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Paris, 14th Aug. 1960.

My dear Krishna,

May I, please skip the apologies. This prompt reply to your letter - dated 9th Aug - redirected from Fossés St-Jacques & received only today, will serve, I hope, a true testimony to the fact that you were in our thoughts all the time. We always talked about you - of course as a "noble friend" - ~~as~~ which you pretend to be. We agree, only we also think of you as one thinks of the devil - ie someone with overwhelming energy. I don't have to prove the statement. It's obvious ~~from~~ from your presence all over. How the devil do you get all the time to work, with eight hours at office, 4 hours in the society, 2 hours with your children, & one hour with your charming wife. Renu certainly loves the devils, in any case you - to stand it all.

Well, old Krishna, we are delighted you are coming. We will be most happy to have you stay with us 9th to 18th Oct. We have a small flat, 3 rooms. No bathroom - little comfort, but 10 days are quickly past, & better you get used to some hard life. For your show, I ~~at~~ had always the impression that it was fixed up for early September, which is not a very suitable time. 29th September - ie the first two weeks of October are excellent. We don't promise, but we shall do our best to be in London for a week. I must be back on the 30th Sept in Paris for the opening of "Ecole de Paris" where I am exhibiting for the first time. It's the big annual show organised by the Galerie Charpentier. Also the L.V. Galerie is presenting a group show early Oct. So our visit should be - if it could be possible - from 24th to 30th Sept. It would be wonderful seeing your work - 40 paintings I hope. I shall stimulate the idea in Akbar - as also Krishna - if they can come it will be great fun. But let's not be too enthusiastic. I must know for myself first - if I can make it. The only thing I promise - is to do all I can to come. You know, my two mothers are there & it will be good seeing London again after 9 years. Janine will enjoy it, I am sure, but we have so

Much work these days. Janine now has an american art dealer who is buying regularly - he has bought four paintings + wants more for September. Hope it continues. For me this is a period when every painting takes a lot of time. I can hardly explain why. May be that the canvases are relatively bigger, or the exigence towards myself. Anyway the problems are very personal - the FORM is nothing simple + all the practical considerations - number of paintings, exhibitions etc are so mean in relations to the vital problem of work. I am following my instincts, my ideas trying my best to concentrate. Deliberately, I postponed my Paris show. Everything was fixed up for 3rd October. I needed 6 months more, so in agreement with Virey we have now decided for April 1961.

"Forms distilled by the intellect rather than by emotions" I agree its not possible to make such hard cut distinctions. Intelligence is not supression of emotion. Emotions are not incompatible with intelligence. They have to work in a team as a combined force which help the artist. I have a feeling that Akbar thinks of intelligence only in the sense of the conscious mind. Surely intelligence is so much more. But I leave this analysis to the intellectuals. I have little time to analyse + try to understand. My force is the store of experience acquired in the process of work. The state of mind or being one has while one works, is simply beyond explanation. Analysis destroys the process of work. I shall leave it for some other time when I shall be empty + think about how all this happened.

The article in the weekly! Well I shill don't have a single copy yet! So be a good friend + send me one if you can spare + by air mail. I had a quick look at Akbar's. His brother sent the few articles that appeared. I could hardly read Goets nor even Kayt. Souza - ofcours I did read. Its like a good poster for soap or Coca Cola. I dont even mind the self publicity, but mixing up Gandhi or Christ in this deliberately materialistic intentions is rather sad. If he had the slightest understanding of Gandhiji, he would be a different man. Everything is based on falsehood, unassimilated influences,

2) + his desire to make an impression is nothing but the sign of weakness. But in our time, these tricks work. Just imagine the influence ~~at~~ his article will have in remote corners of India - and even the big cities - Only if our people know that he had a perfectly mediocre show this year in Paris - "Mediocre" is a generous word for his exhibition which was totally ignored by the Parisien presse. Only 'Arts' gave 6 lines. I went on the last date. The prices were pretty low + not one painting was sold. The galerie took up the show only because it was sponsored by the Cultural Freedom people, and the galerie is perfectly unknown in a remote ~~place~~ in St. Louis behind Notre Dame. Now with a total failure here, if ^{any} ~~some~~ pretends to have 4 galleries in Paris + a permanent abode in this city well all this is not worth talking about.

Regarding the exhibition Rekha Menon is organizing I think it will be a good solution if you gave the painting that is in your collection. I should have liked to give a new painting, but then shipping + all that would be a problem. I wonder how are the other painters being represented, with one painting only, or with G. Husain, S. Ramkumar - + Padamsee + Raza with one borrowed painting. It's not very fair - if so. Anyway, I am not particularly interested in U. AR exhibition + would like to collaborate with Tom Keelley. They are doing really good work. So if you agree, you could lend my painting.

Manuel Fernandez is here since 2nd Aug. He is staying with us, is without money. I have decided to take care of him for a period of 3 months. Here in the mean time he finds some solution - else he will have to go to London. He is a terribly hard working chap + I really want to give him a helping hand. But life is so terribly expensive here + oh God! the problems of painters are even more acute. But his mental attitude is of a true painter. If only ~~he~~ could have some good luck - just a chance. In Bombay friends have been kind, helped him, he has even some money, but yet no R. Bank permit. His stay after 3 months will depend on this.

I wrote to Bal 2 months back. There's no reply. Obviously the exchange problem which must be handled before departure should have delayed his coming. In a way it's good that he is not here for August or September when there are hardly any activities.

If he can come in November, but well prepared to stay 6 months, at least it will be most useful. I do not know if you will see him before leaving. Do tell him that the flying visits are of little use. He must make it possible to stay here from November to May at least & come fully prepared. We will love to have him here & miss him greatly. Ask him to marafy a twist & come soon.

So the letter is already long & I should send it today only. Do note down our new address as also the telephone No. given below. You must come to Paris. We hope that soon Fernandez will shift to a new room we hope to get for him, but even if he is there when you come don't worry about expenses etc. We shall if it is extremely necessary, take a room for you in a hotel near our house so that you spend most of the time with us. We shall take you to Saint Farceau in our deux chevaux, where we have a lovely little cottage. In October you will have plenty to see & certainly we will have plenty to talk about.

We have been receiving presents all during the year. It's wonderful to have friends. Your gift is certainly most welcome if it from India. I asked Janine about it & the best solution seems to be a "bed-cover". You know I love Indian textiles, & cherish dearly the few things I could bring from India - last time. We should love to have a fine bed cover - which we don't have. Naturally ours is a double bed. size 140 c.m. X 180 centimeter. I really can't give you the size in yards. Now we must have 30 centimeters more on all sides ie 200 X 240 c.m. I wonder if it will be difficult to find it. Regarding the choice I leave it to your taste of which I am confident. Since you are flying, maybe it will not be a bad idea to have it sent separately. Or - as you find convenient.

Do write. It's a pity that Rene is not coming. I am sure in London you will have more money by sales than you will need - & we shall all miss her. all the more.

Love from Janine & myself
to you & Rene -

15 RUE PAUL BERT,
PARIS, 11e

as ever - RENE

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