

*À Monsieur / Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé / Mozart Maître de Musique / à / Man[n]heim / at The Palatine Court<sup>2</sup>*

*Mon très cher Fils!*<sup>3</sup>

Salzb., 8<sup>th</sup> Decemb., 1777

I see that we have not understood each other so clearly. [5] This step you took was, in my opinion, a good one, as you know from my letters, but did you write even a single word to me as to whether you have set an objective or not? Whether the step you took was in vain? – Not a word! All of a sudden, your letter<sup>4</sup> arrives, where I read, <the present was a golden watch;⊃>5 I would have preferred money for the travelling.> [10] Then I read:<sup>6</sup> I called on Herr Schmalz,<sup>7</sup> <and he apologised, he had no> instruction <to give you money>. Tell me, then, whether I can draw any other conclusion from this than that <you want to depart, and cannot, for lack of money>.

Must this not appear very alienating to me, since it burst on me when I was least thinking of it, [15] and you did not even give me such information as How? – What – Why – Where next? – If you had written that you will stay longer for such a reason, for example, as <to stay in Manheim for even the whole winter >, that you had now made a <proposition>, or had one in mind, then I, Nannerl and Herr Bullinger<sup>8</sup> [20] would have been informed and would not have had the least worry, since I well know that if one has to stay in such a place, one also needs money and has to take some risks. It was therefore quite natural for me to be overwhelmed by 1000 thoughts, and also to gather my thoughts to write many things to you that I otherwise would not have written.

[25] You think that you have perceived that I would not be able to come to terms with fortune or misfortune.<sup>9</sup> Do you know where I can come to terms with it? – in a situation where, despite all well-made arrangements, I am plunged into it and cannot accuse myself of anything. Then I can come to terms with it wonderfully, because I have no accusations to make against myself. That time when I was so dangerously ill in England,<sup>10</sup> [30] I had already thought out the plans I could make for entrusting you to safe hands if I should not have any hope of escaping death. I and Mama comforted one another during the dangerous illness you both had as children in The Hague and in Ollmütz.<sup>11</sup> But the main thing was always that one knew, in any misfortune, from where one could obtain money. [35] Herr Selcken<sup>12</sup> would not have lent me 600 florins in cash to pay the landlord<sup>13</sup> when the

<sup>1</sup> This letter contains numerous phrases in the family code, enclosed in angle brackets < >.

<sup>2</sup> = “To Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé Mozart, master of music in Manheim at The Palatine Court”. [An inn, ‘Im Pfälzischen Hof’].

<sup>3</sup> = “My very dear son”.

<sup>4</sup> BD: No. 0370.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0370/39 ff.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0373/81 ff.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Dietrich Heinrich Schmalz (1720-1797), son of the banker Philipp Lorenz Schmalz. Cf. Nos. 0373/81; 0378/12.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Abbé Franz Joseph Johann Nepomuk Bullinger (1744-1810), Jesuit, private tutor, friend of the Mozart family in Salzburg, where he seems to have arrived between 1774 and 1776. House tutor to Count [Graf] Leopold Ferdinand Arco, later to Count [Graf] Sigmund (“Sigerl”) Lodron. Mozart called him “his best of all friends” (cf. No. 0459/1).

<sup>9</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0381/5 ff.

<sup>10</sup> BD: August/September, 1764. Cf. No. 0091/2 ff.

<sup>11</sup> Ollmütz. BD: September, 1765 – January, 1766 (cf. Nos. 0103/2 ff.; 0104/7 ff.) and October – December, 1767 (cf. Nos. 0121/55 ff.; 0122/5 ff.).

<sup>12</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0105/18. Leaseholder of the fish and meat auction halls in The Hague. Lent Leopold 600 florins.

<sup>13</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0105/3.

landlord wanted to have his money if he had not seen the letter of credit to Neel et Fils<sup>14</sup> in Amsterdam in my hands, and I did not travel to Ollmütz, although it is not so very terribly far from Vienna, without having a letter of credit to Herr von Kettenburg<sup>15</sup> on me [40] and which I did in fact require, although I would never have dreamt that I would have needed it. By reading more precisely through my previous letters again and reflecting maturely, you will clearly recognise that this was the only reason for the grievances expressed in them, since I could not find a single word in your letters which enabled me even to guess [45] that you wanted to take a step, let alone that you had already taken it, <so as to stay in Manheim> – nor about where you want to go.

Now I am satisfied, come what may; and your concern about anyone hearing of this is certainly superfluous. Shall I, for example, give <the Archbishop,<sup>16</sup> who learns of everything>, the opportunity of <deriding us> if nothing comes of it? [50] Can you think that of me? I have not yet told you that after your departure, everyone was asking me Where you are going? and my answer was, as it still is, that I do not know myself, and now I could tell them in complete truthfulness that I do not know. Concerning Augsp.,<sup>17</sup> there was something to read in the newspapers,<sup>18</sup> and concerning Manheim there were letters from esteemed Baron Schafman,<sup>19</sup> [55] and when people ask me, with a certain expression on their faces, why you are still in Manheim, I always answer that I do not know if you are still there; you might be staying on because of the Electress' name-day,<sup>20</sup> and it could also be that you will not leave until after the Elector's<sup>21</sup> birthday, which will be on 12<sup>th</sup> inst.

