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Letter from John Roost to A. C. V. R.

John Roost

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July 11, 1859

Albany, New York

A letter of John Roost to the Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte, concerning his efforts in selling bonds out East for the funding of the Holland Harbor project. Selling bonds has been very difficult work but he encloses a check of \$450 for bonds he sold in Albany. Roost does not enjoy his begging task at all.

Original in the archives of the Holland Historical Trust Collection, the Joint Archives of Holland.

Albany, 11 July, 1859.

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A. C. Van Rensselaer,
Holland, Att. Mich. Sir

Please and forward this four hundred and fifty Dollars
over to Henry J Post, or somebody of the township.
I have made it payable to the Order of Cornelis
Vorst because of the difficulties with our treasures
of the township, and the money having to be finally
paid to the treasurer of the Harbor Club, Mr. C. Post.
I find it very hard to sell bonds. I have not sold
any in New York or Brooklyn, notwithstanding I tried
very hard. I am now for the second time in Albany
and I have to sell them one by one. I shall go
to New York, and Brooklyn to Marston, to see the Consul
and other friends. I find it harder than I did last year
because then I had more urgent reason for the immediate
wants of the people, and it might be a little of that
lost ambition, the want of which presses heavily on me
so that if there is a person of ambition he might
have more place and I shall be glad to go home
and leave the hard working of begging for somebody else.
I do not feel very pleasant yet, and you might talk about
godly love. The moment we leave no distinction between good
or bad, virtue, or vice, right or, wrong, then we are at an
end, and God save me from such a Community even if they
were as orthodox as the Puritans.

I hope and pray that God will uphold me and
strengthen me in this hard work in which I find all
hearts closed against me in the buying of the bonds
for without the money the work can not be accomplished
and I do feel that I have to do my duty to the position
I occupy to which He certainly will give His assistance
according to his word Yours Truly John A. ...

letter

July 11, 1859

To: A. C. Van Rensselaer
From: John Roost

1859

Roost is forwarding 450 dollars from bond selling in New York, Roost tells how difficult it is to sell bonds in his second trip to New York. In New York and Brooklyn no-one was buying the bonds, and Roost has to sell them "one-by-one" in Albany. Roost talks about the ^{now} waning of the people's words ~~that~~ is gone so people are reluctant to buy them.

I hope and pray that God will uphold me and strengthen me in this hard work in which I find all hearts closed against me in the buying of the bonds for without the money, the work cannot be accomplished.

Albany -
John Roost

In conclusion, to answer the original question "is God necessary?" I claim that the rationally determined, fundamental needs of all men must be the focal point of an ethic. A moral view and its values stem from an abstract belief system and this belief system, or moral view, governs our behavior and our behavior will ultimately govern our destiny. Morality therefore is defined as man's consideration of the fundamental, changing, biological, psychological and social needs of men. And these needs are defined by reason, without reference to any transcendent being.

In a pluralistic society opportunities ought to be available for each to act out and behave according to his own belief system, if the act does not interfere with the behavior of others or inhibit others in satisfying the most fundamental biological, psychological and social needs. If any one of us transgresses any other human being's ability to value, to abstract, to manipulate or to communicate he is therefore immoral in this philosophy. I would summarize my philosophy in three short statements. Van R. Potter in his book, Bioethics, stated, "I have argued that human values cannot be maintained in ignorance of or in opposition to biologic realities." Bently Glass