

۲۵ نفا ۲۰۴۲



Camp Katrain, Kulu,
5.II.42.

~~SHAHZADH KOTHL~~

~~- RAWALPINDI~~

Madame,

I shall be most grateful if you would be so good as to accept this little gift of Kashmiri photo frames with my respectful & sincerest esteem.

I cannot tell you how very happy I was to have had the opportunity of meeting you & your charming family, under such unconventional conditions. It had been my keenest desire to see you all but a series of unfortunate developments prevented it during all these months of our staying here this season, almost next door to you. I consider the whole year as being wasted, but since we hope to return here again next year, I hope you will permit us to see more of you all.

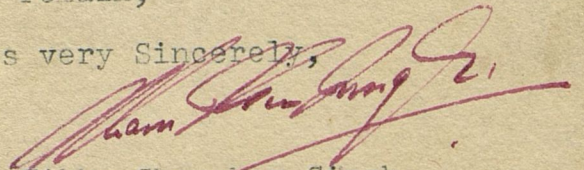
Princess was very disappointed that she had to forego the pleasure of seeing you but looks forward to our next visit to you which I will write to you about when I get my books that Professor Sahib recommended.

Now, once again, let me thank you for your most wonderful hospitality & the friendliness & warmth with which your noble family accepted us amongst them. I shall never forget the happy, interesting & illuminating time we spent with you.

Please convey my respectful regards to your husband
and best wishes to Dr George & our Doctor friend of the
Guest House (I'm sorry I do not know his name), and to
our saviour from the mountain tops, Dr Slav, our warmest
& grateful thanks. He was so kind & considerate.

With respect, I remain,

Yours very Sincerely,



Tikka Shansher Singh.

Killa Sujan Singh, 2
District Sheikhpura,
10.3.43.



Madame

Only about three months have passed since we saw you last but I must say it seems like years. We have talked of you a lot, always with warmth & gratitude and have missed you also. We have been travelling about quite a good deal seeing old friends which is always refreshing & cheerful. Then we came here a month ago to our Estate to enjoy a quiet life in the country. I must say it is so peaceful & quiet. I love it.

At present, I am living in a small tent, on the outskirts of one of our small villages, I have left the Princess & family at our headquarters several miles from here. Can you guess why? I have taken the Professor's advice & started reading Gita. I thought it would be easier to understand it & provide a more enjoyable reading if I left the family & came out in the wilderness to study it. I did not even bring a single servant with me. My food is cooked in the village & brought to me once a day by one of my tenants. In the mornings I go for a run & in the evenings ride along the Canal Bank for about an hour. It is glorious & I think of you all the more somehow while I live like this. I shall remain here till I have understood something of what I am reading. Perhaps another ten days. Please answer me at the above address, my despatch rider goes daily to get & deliver my post & to bring me newspapers otherwise I would be quite cut off from Civilisation & become quite a savage.

I do not know whether we shall be able to come to Katrain again this summer or go to another Hill station. I have applied three times to my old landlord in Katrain for the same house, but have had no reply. Most annoying. If we do not come, I hope you will not forget us completely & will sometime write to me as I am so fascinated & interested in you & your work.

You will be pleased to hear that I have been given an honorary commission in The Jind State Army by His Highness with the military rank of Captain and have also been appointed honorary A.D.C. to the Heir-apparent.

We have seen quite a lot of The Raja & Rani of Mandi who have been down in Lahore till recently. In fact they came here to shoot duck & partridge in our Estate & stayed for five days with us. It was wonderful having them. They are both so charming. Has your son returned from Delhi?

The following points have struck me after my first & casual reading of Annie Besant's Gita. I wonder if you would be so good as to tell me more & enlighten me on the subject as no doubt you understand it wonderfully well. After this version I will read the one Professor suggests as this seemed simpler to start with:-

1. The doctrine of Gita with regard to the Supreme Spirit or God seems no different to me than the doctrine of Pantheism. Is there a difference between them? If so, What?
2. Wasn't it unnecessary to have 18 discourses on the battlefield when both armies were waiting for fight? Arjun's fears could have been banished by the first 2 or 3 discourses?
3. Lord Krishna says that he who takes His name when dying will go straight to Him for ever. Does this act cast aside all ones previous life, effort, Karma & transmigration?
4. Why does Lord Krishna identify himself with the Supreme One & talk of Him as "I". Why didn't he like Nanak & others profess to be the servant & disciple of the Almighty?
5. What is in your opinion the greatest lesson the Gita has to teach? To me it appears as a casual reader, that ones duty performed with detachment & without hopes or aims at a reward is the highest merit in life. It teaches moderation, balance, indifference and activity with no self interest as the noblest way of conduct. Is it so? This is the impression it has left upon me. But is this not rather difficult or even impossible in our mode of life today?
6. Why should the Sight of the Almighty one as revealed to Arjun have stricken him with fear & terror & awe, why not with peace, love & restfulness?

I hope you will forgive me for troubling you with all this but I feel that since it was Professor who suggested me to read Gita I must come to you with my difficulties. Besides, I do not know anyone else whom I can look up to with confidence who can show me the light as much as you can.

Write to me as soon as you can spare the time. I know that I am encroaching on your time which is so valuable & well spent by you.

Please accept my sincerest regards for you all, and respects to the Professor & yourself. I trust you all are enjoying the best of health. Can I be of any service to you from here or in Lahore. Please do not hesitate to let me know.

Yours as ever

Shamsler

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Madame H. Roerich,
NAGAR, Kulu.

Kangra Valley.

From:-
Captain Tikka Shamsher Singh,
M.A. (Cantab), Rais, Hon:A.D.C.Jind.
Killa Sujan Singh,
Distt. Sheikhupura.

