

12/10/99



Hi David, I tried to greet you on my return ^{was} from Zim - on Wednesday 6 at 3am in SA. You ~~had~~ ^{celebrating the jubilee of the 20th yr} ~~not~~ ^{not} arrived home. I don't know who was more upset your mum or yours truly.

I trust you saw the new year in, sober - knowing your affinity for beer, that can't be true. I hope you have ^{some} soaked up. On the 1st day of our holiday 12/12 we had a tyre burst & the spare was not the correct size - Nobody checked it. It was a 1983 Merc - & you have no idea the respect that a Merc begets you. Policemen wave you on, while everyone is searched. On our way back to the Cap demanded Deras driving licence - it was not on his person & he caught a R200 ticket. He was very grumpy thereafter & found fault with our driving - called me ~~secks~~ Don't strange I've not used the 4 letter word ~~against~~ him. I'm 12 yrs his senior.

I was 71 on the 5/1 & drove thro peak no Jhburg traffic - ~~that~~ ^{that} was a feat - I think they were disappointed we arrived without ^{even a} ~~any~~ ~~problem~~ ~~created~~ ~~by~~ ~~me~~.

Deq baobab are thriving without any help from me. Friends who had been to Mozambique say there were avenues of the old girls - The road to Mutare now. Strided with them. The Jambonyants were beginning to wane - in some places they were beautiful & prolific - & in others non-existent.

I met your ambassador to Zimbabwe - He met at a mutual friends dinner party & we became instant friends - his wife & daughter were here! We were invited to see a film at the his house. & I spent a morning with him - He quite a charmer as well - Bip Cutler

options are ^{limited} ~~opened to him~~. It is a shame too.
My leaving days are over & I must get down
to work - my back has collapsed making
sitting & standing painfully impossible -
So when that improves, so will work.

Despite your "touching" problems, I hope you
have seen Miguel, Amparo, Roxana,
Tamara & others.
I trust Norma, Zelmy, Carmelino Domingo
& Walterio are well - my love to all.

We are in the throes of a heat wave & our days
are like Havana I can't take the heat.
Hope 1999 is better for Cuba & for all of you.

My friend Trumpa (a judge now) phones to invite me
a party on the 30th - "How about this bloody Cuban in your
life? By that wrong there are more than one."
They are not going to take you from us. Nobody
takes me anywhere I don't want to go.
Anyway bring him to the party." Some hope!

Love

Any post arrived your end -
Hope springs eternal