

Morges, 9th of Febr. 1985

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your last letter. It is always a great pleasure for me to get news from a life long friend... Come a time in life, when it is difficult indeed, to make new acquaintances and friendship, and when, the old ones are that much more precious. Of course I know a few people here, but I never was very close to Swiss mentality... and I suppose, never will. Yes, Switzerland is a beautiful country, and as a visitor, an ideal place,,, But it is totally different when one has to live here... and you notice some shocking deads and procedures... I suppose, you would have loved my home in Apples, as it was nice and right for me. But where I am living now, is just a mouse hole, with no personnality whatsoever... It is a few square yards of space, surrounded by walls.... with no possibility to do whatsoever with it. It is comfortable, well heated and, should not complain. It is located in a very quiet place and I have silence and peace, which is precious now a days. But somehow, I cannot take to it, and have no desire to do anything about it, not knowing how long I will be in it... I look at it as a transcient home, not a definite abode.

The Gandhi murder didnt affect me as much as the Bhopal tragedy... I knew, you were from Madhya Pradesh, but somehow I didnt realise you had so many ties with Bhopal... I can understand your wish to go there and see for yourself . News dont always convey the truth about a situation; but even if you can do little to aliviate it, your presence will be a balm on the heart of many. Your warm concern will bring some courage and hope to your friends and relatives. Yet, go only if you are well. A trip like the one you are on the point to make, requires good health, first and before all. I hope your doctor finds you in the best of condition and that you can go, would it be only to quieten you a bit, and stop your imagination to run wild.

Yes indeed, we have had a very cold winter here too, and I started my work back at the Institution, during the worse possible week-end, with temperature of 15 below 0. With lot of snow and ice on the ground. I was terrified to walk, but thanks to our nice drivers (from Spain and Portugal, therefore warm hearted) I managed somehow to go and come back without accident. But I didnt go shopping downtown, nor left my place during the weeks in between, managing with what I had in the house. Today, though, it is Spring like, so warm and nice... But I dont hope to see it for long, as winter is not yet over with... We have to get prepared for more storms and difficulties...

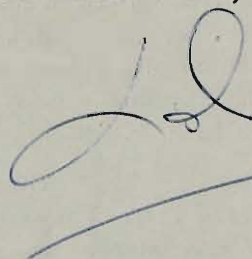
Now dear Raza, I come to you to ask you for help and advise. I am in a quandry and truly, dont know how to turn, what to do : As you know, I had given the entire collection of antiques, miniatures, ~~xxx~~ paintings, textiles and jewelery (some of it is still with me) to a small museum in Morges. Now 15 years later, and with a change of curator, they wrote to me that they renounced to this donation as it would not be fitting in this Museum, housing mostly European and current antiques. You can imagine what a catastrophe it is for me ! I cannot take it back as I have no place for it, and I dont know any longer anyone in this field ~~of~~ who could help. Do you know of anyone, collector or Museum who would be interested ? It is a small collection, not every piece of the same value, but everyone interesting and showing a good sample of Indian art. Raman had asked me, not to sell it in the antique market, but I could sell it to a collector or a Museum, as long as it was to stay all together. I could give it of course, to a Museum who could not spend the money for it, but was interested in having it, either to add to their own collection or to create a new one. The former curator of the Morges Museum was a friend of mine, and a man of imagination and idea. He said he would put every single piece in a special room and this collection would open ^{new} horizon to the local people as well as bring so ^{me} new visitors. Unfortunately he died 2 years ago, and the lady who took his place has other plans... As you are in the art world, may be you have some friends or acquaintances who could help me , at least, give me some advise as what to do now, and when to turn. The state of health I am in doesnt help either, but the worse part of it all, is

that since I came back to Switz. I lost all contact with Museums and collectionors of art. 20 years have elapsed, and I suppose that most of them are dead or retire somewhere... For most of them, I donot even recollect their name !!!!! I have only one idea : to protect this collection the best possible way, as not one single piece could get out of the country today (only by smuggling them out) and is not easily available on the market. The financial value of those pieces today, I donot know, as their prices fluctuate greatly (supply and demand, fashion, etc etc) But this point is not the most important for me.

I know I am asking you a lot, and I will not be hurt if you tell me you have no idea what to do and cannot help. I only knock at your heart, in case you can do something, knowing fully well that you will do it, if you can. Please forgive me if I put you in an uncomfortable spot. This transfer is not terribly urgent, yet I wish to accomplish it as soon as possible, as it is a terrific anguish for me, not knowing what can befall me in the near future. As you know, I myself is not growing younger, and God only knows how long I will be here. I wouldnot like to die leaving this problem unresolved behind me...

Thanking you in advance and asking you to forgive , I am as always

Your devoted friend,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'L' followed by a smaller '2' and a horizontal line extending to the right.