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PARIS, 1st January 1993 -

My dear Krishna, My dear Renu,

Terribly sorry, I haven't been able to write so far. It has been a difficult year for me, for health, family & work. But it seems that the cycle is over & with the new ~~year~~ year, the stars have moved. It's bitterly cold here, but there's a bright sun outside, & rays of sun are penetrating the whole apartment. Jamine has been working in the ~~adjacent~~ adjacent studio, I have been taking photographs of recent paintings & writing letters.

Yes. Krishna, my trip to India is fixed up now. I will be reaching Bombay on the 10th January & will be there till the 22nd. Then I will visit Bangalore, Nagpur & reach Delhi - here fully on the 30th Jan for a stay of 6 days - till 5th Feb. Most probably I will stay at the Guest House of the N.C.P.A. in Bombay, but in Delhi I will have to stay at the India International Centre from 30th Jan to 5th Feb. If you could again put in a word with the managers. I requested Ashok Vijayji who was here, to assist me in getting a room - a good one - & for which your recommendation seems indispensable. I hope you will fix this up for me - once again -

I hope to see you & your work. There is so much to talk about the situation in France, in Europe & the world. I have also to know what is ~~is~~ happening at home. From a distance one has only a partial flash - insight of the fact that since the 6th of December, I have spared no pains to keep myself informed. It's all very sad, but this tragic event may be a blessing in disguise if a clear realisation is perceived by both the communities in & outside India. Latest news make one think & hope that there's a large consensus in favour of unity, peace & mutual understanding & the necessary efforts to avoid a national disaster.

In Europe the crisis is not only economic, but political & moral. Since

1990, I have never seen a climate of this kind. Not only the crisis is total in the art world, the market, the finance & economy, business seems to slump into inaction. The dynamics & motivations seem to be missing. The eastern Europe ~~seems to be~~ born in political & ethnic antagonisms, and one of the most cruel wars is waged in Yugoslavia - almost dismantled after incredible human suffering. Will this climate deteriorate. One feels too, one has the feeling that the thinking mind is taking stock of things & is acting in every possible way.

In spite of difficulties, "Europe" is a reality. Clinton, lets hope, can give a new orientation, both political & financial. At present, it is hoping against hope.

Days ahead are not going to be gai. But I am not pessimistic. ~~But~~ like all, in every domain have to put in colossal efforts to come out of this difficult period. Artists, writers, thinkers can play an important part - they have different values in life, & may be this right scale of values has to be emphasised again.

Let me tell you what I have been doing, in spite of this morose ambience. Before August, nothing worked out. But in Gambia we fixed up our two studios & got down to work. I was invited at the International Biennale in DAKAR, Senegal as a state guest. I sent two large canvases & went there on the 10th Dec to attend the thing. It was a really pleasant stay, with many exhibitions & places to see & also much to think about the exhibitions in contemporary African Art. There were artists, critics & writers from all over, particularly Europe, U.S.A & Canada. The human warmth of the Senegalese reminded me again & again of India. I have made innumerable contacts & may be new sheep may emerge.

Jarvis too has been working, is showing at the Grand Palais in a Salon with polychrome sculpture, then art function in Cannes this summer, also in Toulouse & Newton. So she will be busy here & will not come with me to India. She tried to dissuade me to visit India, but I have to come every year & in any circumstances. So its all well set to go.

With you & Renu, Gai, Ram, Ashok & Tyeb & Bal have been constantly in my thoughts. I hope to see you, also my country India - peaceful & united.

A good new year 1993, & love from Jarvis & RA

Bombay address Po Gallery Chennai