

12th Sept. 1953

My dear Dayak:

Your drawing is weak - the face is unauthentic - One judges the figure through form, proportion + line but the face one judges through expression - One can look through your face - It dissolves + becomes a symbol of eyes, nose + ears - A face should stand + defy the look - It should become opaque + the gaze should have to look away because it dissolves in the face of the "face" - your face has an expression. Can you not make it expressionless? It would then cease to convey - Painting is the cessation of all conveying - By expressionless I do not mean devoid of expression, a stony face would still have the expression of a stone + a mysterious face an expression of mystery - I mean "expressionless".

I do not like the "Dandooka" - It completes the drawing + is external to the man - I like the perpendicular lines on the chin, they break up the face + impart to it a solidity without which it would have completely dissolved.

The figure has a proportion + I like it - It will have to be a search for proportion. - But proportion is not only the

the relationship of form + space, the
space a figure "occupies" but also the
space that is "contained" in it.

I am sorry the criticism is short,
but I want to post it to-morrow morning
so that you may receive it on Monday
morning that is if you are not coming
to Bombay on Monday — In any case
I will be expecting you on Monday, in
that case you will receive it on your
return, I can't help it.

The criticism is harsh but then all
criticism should be harsh otherwise it
is no criticism —

Yours

Mumukshu