

copy of T.A. Raman's letter dated 17-1-61.

My dear Krishen,
Your painting has at least arrived in perfect condition + now occupies the place of honour in my office. It has delighted not only me but every staff member whose nationalities, incidentally, are US, Norwegian, French and Ceylonese; also the most discriminating visitors. My wife, when she sees it will also be very happy I know.

In the "Advent of Autumn" I see that you, like Cezanne, seek the essential reality. The painting is not a tree or leaves or an arrangement of browns, yellows, and specks of red, but the deft evocation of a mood; not a song of autumn so much as an allegory suitable for the season. And yet it is far more than the setting of a mood; it is a restrained but complete statement of the reality which you are content to present without the obtrusion of personality.

As an old editor I would change the title to drop out the "Advent" and simply call it "Autumn" or even, "Autumnal" for the colour scheme is not that of the earliest days of the season. Perhaps one day you will do that too, the glorious reluctance of foliage to accept the inevitability of change.

One of these days I would like to have a really gay picture of yours, an example of what your restrained intellectuality does with the most vivid colours.

I think I wrote to you that we expected to be in India sometime in January. Events have upset these plans and we do not now plan to be home until October or November. You will hear well in advance and we will certainly visit you.

Meantime do keep writing to tell me of your new work and send any slides you have.

I see that you have a very major decision to take as to whether you should give up work in the Bank. This is important but do not regard it as a problem to be worried about. It is good to discuss it with your friends and family and it is good also to review the facts mentally. In the last resort however the question will be decided quickly and correctly by processes which are essentially intuitive. Give yourself time to meditate, not to think, and

the answer will come to you in due time. Especially in matters concerning the creative instincts there is no other way. My very best for the New Year and thank you once again for a delightful picture.

Yours as ever,
T. A. Raman

What a letter + how true was his understanding of human + artistic problems. The decision I made ~~was~~ came in the way he said it would. There was no crisis, no drama, no tearing of the heart. The whole question had been gestating in me + the answer arrived almost without my knowing it. Like the ripeness of an apple which falls to the ground when it is time for it to do so, + then nothing can prevent it — except death. I handed in my resignation as easily as I had been discussing official matters just prior to handing it. I so boy you can throw the party you said you would — or better still. I wait till I'm there next year — Love Krishna