

Vienne ce 7 d'août
1782

*Mon très cher Père!*¹

You are very much deceived regarding your son if you could believe that he is capable of carrying out a bad action; –

[5] My dear Konstanze, from now on veritably my wife |: thanks be to God :|, has long since heard from me about my circumstances and all that I can expect from you. – But her friendship and love towards me were so great that she willingly – with the greatest joy sacrificed her entire future life to – whatever destiny brings me. – I kiss your hands and thank you, with all the tenderness [10] a son could ever feel for his father, for the consent so kindly granted to me and your paternal blessing. – But at the same time I was able to rely on it completely! – for you knew that I myself would have to admit only too readily any – any objection that could ever be raised against such a step; – but also that I could not do otherwise without violating my conscience and my honour [15] – I could therefore proceed in complete trust! – this is why I waited in vain 2 post-days for an answer and the *wedding* was already fixed to the day |: by which time I had to know that everything was certain :|, I married my beloved in God's name, already completely assured and confident of your consent. [20] The next day I received both letters at once; – now it is done! – The only request I make now is for forgiveness of my presumption in trusting in your fatherly love; – with this sincere confession of mine, you have New Proof of my love of the Truth, and of my revulsion at lies. – Next post-day, my dear wife will ask her dearest, best of fathers-in-law, [25] for his paternal blessing and her beloved sister-in-law for a further continuation of her most treasured friendship. – At the *wedding* there was not a person present except her mother and her youngest sister; – Herr von Thorwart² as guardian and aide to both of them; – Herr von Zetto |: chief regional administrator :| accompanying the bride and Gilowsky³ at my side. – As we were joined together, [30] both my wife and I began to weep; – everyone, even the priest, was moved by that, – and they all wept, since they were witnesses of how moved our hearts were. – Our entire marriage *feast*⁴ consisted of a *supper* given to us by the esteemed Baroness⁵ von Waldstätten – which was in fact more princely than baronial – [35] Now my dear Konstanze is a hundred times happier again about travelling to Salzburg! – and I wager – I wager – you will rejoice in my good fortune once you make her acquaintance! – when you see it differently, as I see it, that a well-disposed, honest, virtuous and obliging wife is her husband's good fortune. –

[40] Here I am sending you a short march! – I only hope that everything may still arrive in good time – and be according to your taste. – The first *Allegro* must have a truly fiery tempo. – the last – as fast as possible. – My opera⁶ was performed again yesterday |: and that at the request of Gluck⁷ :|; – Gluck paid me many *compliments* on it. [45] Tomorrow I am eating with them. – You see how I have to hurry. *Adieu*. My dear wife and I kiss your hands 1000 times, and we both embrace our dear sister from the heart and I am, sir, eternally your

most obedient son,
W. A. Mozart mp⁸

¹ = “Vienna, this 7th day of August, 1782 / My very dear father!”

² BD: Legal guardian of the unmarried Weber daughters.

³ BD: Franz Xaver Wenzel Gilowsky, master surgeon, brother of “Katherl”.

⁴ BD: It is said that the Serenade KV 361 (370a) was performed on this occasion.

⁵ “Baronin”. BD: Martha Elisabeth, Baroness [Baronin] Waldstätten (1744-1811), a supporter of Mozart and also an outstanding pianist. Lived separated from her husband Hugo Joseph Dominik, Baron Waldstätten, a high official.

⁶ BD: *The Abduction from the Seraglio*.

⁷ BD: The composer Christoph Willibald Gluck.

⁸ mp = “manu propria” = “in his/her own hand”.