

27th August 1973

Dear Mr. Rustomji,

This is a brief note to say how much I enjoyed reading your Enchanted Frontiers.

In teaching a course on 11 Plural Societies I am on an endless quest for new comparative material on minorities all over the world, and especially on how different governments handle these difficult situations. So, for my purposes, your excellent book was a mine of useful information; also, it was a great personal experience to share your adventures with you, because of your human warmth and honesty. How refreshing to find - after the many social science books that I have to read - one so free from pomposity and cant.

I would like to explain that I have a long time interest in this subject, beginning with my early days in South Africa, where I was born and '(; here I grew up Although I was a member of the dominant group - my father was a judge - I was keenly aware of the problems posed for the Africans and Asians. For some years I thought that I should stay in South Africa and work to alter things, but after the present Nationalist government came into power 25 years ago, I realised that this would be futile, and since then I have worked quite extensively in tropical Africa, coming to this country ten years ago I should mention that spent two happy years at your college - Christ's - at Cambridge, in 1947-49. I had rooms which must have been near yours, overlooking the first court, reached from the stairs near the buttry.

After leaving Cambridge, I did some graduate study of social anthropology at Oxford, then joined the Colonial Administrative service in Tanganyika, serving five years as a district officer and commissioner. I mention this because of the parallel with your own life, and also because in his course of my work, I had many dealings with minority ethnic groups I later spent four years at the University of Ghana having by then returned to anthropology from administration. Here again, I did my major field study of a "minority" group, and one that itself had a small stranger's community. Am in recent years I have been making some enquiries among Mexican-American farmworkers in California, another group that is separated by language and culture - and prejudice- from the mainstream of American life Pardon me for going into all these personal details, it was just that they might help explain why I am so enthusiastic about your book.

On another level, your book wakened in me old hopes of someday visiting your "enchanted frontiers". Perhaps this will be possible.

So, I thank you for sharing your views and adventures with me; it was a memorable experience.

Yours sincerely,

David Brokensha.