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PARIS, 10th Feb. 1987.

My dear Kishen,

India is so much in my thoughts, friends & places & the wonderful time spent in Delhi & Bombay, Bhopal & Mandla, that I have to convey to you how much I regret that only this year's visit could not be possible. However the programme was fixed up, my seat reserved & normally I should have been in Delhi on the 13th January. Janine's mother has not been well & to add to it we had an agitated social climate in France in Nov & December 86, with students & workers strikes, followed by an acute winter. -15, snow & cold. I could not reasonably let Janine alone to face all this & on the 7th January I cancelled my booking with air. Indig.

And now a long winter has to be faced, & I have to await another year to be able to come. As I always look at the positive side of things, I have decided to settle down to work. Two exhibitions are fixed up for this year Grenoble in June & Nov. December in Paris again at the Galerie Pierre Parat. So hard work is ahead. In spite of my frustration with my inability to come, I do derive some pleasure & satisfaction to see that I can be with Janine & her mother at a time my presence seemed necessary.

I did write to Ram & Bal & Khoshud occasionally, but writing comes with great difficulty. Whenever I do it I do it with all my heart. So often I thought of writing to you, at times I started a letter which never got finished. I can hardly talk of philosophy now about Art. My preoccupation is just my simple life & my work. It's not very amusing to hear about it, but I like them so intensely & exclusively that I rejoice with any limitations. Dispersion is too



many activities seems to be at the cost of energy + time devoted to painting. I am still working on the theme of "point", the circle + all its inherent composites. The idea is growing. Recent paintings have seen new evolution all by themselves. A strange organic growth! One painting leads to another. One works for two three months in a state of elevation, + then "the superior powers leave". One has to stop + await. I use the time then to go about seeing the exhibitions, meet friends, write or read books. My favorite authors at present are Mahatma Gandhi + Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. It's wonderful to read them simultaneously, so different they have been by temperament + yet so closely they have worked.

Paritosh Sen was here after the Cuba visit. I was happy to have news. Ashok was scheduled to come, but surely he has much work + worries too with Bhopal. The Karanth-Vibha case has been a calamity. Apart from a personal tragedy the most machinery + retrograde people have attacked Bharat Bhawan + all the extraordinary work done in Bhopal. No doubt, I wrote a brief letter, giving Ashok my views + total sympathy + support. The situation has been worse than at the time of the Delhi Tunnel, it's difficult to believe such destructive action, it's difficult to think that people can stoop so low.

France is awaiting the next elections. However the present govt is working + many things are going on. The Pompidou Museum celebrated its 10th anniversary. In a day, on the 2nd February, 45,000 people visited the museum. During the last 10 years, 75 million ~~people~~ visitors are recorded. The Musée d'Orsay, recently opened is also drawing huge crowds. Is Art, like religion, becoming again a reason for hope, hope in life! What ever it may be, the paintings that attraction at present are of the old masters or the best known. The market remains dull.

I hope this brief letter will inspire you to write. Let us know how you are, how is work + how is the Delhi Art world. After Ram's retrospective, Soumya too had one. How was the work, who organised? What are your plans? Did you go to Bhopal? These + many questions pre occupy us. Do write.

Send love to you + Ram from us both. Show the colors with Ram + Gai. Please.

From - NCH