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Robben Island Isrd,
Robben Island.
30th March, 1966.

Mr Benjamin Pogrand,
804, Dorom o,
Van der Merwe Street,
Stillebaan,
Johannesburg.

My dear Benjie,

In your letter of the 5th February you state that you were happy to note that my use of the term "African", in an earlier letter, had no racist connotation or significance.

Imagine my joy not then when I received a letter from my daughter informing me that on their way to Joh'burg from Cape Town they met someone she calls "Ansie Mary" ("ansie" being the Sotho equivalent of the Afrikaans "ou sio" - elder sister) who had for some time been employed by "Ntate Pogrand". Now "Ntate" - for the benefit of you Zulus - is the Sotho term for "father".

I have been rather strict, Benjie, in bringing up my children I have stressed that their responses must always be accompanied by a polite "father" or "mother". In other words I want "yes, father", "no, mother", "thank you, father" from them and not just "yes", "no" or "thank you" etc.

I need not tell you, of course, that I have been hard put to it to decide how I can train them to show this politeness to all people irrespective of colour, without making them colour-conscious. And to one behold, my child, most naturally, without any self-consciousness, writes of "Ntate Pogound" as she has written of "Ntate Mthopeng" (Zeph) before.

She reads me like a book, of course, that little girl. And I am afraid she is going to make me dance to her tune!

Mrs Marquard has sent me a lovely, warm jersey - RED. I am writing to thank her and to point out the sinister associations of the colour.

I am sorry to introduce a note of squeaking in a letter I had intended to be cheerful. but I am getting a little worried that not a single textbook has reached me so far i.e. the prescribed textbooks; more so when in some of my subjects I have already received notices for Lesson Five and have been unable to do the tests set as I have been able to do no reading outside of the notes. Otherwise I am enjoying my studies immensely.

Among the books you've sent me is one - "Working with a Purpose". I have not had time to read it yet - the fiction and non-fiction are equally enthralling - but are you hinting that I might consider serious writing like the witchdoctor on the land - Mr Mutwa?

I have received a letter from a Mrs L Taylor and a Mr L Hill both of Britain. Both contained messages of sympathy.

So much for now, Benjie. I'll write again soon. Love to Jenny.

As I am fine,
don't worry.

Yours sincerely,
Bob

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