

Wesley
Received
16/8/68.

Robben Island Gaol,
P. O. Robben Island.
24th July, 1968.

Mr Benjamin Segund,
P. O. Box 1128,
Johannesburg.

My dear Benjie,

Before all else thank you for Jenny's photographs. I was tempted to write directly to her and tell her she is developing into a regular dose of Sharon and that we shall have to consider entering her for the Miss Universe contests. But then she has shown promise as an actress as well and we shall have to decide whether the stage should be her career. Please tell her all this from me. She is really sweet, Benjie. Congrats.

Thank you also for the "Academicians". You fellows look quite donnish. So this is Ernie? He looks quite amiable. I agree with you, though, he should shed a few pounds.

Please tell him also that now that

The record-player is back & I have been able to play the records he sent me, as well as your lot. What a feast: what a feast, Benjie. Thank you fellows.

I have had some further trouble with the record-player, with the turn-table grinding and some records scraping against the arm. I sent a telegram to this effect to Eulalie. But it has been suggested to me here that the trouble might lie with the records: they may be out of alignment. I find myself persuaded as it is not all ^{the} records that give this trouble: and the turn-table some-times performs smoothly the whole day. I shall hold back then and see how things develop. Unfortunately, the records which are the culprits are, among them: Mozart Concerto No 1 in G Major and No 21 in G Major; Haydn Symphony No 100 & No 102: as you can see, absolute class! These two, at least, I'll give to Veronica to take back with her so that you guys may doctor them if you can. I received all the articles mentioned by you as coming from Eulalie - Incidentally,

I am taking the liberty of calling her by her first name because you do so!

The picture by Binché looks good. Unfortunately as far as "fine art" go I am like the English described by the late Sir Malcolm Sargent. He said the English love music. They don't understand it: but they find the noise pleasant: Same with me. I am moved by music and pictures without being able to analyse ^{them} ~~it~~ - more so with pictures.

The sculpture, too, even in the photograph breathes a primitive power and force. Thanks for them all, young fellow.

I am sorry about Norma. I hope she recovers completely and soon.

Briefly about the observations of Shimer Lee. Firstly, have you read the works of C. P. Snow? They are brilliant. And yet I always read them reluctantly. He is pitiless. His characters stand before you naked and vulnerable. And my chief weakness - and strength - is that I never enjoy looking on the nakedness of another. I am tempted to cover them. Secondly, in The Rivals, a play by Sheridan, Sir Anthony gives his son,

Captain Absolute, a tongue-lashing. He in turn lambasts his ~~servant~~^{page} who complains to himself that it is unfair for superiors to work off their frustrations on their subordinates. Just then the "boy" comes in and makes some cheeky observation. The page kicks him down the stairs telling him the while to remember his place. This was in the 18th Century I think. but you can see how well the dramatist knew human nature.

C. P. Snow and Pico have this in common that they claim to be realists. But such a creature does not exist. Life would be impossible for the realist. We all of us live because we hope for better things to come. When, under the reign of Nicholas I, Visamon Belinsky said: "Our lot puts the cowl on us. We must suffer, that life may be easier for our grandchildren. We must renounce all happiness, because destiny is cruel to its instruments"; and when Shakespeare on the occasion of the Austrian invasion, addressed himself to posterity, they were being extremely optimistic: "tomorrow will be better."

The only "realists" I have known are victors who are preening themselves and those who climb on the bandwagon.

Throughout his speech Peres says: "we told them '....'". Just imagine Hussein in Peres's place, with the roles reversed, saying "we told the Jews...." and taste it in your mouth.

In any case his analysis is superficial, I think. Hussein does not want peace: he wants his land back. He realizes that he is not militarily strong enough to take it back: so he will consider a peace settlement which will restore it to him. But he will be waiting for his opportunity. Israel is asking him to choose between them and the Arabs - his people.

As for Nasser, his popularity arises from the fact that he is committed to war with Israel. And far from the intelligentsia holding him back, they are pushing him forward. It is the intelligentsia who feel humiliation most - not the masses. I'll answer Peres point by point later, Benji. So long for now.

Yours affectionately,
Bob.

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- **Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand**

Location:- **Johannesburg**

©2010

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

DOCUMENT DETAILS:

Document ID:- **A2618-Bb13**

Document Title:- **Letter to B Pogrund from Robben Island (original)**

Author:- **Robert Sobukwe**

Document Date:- **24 July 1968**