

Vienne ce 12 de Juillet
1783

*Mon très cher Père!*²

I have received your letter of the 8th inst. safely and was pleased to note from it that you are both well, praise and thanks be to God.

[5] If you want to use the word teasing for what are real hindrances, I cannot prevent you; – one can call anything by a wrong name if one is so inclined – but is that is right? – that is another question. – Have you ever noticed in me an absence of wish or desire <to see you>? – certainly not! – But probably that I have no wish at all to see [10] <Salzburg> or <the Archbishop>; – so who would be <if we met in a neutral place>, who would then be <the person teased? the Archbishop and not <you>. – I hope that it is not necessary to say that <I attach very little weight to Salzburg> and none at all to the <Archb>, and I <shit> on both of them – and never in my life would I let the thought [15] of <travelling there> *expressly* enter my head, if you and <my sister> were not there. – The whole business was therefore only the well-meant concern of my good friends, who do after all have sound common sense too; – and I certainly thought I was not being so unreasonably in seeking information from you on this matter so that I could then follow your advice; – [20] the entire <concern> of my friends was that <he would have me arrested, since I do not have my discharge papers>. – – Now, however, I have been entirely <reassured> by you – and we <are coming> in August – certainly September at the latest; – I met Herr von *Babius*³ in the street and he went home with me; – he left today. – and if he had not already been had an *appointment* yesterday, [25] he would have eaten with me; – dearest father! – You must not think that because it is summer I have nothing at all to do. – – By no means everyone is already in the country. – I do still have some *pupils* to attend to; – Now I have one for composition⁴ – he will pull a very *strange* face when I inform him of my departure. – Now I must close, [30] because I still have a lot of composing to. – In the meantime have the bowling game set up in the garden, for that is something my wife greatly loves; – My wife is always a little worried that you might not like her because she is not pretty⁵ – but – I console her as well as I can by saying my dearest father goes less by the external than the inner beauty. – [35] Now I wish you well in every way. My wife and I kiss your hands 1000 times and embrace our dear sister from the heart and are, sir, eternally your

most obedient children
W: *et* C: Mozart mp⁶

¹ This letter contains passages in "family code"; these are marked with angle brackets < >.

² = "Vienna, this 12th day of July, 1783 / My very dear father!"

³ BD: Georg, Baron [Freiherr] von Bapius (Pappius), court counsellor [Hofrat], amateur violinist, participant in Czernin's amateur orchestra.

⁴ BD: Could have been the Irish singer Michael O'Kelly, who composed. He was the first *Basilio* in *Figaro*.

⁵ BD: Cf. No. 0648/66-68 and Deutsch Bild No. 339.

⁶ mp = "manu propria" = "in his/her own hand".