

Robben Island Isad.  
Robben Island.

16th January, 1966

Mrs N. J. Marquard,  
Windrush,  
Drapeer Street,  
Charmont, Cape.

Dear Mrs Marquard,

Your letter dated 28th  
December arrived. After I had written mine  
of the 3rd January. We are both clear now, I  
think, on the question of foot parcels. Benjamin  
Bogrand also had the same painful lesson to  
learn:

Thank you for the piece on the Irish  
Protestant. It is rich.

I do not know whether to agree with  
you or not about Snow. I read "The Masters"  
early this month and once more my heart  
was lacerated. Some would say he is a  
realist, I suppose. There is no doubt about  
it that the intrigues he depicts are  
characteristic of most if not all contexts.  
And yet, evil though we are, in our

(over)

other moments we find the suffering of a good man insupportable. And Snow does not spare his readers. He lays bare the weaknesses of his characters with clinical detachment; and we feel great pain more because of his earlier confession that "one's dreadfully vulnerable through those one loves."

1/2 I have read "The Shoes of the Fisherman" I devoured it on receipt! I realize that the priest depicted was Teilhard de Chardin. I have read quite a bit about him but haven't come across any of his works which are said to be "difficult". I shall not just yet ask for "The Future of Man" but I'll keep the offer in mind and do thank you for it.

Your letter of the 3rd February came through rather quickly and was most welcome. I appreciate the truth of Snow's words again ... "we are vulnerable".

Yes my wife and the kids arrived they arrived on the 8th January and left on the 19th. Fortunately they got permission to visit me every week-day, so I saw them from the 10th - 11th and from the 17th - 19th January.

(January)

My wife's address is  
684 Mojolo Village,  
P. O. Dube,  
Johannesburg.

Thank you for the Commonwealth Journal. It is a treasure. I had thought I would comment on what Washburn's Reith lectures. He handled his subjects with brilliant delicacy, I think. It had both breadth and compassion. even Prof Manning found it possible to praise him.

Yes, I have made use of the library service and have found it quite adequate so far I am going to use it fully and will be prepared for the delays. I am afraid I haven't read any of Mrs Batters' books (Is she Mrs?) and cannot, therefore, comment on her weakness. Yes, the Nehrus certainly are gifted. They are a kind of Indian loyalty. The lack of bitterness you note has been commented upon by many, and with wonder. Somebody has, in fact, remarked that in some respects the Indians are more English than the English. However, I don't envy Mrs

Shankh her task It is formidable. The question  
has to be answered in India whether democracy  
and rapid economic development are incompatible  
and, if they are, which is preferable. And  
all the time there will be the menace,  
ideologically and militarily, of China.

I haven't grown anything in my  
garden this summer. Our water-shortage  
is acute. In some reason or other  
somebody has sent me a copy of  
Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" the blurb  
on which reads:-

'What we have to face is not an  
occasional dose of poison which has  
accidentally got into some article of food,  
but a persistent and continuous poisoning  
of the whole human environment'

The underlined words appear in RED PRINT:  
And the book deals with the use of insecticides.

I am all right. Please don't  
worry.

With best wishes  
Yours very sincerely,  
Raj Subramanian.

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