

Robben Island Gaol,
Robben Island.
23rd January, 1964.

Dear Mrs Marquard,

Thank you very much for the Christmas Card, your letter and the books. I have enjoyed Smith of Smiths immensely. I haven't had such entertainment for years! Not even Swift with all his dissections could so effectively ridicule and demolish dearly-held "convictions"!

What struck me most forcibly, of course, is how unoriginal the "mass-mind" is. The same arguments are used, generation after generation, to justify prejudice. What does "change" are the locale and the objects of prejudice. It does prove, doesn't it, that education as such is no cure for prejudice.

I must say that I was not a little surprised to learn that you were in your sixties. I met your husband in Pulona, in 1959 when we both attended the "Bantu Authors' Conference" and I put him down as an executive in his late forties. I haven't met you, of course, but whenever I read your letters I have a picture of a tall lady with nothing to suggest that she was a day older than thirty-five.

I had quite a pleasant time with my wife and the children. I had quite a few tales to tell them - in spite of the African taboo against relating folk tales during the day: The guilty party, it is said, will sprout horns: It is but a sign of the times that my kids laughed such ideas to scorn. The twins (boys) were a year and a half old when I left home and have now attained the manly age of five. Fortunately for me they were satisfied, at first sight, that I was the fellow their mother told them so much about.

I had to/2.....

I had to give up gardening because of the dry season which has hit our water resources very hard. My plants which were coming up most splendidly put up a prolonged and heroic resistance except for the carrots and beetroot and beans which threw up the sponge quite early in the fight. And yet they had been the most ostentatious.

Thank you for the copies of "The Listener". I am finding them very useful. My New Year resolution was to keep my letters short so that my friends would have a chance to read other matter. To prove that I am a man of integrity. I'll say "Tot siens". Greetings to your family.

Yours sincerely,

R M Sobukwe

P.S. I shall let my wife know. Thank you.

PUBLISHER:

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

Location:- Johannesburg

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DOCUMENT DETAILS:

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Document ID:- A2618-Bd1-2

Document Title:- To Mrs Marquard from Robben Island (3 copies, 2 typed))

Author:- R Sobukwe

Document Date:- 23 January 1964