

Robben Island Prison,
P.O. Robben Island.
27th March, 1969.

Mr Benjamin Pogrand,
P.O. Box 1138,
Johannesburg.

My dearest Benjie,

Thank you for your letter of 4th March which I received on the 19th; and the trousers which were all well done indeed.

My mother and my sister-in-law have been visiting me this week. Their trip was made possible by Eulalie and friends. They have been staying at the Tafelberg Hotel. They leave tomorrow afternoon. Today is their last visit.

From the enclosed receipt you will realize that we have been to Stuttafords. I sent my sister-in-law there. Her tastes are expensive - as are mine and she has run up a formidable debt.

I wonder if I can share the debt with you? I was going to suggest that instead of sending me the Ten Rands you intended for April and May, you hold those back as my contribution to the payment of the debt. The stuff she got is first class, Benjie, there's no doubt about that. I shall be happy and proud to wear it.

I don't think I'll need anything else this year in the way of clothing. I have all I want.

About the children: I am glad you are sending them books to read. The toys were first class and have drawn them out of themselves.

But instead/2.....

But instead of sending them money to spend I should be glad if you could encourage them to start saving - either by means of a piggy-bank or Savings Accounts which they will themselves control. Miliswa and Dini, particularly, should be told that they are saving towards their University education.

By the way, I learnt from my sister-in-law that Eulalie has sent the articles I requested. You'll thank her for me.

Thank you for your comments on Charlotte. I shall write to her soon. And what you say about the genuine concern and love of friends is, of course, too true.

About the food for Veronica and the kids I think we'd better stick to the present arrangement whereby you send the money beforehand. Until further notice, make it fifteen Bands (R15.00) when Veronica is alone and R45.00 (Forty-five) when the whole family comes a-visiting. I suppose when Miliswa and Dini have passed the "children's" age - is it sixteen? - you'll have to adjust accordingly. At present, two children count as one adult.

It is very exciting news indeed that you have started on the B.A. Hons. yourself. You are, in fact, ahead of me, because ever since I wrote asking to be registered for the course, I have had no reply from the Senate of London University. It appears I shall have to make a fresh application. And that means I won't start on the course until late in the year.

I shall write again later. But so far, this has been really a blessed year for me, with unexpected pleasures following closely on one another.

Leo and Nellie Marquard are going overseas for about six months. Unknown friends have made this possible.

Well Benjie, best wishes.

Yours Affectionately,

Bob.

P.S. Veronica intends to buy some land. Could you discuss the matter with her and advise. I approve the site she has decided on. But I should prefer emphasis on seclusion: no property development schemes!

P.P.S. Have written to Charlotte - Registered.

Bob.

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