

#129  
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Robben Island Gaol,  
Robben Island.

19th July, 1967.

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

My dear Benjie,

You will please overlook the fact that I am using a ball-point instead of the expensive fountain pen you sent me. I find that ball points flatter my hand much more than a fountain pen does.

I have received the radio: a real beauty! It was <sup>is</sup> cracked along one of the "legs" I am told it arrived in that condition. But the performance has not been affected in any way. And what a glorious performance it ~~has~~ gives!

The cord was a five feet affair and I have had it lengthened by a further fifteen feet to enable me to have the radio in the kitchen where I do my studying in the evening.

I am glad you did not have the additional lead you had thought of ~~arranging~~ <sup>arranging</sup> to enable me to play outside. This is a lovely set, Benjie, and I want it moved as little as possible. I am, therefore, keeping the battery-operated set for use outside. In fact, <sup>as a matter of</sup> I have the radio playing during the day only when I listen to sport commentaries. The chair and the radio belong in civilized surroundings - in a polished lounge, as I said in an earlier letter.

Thanks a lot old chap. And thanks for the books, also. You must have spent a pretty fortune on them. My shelves are bursting at the seams, so I'll have to ask that you don't send any more for the time being. When Veronica arrives will discuss the position and she will let you have her recommendations!

You amaze me Benjie. Christianity originated in Europe, indeed! Don't you know that Jews and all twelve of his disciples were Jews? In fact, except

for Judas the Iscariot who came from the South, they were all Galileans. And the first thousands of converts were Jews. When Paul set out to proselytize the gentiles the Christians were <sup>already</sup> established as one of the thousand and one sects which the disputations Jews were throwing up. The Dead Sea scrolls find a very strong affinity between ~~that~~ Jesus and the Essenes.

I have been reading Stephen Neill's history of the Christian Church - "red in tooth and claw", bearing out Epstein's contention that Christianity, unlike Judaism, has been spread by the sword and not by the pure strength of its message.

Well the Middle East war is over. Already vicarious Israeli heroes are individually and severally telling us what lessons are to be drawn from the conflict. Unfortunately, the lessons are merely a rationalization of prejudices. I would have felt happier if Levi Eshkol didn't have a Dagan to put up with. As one correspondent has said, Dagan is no Churchill. I am afraid he is

allowing the vibrations of the vicarious heroes to go to his head. And yet the touch that is needed is the taming down of the humiliation under which the Arabs smart. Somebody has said a man will forgive you, after some time, for defrauding him or even taking his wife away from him, but no man will forget or forgive a humiliation. Eshkol has the personality and the ability, I think, to wash his enemies' wounds.

What are you doing for a living now? I believe at the time of your arrest you had resigned your position on the "Land Daily Mail". I liked your replies in court.

It was very painful for me to read about Pat's death. I hadn't known, you see, that he was ill. And now comes Kagan's death. He was my "personal physician", you know i.e. if I may use that pompous phrase.

Incidentally, I haven't received the literary Supplement articles you said you were sending and the examination papers haven't arrived yet. However, there is still

plenty of time.

You remember I wrote you that somebody was sending me books from the U.S.A. Well I have just heard from his wife in Lusaka that AB has been arranging that. These are not the books from Lincoln University; they are a separate batch on African Prehistory.

I am waiting to hear how the party went off. By the way, in addition to the twenty nine books you sent, I received about five, including Kwekwe's latest: The Act of Creation. I was told these had been sent by Eric. My thanks to him.

Well Benize so much for now. Thanks for making Monica's trip possible in May. I love and respect her more with each passing day. She is a mixture of vulnerability and toughness.

Love to Jerry. "Tell Rajesh - - - - -". Keep your head high, boy.

Yours affectionately,  
Bob



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