

London 4 March 1951

My dear Raza,

Thank you very much for your letter. I think we must support such an Exhibition whole heartedly. So far we have always been exhibiting individually, i.e., I mean at our own expense. And really, it's not an artist's business to exhibit on his own. We notice here in Europe that such ~~exhibitions~~ things are arranged by Agents or by the State, and if an Indian Govt. official has got it in his head to do something about contemporary Indian art, I think we must encourage him without putting in too many obstacles.

But you are right — we ought to be cautious about the pictures collected for this show, because it mustn't be a stupid affair like the Ex. of Indian Art at Burlington House in 1948 — the modern Indian art side of it — we must be very cautious, and your idea of having Casson, Porival, etc., to impose a selection is a splendid idea. (By the way, there has been published a beautiful book on that Burlington House Ex. by Faber & Faber. The book is out recently, and as usual only the ancient side of Indian art is reproduced. The moderns have been only "catalogued". Only our names appear in it.) Meet Puspo Das and get things arranged. The next six months gives us ample time.

Give my regards to Paritosh Sen. I will be delighted to meet him when I come to Paris in September.

I am enclosing photographs of Husain's paintings. Marvelous aren't they?

Mulk Raj came over the other day. I gave him your address. He is arranging a Peace Conference in India, and in connection wants ^{all} us to paint one picture ^{each} on Peace which will be exhibited during the conference. We had a long chat together for hours.

Here's some more news. I will quote part of Martin Russell's letter:—

"Mr Justice Khosla of the Punjab High Court sent for all the issues in which your articles have appeared, but so far no proceedings have been taken against us. We have however to be careful otherwise Ram-Sing (the Editor of THOUGHT) may end in jail."

Can you beat this! There's something in my destiny Raza, which makes what ever I do a "sensation" even though I haven't the slightest intention of creating one, even though I want to act "natural" and "normal". Nobody

ever dreamt my writing ~~was~~ would have had such repercussions. My part in it, was that I was ~~only~~ interested in the L-s-d, side of ~~the~~ my articles, and I did succeed in making quite a few £s on them. Besides, they were claimed to be the best things that have appeared in Indian journals for a long time, by Mandy the Editor of the Weekly. Here in London the articles were collected by Nissim Ezekiel. You know ~~him~~, he is hardly a "revolutionary", he's so gentle and calm - and he didn't find anything objectionable in my writing. I ~~also~~ had Krishna's opinion ~~of~~ on my articles, that side of it hardly occurred to anybody.

Well the whole thing seems fantastic. Apart from the order of the High Court every body in Bombay is, it seems wild on me because of these articles! And that has affected my painting too! But Raza, I am not worried. Worse things have happened to me. I am not worried if the whole world sets against me (for what I do not know) because I have discovered the secret of LIFE: The lonelier a man is, the happier he is! Sur dix personnes qui parlent de nous; neuf en disent du mal, et souvent

la seule personne qui en dit du bien le dit mal.

I wrote you a letter the other day cp Akbar.

Please convey to him my kindest regards. I am
happy to hear he is working like a devil. I
love devils. I will come and kiss him when
I see his paintings. And you too Raza, my boy.
I expect terrific surprises when I come in
September.

Both of you look after yourselves

With love

Newton

P.S.

Martin Russel writes, that the Editorial
staff is evenly divided as to whether
my article on PARIS should be published
or not. That means, I think it won't
come off. So you are lucky that
you have escaped collaborating with
the notorious SOUZA!