

Robben Island Hall,  
Robben Island.

3rd January, 1966.

Mrs. M. J. Marguard,  
Windrush,  
Droop Street,  
Claremont, Cape.

Dear Mrs Marguard,

Thank you for the  
Christmas Card and your letter of  
November 24.

This writing by instalment is  
unfortunate because it interferes with  
one's moments of inspiration. I find  
now, in spite of my promise, that I  
am unable to continue the discussion on  
Hamlet. With your permission I shall,  
therefore, effect a disengagement of my  
forces.

May I, however, make one or  
two slight observations. First of all,  
don't we all have a Hamlet in our  
personalities? Don't we require regular  
conferences, services, parties, to seek  
12

discussing etc. to "what few almost  
talented people" began, on page 66 of  
your pamphlet you quote Hamlet's -

"He that hath killed my King etc  
and suggest that here he speaks with  
assurance I get the impression, on the  
contrary, that he is seeking assurance  
from Horatio, a further exhibiting of  
pique. And Hamlet's words on page 67  
"Why, what a king is this!" I  
accept as an unmistakable reference to  
Claudius. They are the equivalent of  
"What is this that we have for a  
king?" It is because of this remark  
that Hamlet utters the words you quote  
on page 66. So much for that.

In your letter you inquire about  
the children's ages. Well, the first, my  
first-born is eleven now, the boy who  
comes after her is nine and the  
third is seven. They are all now  
attending school in Scotland. The  
boys have just started and are at  
what we term "Dom A" the African  
equivalent for Sub Standard A. She

older children. They've been successful  
~~last~~ year, should be starting Standard 4  
 this year. They'll be arriving in  
 Cape Town on the 8th January after  
 having spent a week at Granddad's  
 with my parents. They will have only  
 two weeks to spend here however.  
 I am looking forward to the visit very  
 keenly and I thank you for your  
 kind wishes.

Thank you also for reassurances  
 about the fruit of the matter of the  
 divorce. I have attended to.

I, too, enjoyed "a grain of  
 mustard seed" incidentally, have you  
 read that Soyinka went and took over  
 the broadcasting station in Western Nigeria  
 and called Chief Abacha a thief and  
 a robber? He is now facing charges  
 of theft. Africa compels her intellectuals  
 to be involved. no neutralism.

By the way, your note to  
 say you were sending sweets  
 etc. I am afraid I have not  
 received them. I thought I

should let you know in case the parcel  
has gone astray. you are in a better  
position to make inquiries in that  
event than I am.

With best wishes for a happy  
and blessed New Year,  
I remain,  
Yours very sincerely,  
Edoardo

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