other. You are a little nervous because you may want to ask about something which you are ashamed of, or you may ask something which the teachers say you should not have asked, or you may be frightened of your fellow students. All that is preventing you from thawing, from feeling natural, spontaneous, easy, so that you can ask questions. I am sure you have got lots of questions bubbling inside, but you dare not ask because you are a bit apprehensive the first morning. Perhaps tomorrow the sun will have thawed us, and we shall be able to ask each other questions.

January 4, 1954

आज की सुबह हम सभी अपनी को जकड़ा हुआ सा महसूस कर रहे हैं क्योंकि हम एक दूसरे से परिचित नहीं हैं। अपने लोग कुछ सहमे-सहमे हैं, क्योंकि हो सकता है कि आप कुछ ऐसे प्रश्न पूछना चाह रहे हो जिन्हें पूछने में आपको शर्म आ रही हो—हो सकता है आप कुछ ऐसा पूछ बैठे जिसके लिए वाद में आपके शिक्षक शायद आपसे कहे कि आपको वह सब नहीं पूछना चाहिए था, या शायद आप अपने सहपाठियों से भयभीत हो। यह सब आपको खुलासा महसूस करने से, सहज-स्वभाविक हो पाने से, सरल हो पाने से रोकता है जिससे कि आप कुछ पूछ सकें। युगल कुप्री है कि आपके भीतर अनेक प्रश्न उठ रहे हैं किंतु उन्हें पूछने का साहस आप नहीं जुड़ा पा रहे हैं क्योंकि आज की सुबह में—जो हम लोगों के परस्पर परिचय की पहली सुबह है—आप बोले से संबंधित हैं। शायद कल का सूरज हमें देखने दे, हमें गम्भीरी आएँ और हम एक दूसरे से प्रश्न पूछ सकें।

4 जनवरी, 1954