

Robben Island East,
Robben Island.

25th February, 1965.

Dear Mrs Marquard,

I have juggled the queue. I felt I couldn't wait another fortnight or so before telling you how immensely I enjoyed your letter of the 11th January.

It had an atmosphere of its own. If you don't mind my saying so, you appear to have been in a militant frame of mind and it was quite a pleasure watching you dancing circles around the philistines:

You didn't take long over Kretzler. You didn't exactly denounce him bell book and candle; but by judiciously contrasting a "serious scientist" ^{with} "the journalist in Kretzler" you got the audience to cast rather hostile glances towards the unfortunate man. He has recently published a book on the art of Creation and there attacks viciously the theories of the behaviourist school of psychology. The dons and experts are after him with battle-axes and pangas. He is really unfortunate. Incidentally, he distinguishes between a reporter and a creative writer who is nonetheless

a realist. He regards himself as the latter.

Then there was ^{the} slight job you made at the writer of the article on automation. I think you presented your case beautifully. The facts are that in America today automation is increasing the National Product and the National Income. But a large percentage of the population constituting what is known as the "lowest third", earns a bare subsistence income and the middle classes whose incomes have increased, far from having more leisure are working harder than ever to maintain the standard of living to which they have now become accustomed.

And what does our much-vaunted efficiency consist in? Reducing the production costs of commodities and so reduce their price? But immediately the demand for them increases because of their cheapness, their price rises! Producing more cars for which roads and autobahns have to be built on which more cars converge necessitating the employment of squads of traffic cops and blocking reports? America is at once the most efficient country in the world and the most wasteful.

But so long as we have the fuss you

express and realize that we are becoming "educated", skilled "barbarians" and technological progress has not outpaced our mental development.

And then, towards the end of a hectic round you threw a thunderous right at the critics of you today's youth. And again I am in complete agreement with you. I know the "oxford"! I am not being original when I point out that our failure as a race is that we cannot strike the happy mean. In every aspect of our lives we push things to their logical extremes so that a reaction sets in and this movement takes us past the mean towards the logical extreme in the opposite direction. It is Hegel's thesis and antithesis all over again.

I have merely read reviews of Mutwa's book and cannot comment authoritatively on it. But what I do know is that whatever the position might be in West Africa, in this part of the continent witchdoctors are not the custodians of tribal history. And certainly no witchdoctor knows anything about the Phoenicians! In short I am extremely suspicious of this witchdoctor and would be interested to know what his academic qualifications are. Africa is money

nowadays and there is no lack of "maroon" (sunbaper) experts to cater for that need.

Thank you for the press on Dr Martin Luther King. There was something on him in the "New Yorker" you sent me. He certainly is an intriguing person. And they do say that he is a powerful preacher. But he wouldn't be a Negro, of course, if he weren't!

And your comments on "The Messiah" I appreciated. The "Hallelujah Chorus" was sung in almost every African College during my day. No student who came from a Training Institution could be ignorant of it. It has a basic folk song rhythm and that's probably why it is so popular. I have read that tragedy purples, but "King Lear" unlike "Macbeth" or "Hamlet" has always left me with a feeling of insupportable sorrow. It never can be a "bedchamber of joy" for me.

No, I do not play chess. How long does it take a reasonably intelligent human being to learn the game? I should like to learn it. I cannot say whether the M.C. would be allowed in. Let's hold it for the moment.

Yours sincerely,
R. M. S. K. K. K.

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