

Replied  
29/4/55

12.

"Emandleni,"

P.O. Nanda.

26/4/55.

My very dear Alan,

It is just going for midnight now and my mind is so agitated sleep will not come. Our being together during the day has been so stimulating for the mind and so challenging to the conscience. I could not eat when I got home ; I cannot now. Perhaps my wife, if she were here, would have found a way by which to get me to take a morsel of food to replenish the energy which I seem to be spending. AS I write this, I feel very much exhausted. I presume you know that I am an asthmatic. It has been commented upon so widely in the African Press---sympathetically by friends and otherwise by foes. And, sometimes when my mind has been violently agitated signs of an impending attack begin to show. But I am not going to be discouraged by that. I will write this letter. My mind is quite clear.

First and foremost, my mind is now made on membership of the Liberal Party. When we next meet, please give me the membership form to fill and sign. There is nothing hurried in my decision. I have taken my time turning it in my mind and arguing it out with myself and with my wife over very many months now. It is hypocritical for me to say I believe in a society of free and secure men and then proceed to act in a way which gives the impression that I shall fight for my ideal only when I am in the company of angels ! I think my clear duty is to be with those in the forefront of the fight. I am convinced that the Liberals, in spite of serious objections which I have to some of their attitudes, are among those in the forefront of the fight. I am more convinced of this after the <sup>Press</sup> cutting you showed me on our return from

the ~~stationary~~ post office. I join them with a free conscience in the belief that since they are a democratic organisation, it will be possible for me and those who think like me to persuade the majority of the ~~members~~ members to see the truth from our perspective.

In a very special way it is fortunate that the cutting came when it came--at the <sup>climax of the</sup> crisis in my own mind. It enabled me to see my way at that very moment very clearly. And now I do my duty and join the Liberal Party. This is about the most convincing answer to that filthy attack which an African in my position can give.

Now, your reactions to my criticism of the Dutch Reformed Church were most stimulating in their own way. In the venture on which you and I have embarked I see the opportunity to demonstrate the soundness of the things we believe in; ~~the proof of~~ <sup>to prove</sup> the validity of the truth as we see it; the chance <sup>to</sup> show that the way we propose is realistic and workable.

I am convinced that you do not seek my destruction, nor does your child my child's. I believe you want to live out your full life in freedom and security. I want to do that too. Our common interest, then, is in defending together and upholding the way of life which will guarantee to us the things we hold dear.

Our opponents say that you and I cannot defend together or uphold together the values by which <sup>we</sup> set such great store. They say racial differences are so fundamental that they will always vitiate whatever agreement on values we might arrive at. They say, in other words, that race friction is inevitable. To avoid this they come with Apartheid. But the element of compulsion in Apartheid and its rejection of human brotherhood intensify the very frictions it is designed to reduce. It is a philosophy of strife and has self-destruction as its logical goal.

You and I believe in the common origin of man and in his common destiny. Nothing that has happened in man's experience since creation ; nothing in all history, invalidates man's essential oneness.

But then we must realise that in taking our stand in the way we are doing ; that is, in agreeing to write together a book showing the folly of Apartheid and the promise of liberalism, we are putting our own consciences to the test, to determine if the faith we profess is workable in the face of obstacles our opponents regard as insurmountable. For, subjecting ourselves to the test of working together and thinking together presupposes spiritual compatibility----a profoundly intimate human relationship. It means I can die by your side in the defence of values you uphold.

Because this is the case it is inevitable and desirable that we ~~should~~ <sup>should</sup> express views, draw conclusions or propose courses which will provoke the profoundest reactions in us. When you talk of resistance to my criticisms of the Dutch "reformed Church's understanding of Christ's Will, I quite appreciate your attitude. As a matter of fact I rejoice at the resistance. For, if we believe that our future lies in a change of heart among our fellowmen, we must expound the truth in ways to move the whole man. Resistance, in my opinion, is a sign of spiritual good health. It means that you are not going to see the truth from my perspective on the strength of my testimony alone, no matter how brilliant an array of authorities I might come with, as long as one iota of doubt remains in your mind. It is this intellectual honesty which will make our book a subject of debate for the next fifty years.

I myself look forward to the time when I shall resist the things you will write when you get into your stride. Then, by a diligent process of give and take we shall endeavour to reduce our totals of resistance

to minima compatible with the full expression of our individual personalities. We shall strive to attain the maximum reconcilability in our points of divergence and in our categories of resistance. The degree of success we shall attain in agreeing on the minima---that is, on the points of divergence and the points of reconcilability will be the only convincing proof to our sceptical countrymen of the workability of the values we believe in ! It might even help us both to see our difficulties and advantages in clearer light. For, the resistance you talk of is proof of manhood in the approach to our extremely complicated problems. It will give strength to our partnership, for it will enable us to show our respective communities that we can respect each other's manhood without losing anything ; that we can admire each other's manhood and gain a lot by that.

It is going for 2 a.m. now. It is a bit chilly. I do not as yet feel drowsy. I will go from here and do a little reading in preparation for my next chapter. Happily, for me, telling the truth about Communism is not heavy-going of the type I experienced in criticising the theological premises of the Dutch "eformed Church in its justification of Apartheid.

It is so stimulating to be with you ! How South Africa robs itself of the chance to be truly great. The barriers set up imprison so much talent ; talent which should blossom forth and make this a land in which all can be free and happy. But Governments do not start revolutions. Just societies emanate from the minds of men. This gives me confidence in the success of our joint venture.

With the kindest regards,

Yours very gratefully,

*Jordan*

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