

Vienne ce 9 de maj

1781

*Mon très cher Père!*¹

I still completely galled! – and you, as my own dearest, best of all fathers, are surely with me in this. – My patience was tested for such a long time – [5] but finally it did fail after all. I am no longer so unfortunate as to be in the service of Salzburg – today was the day of good fortune for me; just listen: –

Twice already the – I do not know at all what I should call him – uttered to my face the greatest *insults* and *impertinences*, which, in order to spare you, [10] I have chosen not to write down, and only – because I always had you, my best of all fathers, before my eyes did I refrain from taking vengeance on the spot. – He called me a <boy>, a <wretched lout> – told me I should be on my way – and I – suffered everything – felt that not only my honour, but also yours, was impugned in the process – but – [15] you wanted it this way – I remained silent; – Now listen: – a week ago the footman came up unexpectedly and said I must move out at once; – for the others a day was fixed, only not for me; – so I put everything into the chest quickly and – old *Mad.^{me} Weber*² was so kind as to offer me her house – there I have my own neat room; am with attentive people [20] who support me in everything which one often needs in a hurry and |: cannot easily get hold of when one is alone :|. –

On Wednesday |: today, the 9th :| I fixed my departure with the *ordinaire*³ – but I was not able in this time to get together the money which I am still due, therefore put off my journey until Saturday – [25] when I showed my face there today, the valet said to me that the Archbishop⁴ wanted to give me a *packet* to take – I asked if it was *urgent*; then they said, Yes, it is of great importance. – Then I am sorry that I am not in the favoured position of being able to serve His High Princely Grace,⁵ for I cannot |: for the reasons mentioned above :| leave before Saturday; – [30] I have left the house, have to live on my own cost – that being the case, it is quite natural that I cannot leave before I am in a position to do so – for nobody will demand that I suffer loss. – Kleinmayer, Moll, Benecke, and the 2 personal valets⁶ said I was quite right. – When I came into his presence – *N.B.* before that I must tell you that <Schlaucher⁷> advised me I <should> use the <excuse> [35] that the <ordinari> was already <full> – that was a weightier reason in his eyes; – so when I came into his presence, that was the first thing: Now, when is he going, the <boy>? – *Me*: I wanted to go last night, but the place was already taken. Then it went on without stopping to breathe. – I was <the most wretched boy that he knows – nobody> performs his service as badly as I do [40] – he advised me to leave by the end of the day, otherwise he would write home for my <salary> to be withheld – it was impossible to get a word in, it went on like a fire – I listened to everything calmly – he lied to my face that I had a salary of 500 florins – called me a <scoundrel, rascal,> a <clown> – oh, I prefer not to tell you it all [45] – Finally, when my blood had been brought beyond boiling point, I said: – So Your High Princely Grace is not satisfied with me ?

¹ = “Vienna, this 9th day of May, 1781. / My very dear father!”

² BD: Mozart knew the Weber family well from Mannheim (1777). Now a widow, Frau Weber supported herself and three of the children by renting out rooms. Leopold was faster than Wolfgang in seeing hidden motives behind the generosity. Mozart had initially thought of marrying Aloisia, whose success as a singer had brought the family to Vienna; in fact, he ended up marrying another sister, Constanze.

³ BD: The larger coaches conveying persons and post to a fixed timetable.

⁴ BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erbischof] of Salzburg from 1772. Employer of Leopold and, for two periods, of Wolfgang. Cf. No. 0263/9. At one point he dismissed both Leopold and Wolfgang, although Leopold was later reinstated. Cf. No. 0328.

⁵ “S: H: Gnaden” – the Archbishop of Salzburg.

⁶ BD: These six members of the Salzburg court were sharing the same accommodation with Mozart in Vienna.

⁷ BD: Franz Schlauka, one of the personal valets.

– What, he wants to threaten me, <clown> that he is, oh, <clown> that he is! – There is the door, let him see it, I want nothing more to do with such a <miserable boy> – finally I said – Nor I with you – So let him go – and I, while leaving: – [50] Let that be the last word on it; you shall have it in writing tomorrow. – So tell me, best of fathers, whether I have rather been too late than too prompt in saying that? – – Now listen: – my honour is my highest good, and I know that it is the same with you. –

Do not have any worries at all about me; – I am so sure of what I am doing here that [55] I would have *left* his service without the least reason – since I have now been given a reason for it, and that 3 times – this is no great merit on my part; *O contraire*,⁸ I was a cringing coward twice – I simply could not let it happen again a third time; –

As long as <the Archbishop> stays on here, I will not give a <concert> [60]. <Your belief> that I will give myself a poor <reputation> with <the nobility> and <the Emperor⁹ himself> is fundamentally wrong – <the Archbishop> is hated here, and <by the Emperor most of all> – that is precisely his anger, that the Emperor did not invite him to Laxenburg¹⁰ – with the next post-coach I will send you a small amount of the <money> [65] to convince you that I am not perishing here.

Otherwise I would ask you to keep your spirits up – for now my good fortune is beginning, and I hope that my good fortune will also be yours. – Write to me <secretly> that you are happy about this, and in fact you have every reason to be so – <publicly>, however, <rebuke me severely for it>, so that they [70] <cannot put any blame on you – should the Archbishop>, despite all this, show the least <impertinence> towards you, just come <to Vienna at once, with my sister – all 3 of us can live, of that> I assure you by my honour – yet I would prefer it if you could <hold out> another year – do not write any more letters to me at the German House and by *parcel post* [75] – I do not want to hear anything more about Salzburg – I hate the Archbishop to the point of frenzy. *Adieu* – I kiss your hands 1000 times, and I embrace my dear sister from my heart and am, sir, eternally your most obedient son,

Address letters simply

To be delivered to

[80] Peter in God's Eye

on the 2nd floor.

<Give me a sign of

your pleasure soon, for

that alone is still missing

[85] from my present good fortune.> Adieu

W. A. Mozart

⁸ = “on the contrary”.

⁹ BD: Joseph II (1741-1790), Holy Roman Emperor [Kaiser] 1765-1790. Son of Maria Theresia. Ruler of the Habsburg lands from 1780.

¹⁰ BD: The Imperial pleasure palace south of Vienna.