

New York, Feb 27, 1978

S.H. Raza Paris, France.

I'd have liked to see you included in this important book: Contemporary Indian Artists by Geeta Kapur. (Reviews from Hindustan Times enclosed.) Of the six painters Miss Kapur selected for her essays, I am the only one who lives abroad. The other five live in India. She first contacted me by letter in 1974 and she could have done the same with you. I met Geeta in person for the first time in 1975 when I was in Delhi..... She spoke to me about your meeting with her. She was of course charmingly circumlocutive but later when I met you in Bombay I put two and two together and decided that it was this obnoxious phony attitude you have developed (which could hardly be Parisian and having known you for years earlier in close propinquity I find this attitude weird) that may have put Geeta's back up!

But before I met you in Bombay, Laxman Pai recounted what I thought was a hilarious incident between you, your wife and himself. He said he met you for the first time after a lapse of several years and believed you had hurried and forgotten old animosities you may have held against him. But apparently you gave him a cold shoulder! So he then turned to

your wife to say "hello." She, on realizing who
Pai was, "fled!"

I burst out laughing but it was no laughing
matter to him although to keep me company he
spread a wall to wall grin.

I wouldn't entertain Pai aesthetically, but
being civil is a simple matter of good manners.
But I suppose a person can grow bitter in life
and bad manners can mistakenly be used
as "revenge"!

I was glad however that he and Geeta had
forewarned me because when I met you and
your wife in Bombay I was on my guard.

I was cool, super cool! And I was meeting you
after 21 years — the last time being at my oneman show at
Gallerie Creuze in Paris in 1954!

F. N. Souza
