

2nd Floor, Naran Chambers,
175 Grey Street, Durban.

21st July, 1972

Mrs. M.D. Naidoo,
c/O Messrs T.C. Mehta & Co.,
Victoria Heights,
DURBAN

Dear Vasanta,

I am deeply sorry that you found it necessary to convey a falsehood to me; but relieved that your conscience compelled you to correct it immediately.

I frankly don't understand what you mean by 'negate'. You are however talking absolute nonsense when you say that M.D. sought my assistance. I told you that this was not so in answer to your question. He did not seek my assistance. It is however true that he told me about the problem, and that was the first that I had heard of it. It may seem curious that I was so ignorant of much of what has happened whereas so many other people (as I have since heard from you yourself) appear to be in the know. But you see, I don't normally mind other peoples' personal business, and in any event I usually have so many matters that keep me on my toes that I have no time to concern myself or to listen to gossip. I was therefore extremely surprised when M.D. told me of developments, and that you two were estranged, and I took it upon myself to see you, purely for the reason that you yourself recognise -- one of genuine concern and a desire to be helpful. Obviously you think I am just a nosey parker and regard my efforts with scorn and contempt. I am sorry about this but if that is your attitude I must obviously respect it.

As you know, I am not a Christian. Nor am I religiously inclined. But I do believe that it is not my place to judge anyone else and to this extent I adhere to the biblical injunction of "judging not". In any case, I know that I can never have the right to "cast the first stone" at anyone concerning his private matters.

However, as I told you, while my immediate concern was your own welfare and naturally that of your husband's and I hope that you two will become reconciled, the fundamental concern is for your children. You have the right to destroy yourself if you wish. M.D. is an adult. But both of you have brought completely innocent little people into the world, without their prior consent or even knowledge. They are completely and utterly dependant upon you, more so psychologically and emotionally than materially. Neither of you has any right to destroy the future of any of those children. Which is what you are busily doing right now. As I told you, you owe it to those children of yours to make any sacrifice, suffer any humiliation, put up with anything to ensure that they are not destroyed and their future is not laid in ruins.

Unless you contact me, I shall henceforth mind my own business.

Yours sincerely,

Pat
Pat Poovalingam