

My dear Akbar,

This is to tell you that Maria will be arriving in Paris on Thursday evening (10<sup>th</sup> July) at ~~10~~ <sup>11</sup> AM. In case it is not your Chodampati day, and if you are free ~~in~~ that evening, will you kindly receive her at Gare St Lazare? She is taking the Dieppe line, the same I took. If you are fucking away or something, then tell Raza or Jean or someone to fetch Maria. Please fix her in a room in some hotel too.

A few days ago I dropped you a large envelope with drawings. Hope you've received them. In my last letter I forgot to mention that I was delighted that Mulk has asked for colour blocks of ~~the~~ your 'Woman with Bird'. The thing I like about Mulk is that he has a bit of imagination and lot of enterprise, qualities ~~to~~ rare in our country. It will do a ~~host of our young~~ lot of good to a host of our young artists to study from the 'Woman with Bird', and be initiated into the new vision. I feel its effect of them is going to be terrific and enigmatic.

Have you succeeded in finding a good block-maker? See that you have fine blocks done — it will be worthwhile to do it <sup>not</sup> merely for you but more so for the wide world. It <sup>doesn't</sup> matter what you spend on them. They will always come in handy even after being printed in the Marg. In fact, this block can be the first of a series of blocks to come later, to make a book on your work!

Those prints of my drawings I sent you some time back are not photographs. They are photostat copies. Bakre got them done on the "CopyCat" machine he is working on at the India House. ~~He~~ Unfortunately I couldn't have him do more because he is having a lot of trouble with the other foolish fellows in this department. Every day I listen to his complaints about his job. His department have raised money <sup>(£20)</sup> to buy the small bronze portrait of Krishna Menon to present it to K.M. on the ~~disappearance~~ termination of his post of High Com.

The other day I saw a comic cartoon showing Picasso (palette in hand and lots of oils about him) suddenly startled, taken completely aback by the intrusion into his studio, ~~by~~ <sup>by</sup> two diplomatic looking gentlemen (most probably Russians) holding castor oil bottles, one of them pouring out some of the purge into a table-spoon. The caption runs: "Well Comrade Picasso! It's time you tried a different kind of oil."

Maria will be in Paris just for a week. You must take her to Madelaine!!!

Love for you & Raga —

Yours  
Newton