June 26, 1947

Dear Sonny,

One of the lawyers said to me the other day—"I like you because you always have a reason for everything you do—you think in logical terms."

I suppose he couldn't have been farther from the truth. Perhaps with a set of legal facts in front of me, I am able to plan step by step in some semblance of order. But in the bigger thing—life itself—I have no plan. One nice thought is present, however. I certainly have no one except myself to credit or disgrace.

In the Orient here, there is some peculiar attraction. I can't really describe it. Certainly there is no material thing here that we don't have in America. And moreover
there is so much in America we have that doesn't exist here. I think it must be recognized that while the people here have a particular culture rather further advanced than some in some respects, they actually remain more or less a primitive or retarded race.

For one thing, their language is a stiffed affair lacking so much that modern languages possess. It can't but attract to an age of modernization. It is almost sublime to watch the attempt to democratize Japan. I firmly believe that democracy here will only succeed when Christianity overtakes Buddhism — and that's a long way off. I further think we in America rather overlook this factor.

In keeping with this last thought it should be noted that the last war was really a conflict between Christian and non-Christian nations. The exceptions were China, Russia, and Italy. But today we have only to view these nations to see that they were and are really no exception. China is still in bloody conflict. Russia in China is still in bloody conflict. Italy was a half-hearted ally to the Axis and crumbled fast because its
People were Christians. I don't speak of Christianity as the only faith or value. But rather it is the highest philosophy of life ever produced. Frankly, even if not for the powerful instinct of man to worship, I believe we could substitute the story of Christ's immortality from the scene and teach only the principles involved. That is, teach them as a code of life. Fundamentally, Christ did not improve the Ten Commandments, he only emphasized them with a modern touch. The great handicap of Christianity is the inability of ordinary man to comprehend the miracle of Christ's divinity. Man cannot be blamed for that because it is a story so fantastic as to encourage honest skepticism. Analytically speaking, it would be far more plausible to the average mind to believe Christ was a great prophet who elaborated the teachings of God, and was a moral man. Then the "doubting Thomas" would have no alternative
But to accept his wonderful teachings as the highest code of life. And this theory is not without support, as I have said to you before, for nowhere in the New Testament is there a statement by Christ that he is God. The fiction of faith in this respect is only derived from the logical and interpretative needs of the recorded events.

Now that I have again bored you with some of my shallow thinking I'll sign off. The Court is in recess, but I am working hard. I only hope our efforts in behalf of the leaders of this pagan nation are appreciated by the people. I am one of the strongest strikers yet made by democracy over here, and also deservedly misunderstood by our peoples. Frankly, there is a tremendous sacrifice of health and temperment involved in this task. I only hope history records our endeavors as a tribute to the good ole store and staff, it certainly should.

Johnny

Enclosed are some recent pictures I thought you might enjoy.