[60] The birth of the Elector, as far as I know, was surely on 10<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> Decemb., 1724.

Enough! Nothing can weigh more on my heart and put me more in deadly disquiet than knowing nothing and doubt, and then the anxiety, which must necessarily arise from this, about how things are going with those who count for more in my heart than my own life. [65] I would be glad about it if you stayed in Mannheim for the winter; the journey in winter caused me some worries because of Mama, and for that reason I devoted some attention to how that could have been arranged more comfortably. <If you stay to instruct their young lordships<sup>22</sup>>, you then have every opportunity <to ingratiate yourself with the Elector>, and it will not be necessary to tell you [70] that you must <make a> real <friend for yourself of the governess<sup>23</sup>>. – – Now I must answer you regarding your anecdote<sup>24</sup> that happiness has its being in the imagination alone. I am in complete agreement with that. But now I ask you if this sentence can be understood so generally that a traveller, if he is sitting in an <inn or> in a post-house etc. [75] and <has no money to go any further> and is therefore exposed to the coarseness of a <postmaster, landlord> or other persons, can then convince even himself that happiness has its being in the imagination? – – My dear Wolfg., this sentence is simply a moral maxim for people who are not satisfied with anything. And

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<sup>14</sup> BD: Bankers. Cf. No. 0105/90-91.

<sup>15</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0122/98.

<sup>16</sup> BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erzbischof] of Salzburg from 1772. Employer of Leopold and, for a time, of Wolfgang.

<sup>17</sup> Augsburg.

<sup>18</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0355/21.

<sup>19</sup> "H: Baron". BD: Cf. No. 0359/120. Balthasar Schaffmann von Hämerles und Khanorowicz (\* c. 1753).

Attended the school for pages in Salzburg ("Edelknaben") 1764-1777.

<sup>20</sup> "Churfürstin". BD: Cf. No. 0363/84-85. Elizabeth Maria Aloysia Auguste (1721-1794). Married Karl Theodor, her cousin, in 1742. The clavier/violin sonatas KV 301 (293a); 302 (293b); 303 (293c); 304 (300c); 305 (293d); 306 (300l) are dedicated to her. Her name-day was on 19<sup>th</sup> November.

<sup>21</sup> BD: Karl Theodor (1724-1799). Studied in Leyden and Leuven. From 1742 Elector [Kurfürst] of the Palatinate, where he encouraged the arts in Mannheim, and from 30<sup>th</sup> December, 1777, Elector of Bavaria. Cf. No. 0363/30.

<sup>22</sup> BD: The Elector's natural children. Cf. No. 0381/60 ff.

<sup>23</sup> BD: Of the Elector's natural children. Cf. No. 0381/60 ff.

<sup>24</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0381/35.

since most people, yes, almost all people are always dissatisfied, [80] and each considers his neighbour to be happier than himself, the intention of this maxim is to teach them – correct them – and show them that each person should be content with the rank and circumstances in which he has been placed according to his ability, and should not envy his neighbour, whom he would probably often, yes, mostly, not envy if he truly knew his secret, much worse circumstances; [85] for we always judge only according to the external appearance, since each carefully attempts to conceal the bad side.

Yesterday, the 7<sup>th</sup>, Nannerl donated the target.<sup>25</sup> I won it, and shot my way to 10 kreuzers<sup>26</sup> for Mama. There was our usual card playing until the evening. Now I have won the first prize 3 times in a row. [90] They are now saying that the *guardarobba*<sup>27</sup> has already procured good winter clothing for Herr Haydn<sup>28</sup> for the journey to Italy.<sup>29</sup> – I would like to hear him talking with the people in Italy! There they will certainly say: *questo è un vero Tedesco!*<sup>30</sup> The Archbishop has been very worried about old Andriano<sup>31</sup> for some time, he asks about his age, about his health etc. But the old chap is very incensed at this, [95] for he notices that the Archbishop would like to have the castrato<sup>32</sup> in his rooms, board etc. in the Kapellhaus, and that these questions have the aim of granting him his eternal blessedness amongst the heavenly castratos. Now I must finish, the paper is in all seriousness – not, as in your case, in jest – truly filled up. I hope that you are both reading this letter in good health, [100] just as the two of us are entirely well |: praise God |: while writing it. If you should now stay in Mannheim, I will send you the 2 sonatas *à 4 mani*,<sup>33</sup> copied small,<sup>34</sup> for the 2 pupils.<sup>35</sup> We kiss both of you from our hearts, wish good health &c. &c. and I am, along with Nannerl, the young<sup>36</sup> husband and father, Mzt

MARIA ANNA (NANNERL) MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

[105] It is truly pleasing to me that both of you, thanks be to God, are well; we are both as well as one can be in mournful Salzburg. I thank you for the first piece and Andante of the sonata,<sup>37</sup> I have already played it through. The Andante certainly calls for good concentration and cleanness. I like it very much. It is known that you composed it in Mannheim. [110] I am already looking forward to the Rondeau. The wife of Royal Marshall

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<sup>25</sup> BD: The shooting of bolts from airguns at round targets was practised in the apartments of the members of the “marksmen’s company” or club. Each time, a new target was presented by a member of the club, who would have some topical motif painted on it with matching verses. A member would donate a first prize and then also pay for all food and drink consumed during the meeting.

