

Russians feel let down when serious friendly overtures are followed by silence

Friendship means rejection of reticence or secretiveness

Russian friend feel you are theirs, American respect privacy and give and take

Russians take illnesses deadly serious, Spouses especially show concern and attentiveness to a sick mate

Lack sense of dishonesty

Russians are generally pessimistic, convinced the world is a fairly rotten place populated primarily by rotten individuals who are out to cheat you

Expectation that things will get worse

Americans, barring proof to the contrary usually believe that people are telling the truth.

Most Russians believe that honesty to a spouse is hurtful

Lying is second nature, a form of self defense

Lying is an instinctive reaction especially to get out of an embarrassing situation

In America, once you are caught in a lie it is  
enormously difficult to regain trust  
In Russia people accept others telling  
blatant falsehood

Russians believe things are much better  
left unsaid

Russians never say I don't like what  
you're doing in bed

Russians believe logic comes from the devil. Most  
important are emotion, dreams & enigmas.

Russians have 2 different lives - taciturn, hypocritical,  
careful, cagey, passive; other volatile, direct  
open, passionate

Ideas are as important as deeds

Russians are know it alls.

Compromise is pejorative  $\Rightarrow$  going back on one's  
principles and renegeing from a correct &  
justified position. A reasonable respect for other  
people's views is considered wussy wussy and  
even contemptible by American

Russians remain Russian - not westerners.

Intimate involvement in 2 cultures can create a person who feels homeless in both.

No matter how close RT & Am may seem, there is always the chance our cultural differences will rise up to divide us, denying us full blown empathy.

Am men gave no thought to the enormous difficulties confronting a stranger in a strange land.

Am attracted to emotional intensity, deep relationships & cultural richness.

## My "Contact"

I had an experience I cannot prove it  
I cannot explain it but everything  
that I know as a human being  
everything I know tells me that  
it was real. I was given something  
wonderful, something that changed  
me forever. A vision of the universe  
that tells us undeniably how tiny  
and insignificant and how rare and  
precious we all are. A vision that  
tells us we belong to something that  
is greater than ourselves that we are not,  
that none of us are alone. I wish I  
could share that. I wish that everyone  
if even for one moment could feel that  
awe and humility and <sup>the</sup> hope but...

6/7/00

## Aftermath

Angel taught me that

1. Magic exists, as in witches and warlocks in Russia
2. Hate and a thirst for vengeance only creates a prison of self torment
3. The only direction left for me is space exploration
4. I will not have sex with a girl unless I believe she likes me
5. I am too old for the girls I want

Something is keeping me from ending the relationship. I do not know whether it is her using magic or the metaphysical realities

I wouldn't play the rap for you

You who've never played square with me  
for half an hour at a stretch since  
I've known you?

I don't care who loves who, I'm not  
going to play the rap for you.

I wouldn't walk in — and Christ  
knows who else's footsteps

I don't even like the idea of thinking that  
there might be one dance in a hundred that  
you'd played me for a while

I won't because all I want to — want to  
say to hell of the consequences and do it —  
and because — God damn you — you've  
counted on that with me the same as  
you counted on that with the others

— Maltese Falcon

10/28/00

Without prodding

People always reveal what they are hiding  
And tell the truth about what they are lying

10/01

We have the power to act against injustice  
We may not always succeed  
But we can make it pay a price  
So that next time it will think twice