

RECEIVED 19 MAY 1987

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Oliver Tambo  
President, African National Congress  
P.O. Box 31791  
Lusaka, ZAMBIA

Dear President Tambo:

I wonder if you remember we met on the blizzardy evening in New York at the American Committee for South Africa/Sun City reception. You made me very happy at the delight you took my book on Gandhi, and with your blessing that I still keep close to my heart.

Since then, I have a small newspaper picture of you on my little work table, smiling and with the Indian gesture of pranam. In this way I think often of you as I have heard of your travels after New York, and now your arrival home -- I mean the land of a dear brother, President Kaunda and near as can be to your people. I thought how happy you must be to return, and hope a little rest may be possible.

Because of this wish, I do wonder also, may I ask please, have you ever heard to take the Name of God, especially of Rama, as a support and rest while you must do so much and face such struggles and obstacles?

I would not be so bold to say this, but for your regard for Gandhiji and the pranam you use so freely. This makes me feel a little free to inquire and suggest -- if your my elder will forgive my forwardness.

I say so only because Gandhiji found all his support in this, more and more as he moved on and especially at the end of his long struggle. He repeated the Name silently as his constant companion, and especially, when able, in a relaxed sitting at 4:00 A.M. and dusk, or at dusk he sang Ramadhuna in congregation, whether with his colleagues at evening prayer, or at mass prayer meetings of 50 or 70,000.

In this, he concluded was the key to non-violence, if there was any. In any case, it was the support and solace of his life, and ended all his fear from age six on, and, I think specially how it was his last Remembrance and Blessing with three bullets in his chest.

All through, he found no support, of course, but God. But he also found in his own experience and that of friends, a special help in this, from the Name -- not the Name of an incarnation only, but of the Transcendental Divine, the One Lord whom Gandhi was pleased to call Truth, or Love, or Mother, or Father, or even Best Friend, and many other names dear and useful. Still, in "Rama" he found a "scientific" and "mathematical formula" almost -- the Divine Grace, Protection, Power and Love, as if embodied. In his last years, this was Gandhiji's all in all, his panacea that he prescribed for every disease, from physical, to social, to moral, to spiritual.

This at least was my finding in my study of Gandhiji, and also in my own life and of near friends. I too for nearly seventeen years have taken this support and find it so. I know no other such help for calming me down, stopping my wandering, giving me strength and taking away my fear -- and opening up a little love and understanding, where none was before.

I think of course also of your brother Nelson, might find this of special relevance and help. If you think so, I would be so pleased to think my words found their way to him in this helpful way. Also for your sister Winnie, and any dear friend to whom this might seem convenient and useful.

Please remember me to your aid, whose blessing as friend and elder I also consider myself to have received that evening.

I hope I have not disturbed. In any case, I wish you Mother's Dear Grace and Sweet Love, and that it might accord with Her wider Plan that you have the greatest and speediest success in your Blessed Cause.

With all my Love, and  
in the Name of Rama, my Mother,

*William*

William Borman