

BERGSTRASSE 27

ZÜRICH

November 27, 1955.

Professor Robert Oppenheimer
Director, Institute for Advanced Study,
Princeton, New Jersey
U. S. A.

Dear Robert:

Many were the messages I received on the occasion of my seventieth birthday, but none gave me deeper satisfaction than the poem in my praise which you cabled me in the name of the whole faculty of the Institute. My sincere thanks to you and every faculty member! How could I help to feel proud when I read it, but also: how could I help blushing! For I am only too aware of how short of the goal I had aimed at my arrows fell. But this, I think, is true: the will was good - though the flesh was weak.

Perhaps the Zurich years before 1930 were the most fruitful of my life scientifically, but the years at the Institute were the happiest. When Hella and I came over to America in the critical year 1933, a new light shone upon us; open doors and friendship we found everywhere, and at the Institute such a light-winged human and scientific atmosphere as we had never breathed before. We felt at home in Princeton almost from the very first day. And to participate in the Institute's early development was certainly a unique experience.

To the last breath of my life I shall be grateful for what the Institute has given me: a free and untrammelled opportunity for working in solitude and for communicating under ideal conditions with the many scientists who passed through our gates as temporary members; above this: the enjoyment of the friendship of my colleagues and of our always perfectly harmonious collaboration.

I hope, these ties will never break!

With the sincerest thanks and best wishes to all of you

yours forever

Hermann Weyl

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