

John H. Griffin

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September 6, 1966

Dear Nell Dorr,

Penn Jones, that great man and great friend of yours and mine, has just been here. I believe he is the kindest and most faithful friend in the world. I have not made progress and in fact the physical pain has worsened during this past week or so and so Penn comes at least every other night to visit with us. Now it is late night and he has gone, but before he left we went through The Bare Feet again because in this kind of obsessive pain, photography is the only thing really strong enough to distract me from it. I have completed one part of the printing and layout of my book on the Tarascan or Purepeche civilization and I was lamenting the fact that I could not get into my prints the strength of yours. So we were going through the two together, side by side. Penn said, "Well, her son-in-law told me she sometimes spends 20 or 30 hours just getting one print." Bless his heart. And bless yours for setting us such a high standard in the quality of vision.

Penn then came out of my store room, where he was rummaging, with a portrait of a true Indian Holy Man, Dom Bede Griffiths, O.S.B. - one of the extras I made when I printed him for the folio of portraits in my book, and he insisted I send you this. I told him that was like asking me to send a clay figurine to Michelangelo and he said that was foolish, and of course he is right. So, we will pack it the next time he comes over and send it along to you knowing that you will see it for what it is, a gift from us to you in the hope that it, ~~was~~ this man's magnificent face, will give you some pleasure. You may know of Dom Bede. A brilliant ~~English~~ English Benedictine, he went out to India many years ago, studied with the Holy Men, became so profoundly impressed by them that he adopted their mode of dress. His lives in a monastery near Kerala and has been a great force in building a bridge of comprehension between the religions of the East and West. His eyes, it seems to me, tell the whole story. So, I hope it gives you pleasure.

All of us here join in sending you and yours our great love,

John

I think I told you that we had to move in to Fort Worth so I could be closer to my doctors, and to the children's school.