

Robben Island Govt.
Robben Island
10th June, 1965.

My dear Mrs Marguard,

I received four books of plays the other day and assume that they came from you. I thank you very much for them, though that is not the reason I am writing.

A week or so ago I received a letter from Benjamin Logrand - almost a brother to me. He was extremely despondent and dejected at the news that my Napoleonic experience was to be extended. I realised that many of my friends, among whom I include you very much, might be similarly afflicted. I am, therefore, writing to administer a timely antidote. I'll say more at some later date.

I was reading the Acts of the Apostles the other night and enjoyed particularly Chapter 19 from verse 24 dealing with what I can only describe as a near-riot as the silversmiths whose trade was threatened by Paul's teachings went

throughout the streets shouting "Great is Artemis of Ephesus." I read Muffat's translation and he really draws a vivid picture of confusion and reports that "the majority had no idea why they had met", but they roared and shouted FOR TWO HOURS - "Great is Artemis of Ephesus: Great is Artemis of Ephesus!" Talk of slogans and mob psychology! All these little tricks we so fondly believe we are inventing have been used repeatedly in the past. And as you and I know, that two-hour roar and enthusiastic demonstration did not save "Artemis of Ephesus"!

I do not know whether I still have a credit balance with you. If I do will you please try and get me a play or two by J.B. Priestley. I am almost ashamed to admit that I have only just discovered him and C. P. Snow and have enjoyed their novels immensely. Having read that Priestley has written some drama as well I am consequently eager to meet him in that field as well.

I am afraid I have nothing encouraging

to report about my garden. I'll be starting work on it during the week-end. You'll appreciate, of course, that I did not want to leave fat, juicy cucumbers and beetroot behind to benefit the "enemy". The "Scorched Earth" policy requires that we leave nothing behind on which the enemy may live. My supplies of fertilizers and insecticides are adequate!

My wife has written to say they are well and that the twins have lost their shoes at school. It beats me, of course, why natives want to wear shoes when they are obviously so much more comfortable going bare-foot and when we would give anything to change places with them and go barefoot without attracting curious stares.

I think this is enough for today. Kenji wrote to say he would be in Cape Town towards the end of May. I received his letter after he had returned to job but he had hoped to be able to make certain purchases in Cape Town. I'll write again, soon

Yours Sincerely,
Robbinkne.

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