<sup>26</sup> 60 kreuzers = 1 florin.

<sup>27</sup> = “Wardrobe”.

<sup>28</sup> BD: Johann Michael Haydn (1737-1806), brother of Joseph. Employed at court in Salzburg from 1763. On a personal level relationships were difficult, possibly because of his inclination to drink.

<sup>29</sup> BD: The search for leading musicians for Salzburg. Cf. No. 0385/135.

<sup>30</sup> = “This is a true German!”.

<sup>31</sup> BD: Andreas Unterkofler, titular court chaplain, former prefect of the Kapellhaus (cathedral music school), male soprano in the court music.

<sup>32</sup> BD: Francesco Ceccarelli (1752-1814), castrato, employed in Salzburg and then, from 1795, in Dresden; often a guest in the Mozarts’ house. Mozart wrote for him KV 374, cf. No. 0587/19; he also sang in Mozart’s concert in Frankfurt in 1790. Cf. No. 0357/22, 42.

<sup>33</sup> = “for four hands”. BD: Probably KV 381 (123a) and KV 358 (186c).

<sup>34</sup> BD: On small format manuscript paper.

<sup>35</sup> BD VII: The “two pupils” came via Cannabich (cf. No. 0388/50-51), but Mozart cancelled the commitment after calling on them three times in vain (cf. No. 0419/46 ff.).

<sup>36</sup> Leopold usually writes “alt” [“old”], meaning “as you have always known me”, but makes a joke this time.

<sup>37</sup> BD: KV 309 (284b). Mozart had already sent the first two movements from Mannheim on 29<sup>th</sup> November. (Cf. No. 0381/87-88). He sent the final Rondeau on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. (Cf. No. 0383/48).

Anton Lodron<sup>38</sup> has died. Otherwise there is nothing new. My wish is that you could stay in Mannheim this winter, since it is too burdensome for Mama to travel throughout the winter. Always keep well, both of you, and think of us often, too. I kiss Mama's hands and embrace you.

LEOPOLD MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

[115] The supervisor of the Noble Pages,<sup>39</sup> Herr von Dippolt,<sup>40</sup> has become a military councillor. In the future, the Archbishop will not give a letter of recommendation for any regional administrators: Herr von Pichl,<sup>41</sup> senior administrator in Deissendorf,<sup>42</sup> has been deprived not only of the title of Councillor, but has even lost the title of Seneschal. Since the sons of our esteemed administrators<sup>43</sup> generally wish to be gracious lords from birth, and think themselves too good to become junior, ordinary, and senior clerks, but want to be administrators and councillors straight away without having the necessary practice, while their daughters, on the other hand, as Fräuleins of the upper nobility, prefer to have a gratuitous annuity rather than marry outside the rank of the upper nobility. That caused a great uproar amongst the wild nobility!<sup>44</sup> But it appears to me this was something sensible for once.

[125] Compliments over compliments – you must imagine these for yourselves, for there are so many of them that I cannot take note of them all, then recall them, and write them down here. Little Pimpes<sup>45</sup> is barking and drowning them all out.

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<sup>38</sup> “hoff-Marschallin”. BD: Maria Anna, Countess [Gräfin] Lodron, widow of Dominik Anton, Count [Graf] Lodron (1728-1806), Imperial colonel [k.k. Oberst], distinguished himself in the Seven Years' War. He was brother of Nikolaus Sebastian, Count [Graf] Lodron (1719-1792), Chief Royal Marshal [Obersthofmarschall] in Salzburg. Cf. No. 0152/38.

<sup>39</sup> BD: The “Edlknaben”, the royal and diocesan elite school for pages.

<sup>40</sup> BD: Franz Armand d'Ippold (c. 1730-1790), Imperial and Royal Captain, director of the page-training school in Salzburg [“Edlknaben”]. He added the “de” (in the Viennese style) himself. Sometime suitor of Nannerl – Wolfgang supported his plans in 1781 (cf. No. 0625/24 ff.).

<sup>41</sup> BD: Christoph Sigmund von Pichl (1748-1816), who occupied a number of official positions, including in the administration of Teisendorf and Mattsee.

<sup>42</sup> Teisendorf (today in Bavaria).

<sup>43</sup> BD: At this stage, Leopold could not have guessed that these remarks would apply to his future son-in-law and his grandchildren.

<sup>44</sup> “unter dem wilden Adl”. BD: The “wild nobility” were bearers of newly-created noble titles, often given as a reward for services, including administrative work, to the state.

<sup>45</sup> BD: The family dog in Salzburg, cf. No. 0291/37.