

Pc 1/17/25/295

23 Lynton Road,  
KLOOF,  
Natal, South Africa.

26th January, 1960.

Hubert.  
My dear ~~Herbert~~,

Thank you very much for sending me your comments on CORIOLANUS. I agree with your contention that Shakespeare wrote on the theme of mother domination, and I wish I could have seen Olivier's interpretation. I found that the mere reading of the play did not help me very much. There was I think one strong difference between Volumnia and Mrs. H. Mrs. H. was really a nobody in the political world, and I think she was quite sincere in her protestations that she did not wish JH to enter politics. Mother domination takes many forms, and I don't think there is any doubt that JH made his own decisions at each step of his career. I think that the domination was of this kind, that he really could not live apart from her, and that she gave him strength when he needed it. She had a more steely quality in her than he had and he grew up to lean on her in a way. Although he knew it and would have liked, on more than one occasion to break away from her, he was not able to do so. He was like the man who says, I must do something about this, knowing in his heart that he will not do anything at all.

Mrs. H had two reasons for not wanting JH to go into politics. One was that she knew his nature; the other was that she was a neutralist in politics, and while she would not have shrunk from personal strife, she really hated political strife, and in fact prided herself that her house was always open to people with all kinds of views.

I am trying to devote my entire time to the book, but find this extremely difficult, especially during a period when it is almost impossible to keep out of involvements. I hope that you will be able to read the story soon.

Affectionate greetings to you and your wife. I shall always remember my time with you at Oxford.

Yours ever,