

RAM
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15th Feb. 1974.

Dear Monika & Charles,

Thanks for your two letters. I am sorry, I haven't been able to write. We have had problems & were perturbed. Jacques father passed away on 20th December in Menton following a heart attack. We went there for a short holiday & were all in good spirits. On the 27th he had to be taken over to the hospital after a ~~se~~ sudden collapse in the garden. at Gorbio. Three days later about the same time, it was all over. Perhaps the medical attention & treatment was bad or ~~he~~ perhaps he had overworked himself in Paris. In any case, all this happened so quickly & unexpectedly that we were totally knocked down. Since then there have been many worries & preoccupations - but we are gradually coming back to normal life now.

I wanted to write to you from Menton. There were quite a few things to tell you. Firstly, in a Unesco Cultural affairs meeting where I was invited to prepare a programme of an International Artists meeting, it was agreed ~~that~~ on my proposal that you will be invited by Unesco. The theme of the symposium is "the ~~freedom~~ role & Place of the

artist in contemporary life." Artists, painters, sculptors, writers, musicians, film & theatre & artists of other arts & of course Architects are being invited from all over the world. This is for this year in June or July but you will get an official invitation from UNESCO - unless you have got it already. I don't know if you like these meetings - but it will be good to have your views on Indian Architecture or Urbanism or other aspects that seem important to you. And it will be another opportunity for us to meet.

I have also been able to get Tyeb Show in The Biennale de Menton as also in the Festival International de la Peinture in Cagnes. It will be fine if he can come & stay for a few months - not only see what others are doing, but show along with others. It's an experience by itself & judgement has a greater validity if one is objective. He is being sent by the I.C.C.R. & I am just informed that the Ministry will finance the expenses of transport of their works. It's encouraging to see that the Symbalists here & people in responsibility are now prepared to accept advisers, which if followed can reasonably promote Indian Art.

Recently we had a group of Indian films really good that were projected in Paris. There was a little stir in the air of Paris - where people are systematically indifferent to Indian expression - small fraction

apart. And it's very strange. Throw a stone on the face of Mrs Indira Gandhi - the entire French press will talk about it. Throw a million garbements around her ~~tree~~ neck, no body wants to mention it. or more precisely the press remains indifferent. We have to work - ~~a~~ "contre-courant" & insist of myself, I am getting more & more involved with groups interested in India in one way or other.

It was thoughtful of you to send over through Petha Khote, the desk diary. There are precisely the kind of thing, I am interested in. She hasn't contacted us nor have I. We have really been busy. Beside my friend Rajesh RAWAT Director of the Indian Tourist office in Geneva sent me one early this year. I loved it. Their card is even better. I have written a long letter to try to see that they could do better - but it is indeed a considerable effort as this desk diary will be a reminder to so many friends of India. And I would that we could multiply efforts.

I haven't done so, but I will try to ring up Michel Joubert one of these days.

So my painting hangs well in your home. I am glad that it continues to please you. I know. It will be liked & disliked. It's an expression of a state of mind. Since then I have again to come to

blacks & guys. Why not. Its tangible reality, with much mystery & distinction. And colour & light can emerge later with a new meaning.

No news of Mahmud. Hope he is not ill - or in New York for all that I know. I wrote to him & there's no reply. There's no hurry. We may come over to Ind's this winter - or January 75. And it will be wonderful as well. However if you meet him let me know.

How is work? Hope you can make the Unesco invitation possible. I suggested Louis Cahn also - but it seems he is not too well - or very much inclined to take these trips. Keep me informed.

We are with work - after a lay time. It seems to work all right. On vous bien -

With affection