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Box 214
So. Barre, Vt.
05670
March 9, 1970

Mr. Alan Paton
C/o Charles Scribner's & Sons
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Paton:

I have just finished reading "For You Departed" and have found it the most poignant book I have ever read. It is also inspiring.

As you discuss the nature of God on pages 84 and 85, I am reminded of the comment a former colleague of mine once made - that God suffers. I believe this - he suffers when we suffer, but that he will give us the strength to meet whatever befalls us. Along with this I would quote I Corinthians 10:13: "Every temptation that has come your way is the kind that normally comes to people. For God keeps his promise, and he will not allow you to be tempted beyond your power to resist; but at the time you are tempted he will give you the strength to endure it, and so provide you with a way out."

I believe that each one of us has a spark of divinity and in so far as we have faith in this we will be given guidance, and strength to meet whatever comes. I interpret temptation in the above passage to mean any burden or difficulty as well.

I do not, cannot, believe that God wills some of us to die by terrible physical suffering or violent means. There is so much that flesh is prey to. And your thought that he needs us to show his love for our fellowmen is comforting.

At 64, as you see, I am still searching for answers, and I could not resist sharing this thought with you.

Sincerely yours,

Rachel D. Rose
Mrs. Adrian C. Rose