

Kanpur

11th November '60

My Noble friend,

It seems that even nobility is an infectious disease & I'm glad you've caught it! I was delighted to hear from you again. Yes it seems that our letters did cross. Thank you for yours with the letters from Raman and the good German doctor who wants to buy three of my paintings. I have today written to Raman & have sent him a colour transparency of "Advent of Autumn" which I truly hope he likes. In any case I have offered to exchange it if he doesn't care for it.

I am enclosing a slide of "A & A." and also one each of "The Owl" and "An Elegy to Hohenjo Daro". I want you & Janine to see them and let me know what you think of them. I personally like them. As these are the only transparencies I possess you might let me have them back to form a part of my record.

I haven't heard anything further from the Gallery. Quite possibly they were waiting for Jasjit Krichka's visit and I hope to hear within the next few days. I expect they have sold one or two more.

I spoke to Bal over the phone a day before he left. Husain is at present installed in his flat. At least he's using it as his studio. The last thing Bal said to me was that on his return at the end of December he was going to "Phadang" me from the bank. I told

him that I was perfectly game to being Phadanged. Never before have I been more willing or inclined. In fact it is getting on my nerves now and by the time I come home every day I am washed out. It's not the monotonous nature of the work which worries me but the mounting labour problems. Everyday there is a scene and I have to listen to a hell of a lot. Really I am ~~so~~ in sympathy with them. Ah

7th December

So you see old man what a life it is. I began this letter nearly a month ago and I haven't been able to finish it. Even the gay colour of my ink has taken on a drab tone and my spirits which were pretty high when I came back have rarely before touched a lower ebb. It is the same story every day - 9 am to 7.30. and the work is not just ordinary routine which can at worst tire one out but leave one mentally free to think of other things. This is utterly maddening and I am fed up working with thoroughly jungli, unreasonable & uncivilised human beings who have a passion for intrigue and wickedness. I am longing to be out of it all and am hoping that Old Bal will still consider me a good bet. Left to myself I would have baled out a long time ago, but you know why I have to be more cautious. Since returning home from Europe I have been able to paint only one painting - this has been satisfactory and is at present with Kuntar who has opened a new gallery in Calcutta! at the Grand Hotel!! He is coming here to spend the day on the 16th and said he wanted to talk to me. I wonder what

about? I received Bal's card & it was a great relief in my otherwise dreary life in the office. When is he returning? I am glad that he proposes to finalise the Paris show - that should be a terrific thing for us all. My father came here for a few days & I discussed the possibility of my switching at this stage. He seemed all for it. The plan is that I will build myself a small wooden studio in Simla where I shall be able to work without distractions & then make sorties to Delhi Bombay Europe. All this assuming that I shall have the money of course. The International Cultural Centre is planning an exhibition in Lucknow & have asked me to participate - I'm going to confine my exhibitions to one or possibly two, a year & to hell with anything else. — I have asked Lomesh Chaper to send you + Akher "Seminar" - the issue on Art. Let me know what you think of it. I wrote the problem also. I received a letter the other day from Sir Kenneth Clark after he had seen my exhibition. He was most appreciative of my new paintings, specially ~~some~~ some of them which he called "perfect"! The German doctor wrote also and has bought three paintings totalling just over £400 which isn't bad at all. The gallery is delighted - So am I - this takes the total to £1262. It doesn't seem that Krishna + Jean went to London. Where are they? in India? I'll be mad if they come here & don't see me. — I received a letter the other day from the Reserve Bank of India which has been signed by a friend of mine. I'm enclosing this and suggest that Fernandez should reply to it immediately. The answer to their inquiry about how he has been maintaining himself is that he has been living on your hospitality. You should write a short letter in confirmation of this & this should be sent to RBI with Fernandez' reply. I am also writing now to RBI (to my friend) telling him that he has managed to stay in Paris through your help and kindness & through the sale of a few odd paintings. I think this should work.

I am hoping that the work in this damned office will lessen & the staff become more reasonable & a little less aggressive in their ways so that I can at least have the peace of mind to concentrate and paint. I have been feeling completely frustrated — Well nothing lasts for ever, even a bad time.

Ken sends her love & much, much from me to Janine and to you. As Always,

Krishna

If Bal is there, do give him my love & tell him that I am eagerly awaiting his return.

R.B. of India -
Ex. control Dept- B.I.
Post Box 1055-

No EC By St. 4040/112-60

28th Nov. 1960

Letter to K. Khanna -
Signed Dr Samli (2)
P. Assistant Controller

Replied by K. 7-12-60

hospitality of S.H.P

+ selling paintings occasionally
K