

January 8 1978

Dear Don,

Happy New Year!

Alston was here for almost two weeks and now is back in The Hague. The time together was full of energy and activity, of poetry and enjoyment. He arrived here the same day the lawyers were signing in Court his divorce papers, and I am sure this trip and this experience were the best medicine he could have had to heal his soul.

Thank you for being the agent who put us back together again! Alston's presence here was also a balm to my spirit, and some how he did push me out of a dead-end road I was on. I mean, he was the push I needed to get back to the harp-sichord which was accumulating dust in my studio.

I have made up my mind to give an all Scarlatti program in June, and I am busily practicing pieces I hadn't played in Ten years!

As far as the OMDURMAN book project goes, Alston and I will meet in May in The Hague to work on a presentation we will make to the person who will sponsor the publication. Alston took many-many pictures, and felt the place, and captured the spirit of the earth with his mind and open heart. I am longing to see the pictures! Can you imagine how much will you love our work?

Mel has been in Texas since before Christmas and he is now in London doing business. I was sorry that he didn't see the new Alston I saw! He is so much more relaxed now, and easy going. - Mel, on the contrary is tense, sometimes abrupt, almost always worried, and either exhausted or in the process of getting exhausted. . . . I do search within myself on and on, asking how can I help him, and somehow my answers do not seem to say anything to his needs. . . . It worries me sometimes, the thought that perhaps Mel and I are walking in paths that are parting away from each other, and that our goals might be opposite.

This is clear at times of emotional communion, when not only reason counts, do you understand?

Dear Don, I love you and how much would I love to be with you again and again. How much do I need to have the emotional stimulation that CREATIVE people give without being aware of giving, without making an effort in doing it. . . .!

I feel today that I must keep my spirit high and my goals clear, and that I must conquer the barrier which lay now on my way. I am here near God, and getting more and more familiar with His work. Some day I will share with you my experiences in Omdurman, the village that gives peace and light to my earthly struggle for love.

I pray that you are well and that Chris is well too. Keep happy and busy, and have peace as you always did. My love goes to you. Ruby