

Are you interested in any wood-carvings, I saw some nice ones in the range of Rs 25/- Rs 30/- - can send Bombay you small photographs if you like to choose - Wm. 1st March '63
My dear Raza,

Thank you very much for your letter - and all the news it contained - on the Indian side - it is now nearly 6 weeks that I am here, and to come immediately to the point, the things about India that concerned and worried us so much in Paris, no anxiety or concern about the border question troubles the Indian forehead, except for the newspapers that reel out ~~is~~ pompous propaganda one would not ^{even} know that the problem existed - what affects the people are the indirect consequences, like the new budget where the taxes have shot up, bringing the cost of living to 20% more than it was. Besides compulsory purchase of defence bonds - nobody really would grudge if they knew that the money would be used well, but then along with all this, we know that the government is spending 3 lakhs to put up a statue of Shivaji whereas the Sahitya Akademi's award winners have been given their prizes in defence bonds. ~~But~~ Inefficiency and corruption are rampant, whilst it is no secret to anybody that every 3rd house in Bombay is an illicit liquor den, factory and students of schools drink this horrid stuff, boys are found drunk, prohibition will not be given up, which means a terrific loss of revenue, neither the police nor the bootleggers want prohibition to go, as both would be the losers, besides the congress party has the bootlegger grounds to vote for them, which considering that this

industry ^{has such a} ~~with~~ widespread net, can capture thousands of
votes - all this just to stay in power - the effect it has on
the people is not one of revolt but of resignation, there
is no alternative party to take over, a military coup d'état
cannot be envisaged for the moment as there is no coordination
between the different high commands, even that would
hardly be a solution, for the same vices would continue,
and this time with a gun to back it. I have the feeling that
the "emergency" is being used and exploited to the maximum,
they keep shrinking "wolf" "wolf" to get more taxes, more
foreign aid, this beggar-borrower technique may bring in dollars,
but we certainly are losing all self-respect - and as the
Defence of India Act looms over our heads, nobody can
criticise the govt. policies as that would lead to immediate
arrest. I do not think that we are planning our future, or
working towards it, each one goes to what he can, and they will
lose it all eventually, if the country itself goes bankrupt,
however much you may have amassed has no value.
We have everything, a rich soil, all the mineral resources,
oil, a great tradition, but the will to do, to build,
is lacking - people are getting richer, industries are springing up,
huge buildings, it is a sort of bloating, this is fat, it
consumes energy, it is not energy-giving.

Now to other matters, Vakil is bringing out
my book in April, the column blocks are being made, I had a
discussion with Mehra + Nath, and I am happy that they
accepted my suggestion to change the format of their books,
and increase the quantity of paper, the book is smaller in
size with double the quantity of paper, and is bound, it

looks like a book, the other looked more like a catalogue,
once more comes out, they are bringing a second edition
of your book in the same size with ~~double the~~ ^{double the} amount of illustrations, 3
and well bound, the "Four Oceans" are taking over the
distribution which means that the book will go to England
& America, I hope France too - of course in India
everything takes a lot of time!

I had the most unpleasant surprise to find that
Souza had come to India also, he talks complete shop,
compares himself to Proust, he said in the Artist and
Centre reception, that he had only one rival & that is Proust,
who would do very soon leaving the legacy of world
championship to Souza! There is a book published on him
in London & he struts about with it, it is quite a good
book as far as printing goes, but all the weaknesses of his
work comes off, strangely when you see a period of ^{artistic} work
the pastiche elements just become too obvious. Rudy Leyden
who was present at the Artist and Fund reception asked him
(I was not there, I got the report of it) whether he was known in
Paris? and what was the worth of a reputation in England?
which got Souza quite flustered and all he could say was
that he didn't care for Ecole de Paris, Rudy walked off
after this. Souza also said that he had bought 3 houses in
London, as if anyone is interested! I am happy that the
Bauhauses are quite independent-minded and are not taken
in by all this.

The George Butler preface to the American Exhibition
was just too stupid - his notions are not only
evident, but evidently inspired by Sergei Hovner,
who most probably was peeping over his shoulder as
George foolishly banged on his typewriter, George is
a real fool - I feel like giving him a kick,
but I discover that this only pushes him deeper
into the arms of X and Y. B Maybe we should
rethink ~~our~~ about our attitude towards him,
but I hate hypocrisy, and I would still
give him a super-kick. Along with Hussein
I met Kelha Mevor, and we have had a
letter sent to Arina Foundation, asking them
not to use any preface of George Butler for
their show, - I have no news since, and
don't even know if the show is already on.

Do write, & send all the news of
Paris. Love Helen ^{the geysers}
and a kiss for Jamie. ^{I'd say send} You their
Salamons.