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Professor Seymour Abrahamson  
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Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Sisi:

Thea Muller was recently kind enough to send me a full set of my correspondence with H.J. in the 1950's, and I've been struck with how important my knowing him has been for my general intellectual development. Joe encouraged my interest in the origin of life and exobiology, introduced me to Harold Urey, wrote recommendations for my NSF Fellowships, taught me some genetics, and communicated two of my earliest papers for publication. I know that all of this in turn is due only to your kindness and encouragement, from showing my first letter to you to Joe, to putting up with a very callow 17-year-old for a summer, to answering what must have been hundreds of questions, many of them inane, about biology. I am not sure that I ever thanked you. I want you to know how much I appreciate the care and time you spent on an earnest and very untutored student almost 30 years ago. Please also give my very best wishes to Shirley.

Cordially,

Carl Sagan

CS/sja