

Most high-born, gracious Madam!

[Salzburg, 13<sup>th</sup> September, 1782]

It is almost impossible for me to describe to Your nobly-born Grace the pleasure which entirely filled me as I read Your so very flattering letter to me. At that very moment I had Wieland's Sympathien<sup>3</sup> before my eyes: [5] and it is quite indisputably true that some people are animated by the same, higher way of thinking and unconsciously linked in a secret relationship of minds without ever having seen or spoken to each other. Music and books of intellectual content are Your nobly-born Grace's subject matter and delight. This is also my delight. [10] Your Baronial Grace has distanced Herself from large social gatherings: and I have not let myself be seen at court for many months, and only when I have to; I live quietly with my daughter; I have some friends who visit me, – reading, music and walking constitute our entertainment, and, in bad weather, a very humble game of Tarock or Tresette,<sup>4</sup> [15] occasionally also chess. Finally, Your Grace believes Herself to be so severely out of humour through suffering and wishes to avoid being a burden to anyone [with Your]<sup>5</sup> state of mind. I, in contrast, have suffered so much by undeserved persecutions, have become acquainted with envy, falseness, deceit, maliciousness and all the fine characteristics of that kind, that I avoid large gatherings so as not to be put completely out of humour [20] and to maintain my little bit of good temper. It is accordingly an entirely natural consequence that I have no dearer wish than to be granted the favour of being able to speak to Your nobly-born Grace, since I know with certainty that Your Grace's way of thinking is completely congruent with mine, and that our discourse together would be very much according to the wishes of the heart. [25] It is much too flattering towards me that Your nobly-born Grace considers me worthy of your invaluable friendship and undeserved respect: and since I see no means by which I could deserve the same – to deserve it by deeds – I do at least hope to find appropriate words to declare the sentiments of the deepest respect which I cherish for a lady of such merit [30] without lapsing into the ridiculous, or even the unseemly. –

Nobly-born Madam, you are so gracious as to open your house to me in the event that I should happen to come to Vienna. I am indeed most deeply touched! It would be audacious to take advantage of this so very gracious invitation: [35] but my first call in Vienna would quite certainly be to kiss Your Baronial Grace's hands. Who knows! Perhaps I will yet be so fortunate!

May Your nobly-born Grace at all costs take care of her tranquillity and health! It caused me pain in my soul when I read that Your Grace had lost her tranquillity and health through much affliction and pain. [40] May God keep you in his goodness! – In response to my letter, my son has slackened a little in his resolution to leave Vienna, and since he wishes to visit me in Salzburg, I will present the other most urgent and strongest arguments to him. The fact that his wife is from Weber stock is most satisfactory to me, [45] otherwise he would be unhappy; Your Grace assures me that she is a good person, and that is enough for me!

My daughter kisses your Most nobly-born Grace's hands and, like me, is saddened that we are so far away from Vienna. Meanwhile I comfort myself with the hope that, while mountains and valleys cannot come together, people surely can; [50] – with the hope that Your Grace would furthermore deem me so worthy of your favour and respect that I, at least through my son, might in the future likewise always receive news of the desired well-being

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<sup>1</sup> BD: Original lost. Copy c. 1850.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> BD: One of Wieland's first prose poems.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Tarock, Tresette: card games.

<sup>5</sup> BD supplies two words missing.

and contentment of such an affable lady, at which point nothing else remains for me but to be capable of showing in deeds and with the utmost zeal [55] that I am, from a sincere heart and with the greatest respect, reverence and devotion,

Your nobly-born Grace's most submissive, most obedient  
servant Leopold Mozart

Salzburg, 13<sup>th</sup> Septbr., 1782