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Dear Mr. Paton,

At last the all important interview and tests are over. The Special Board has decided to approve my entering a Training College but for the full course of 3 years.

I was driven to tears of disappointment, but have since reconciled myself to the idea. The three years training is very welcome, but the thought of being away from my baby son is maddening.

I am consoling myself with the idea that I may be able to borrow money next year and pay my family a visit. That thought is the only one that will give me strength to continue.

I definitely don't want to

go back and admit defeat not after all the sacrifices I have made.

Except for flu, I have kept quite well. My son is doing very well at school. My financial position is rather insecure as I am only getting £8.5 p.w. and am not paid for holidays. My appointments are also made from day to day, depending on the 'sick' leave permanent teachers take and I am paid for actual days at work.

Apart from some forms to complete and applying for a grant, there is nothing much to do now but to wait for September to come when the Course begins.

Best wishes to you and yours

Yrs. Sincerely,

Wilhelmine Watson

23 Lynton Road,
KLOOF,
Natal, South Africa.

16th March, 1960.

Dear Mrs. Watson,

I am glad to hear that the Special Board has approved of your entering a Training College, but I am sorry that you were driven to tears of disappointment. It is quite clear that, in spite of your hatred of many things in South Africa, you cannot overcome your love for it, or at least for those parts of it which make it home for you. In other words, you are unable to hate the country altogether. However, you made a big choice to go to England, and I think you must not embark on this course unless you are fully determined that your future will lie there. I hope also that you will pardon me for saying that in all human beings, unhappiness is never caused entirely by external factors. It is also due to something in ourselves. There are some people who go from one situation to another but remain unhappy. I know that for a sensitive non-white person, the external factors causing unhappiness are very strong, and I hope this was so in your case, for if the opposite is true, then it looks as though you might be unhappy wherever you are.

You say you will not go back and admit defeat after all the sacrifices you have made. This is really your pride talking, and whatever reason you have for not going back, this should not be it.

I am sorry you have been separated from your son. Where will he be staying? Meantime I hope that when September comes, you will be fully decided in your own mind what you want to do.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

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