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Leonardo da Vinci
Casa di Leonardo Near the Church of Santa Croce
Florence
Republic of Florence (c. 1500)

16th November 2025

I have received your latest letter—delivered, I presume, by whatever ingenious flying machine you are currently testing—and feel compelled to address a few scientific misunderstandings before you inadvertently remove yourself from the timeline.

First, while I admire your enthusiasm for “radiant essences,” I must stress that radioactivity is *not* an all-purpose power source for experimental contraptions. Your proposal for a “self-illuminating mechanical bird, animated by glowing stones” is imaginative, but I assure you, Maestro, that prolonged contact with such stones would make you fly in only one direction: straight to the afterlife. Please wear gloves, preferably heavy ones.

Second, I have examined the small sketch you included—a device resembling a cross between a windmill, a cauldron, and an umbrella. I must admit I do not quite understand its purpose, but I encourage you to proceed with caution. If it is meant to rotate, do not sit inside it. If it is meant to boil, do not sit inside it. If it is meant to do both simultaneously... absolutely do not sit inside it.

Lastly, you asked whether radioactive materials could be used to accelerate human creativity. I appreciate the compliment. However, the glow around me is purely scientific and not, as you suggested, “evidence of a supernatural muse.” Should you ever find yourself beginning to glow, I recommend stepping away from the source immediately.

I remain deeply impressed by your mind, your sketches, and your unwavering desire to question the world. Should you ever need help with the laws of physics—or with identifying substances that should *not* be put into airships—I remain at your service.

With great scientific affection, Marie S. Curie

Yours faithfully,

Marie Skłodowska Curie

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