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answered
M. A. ANSARI 11/29/62
B $\frac{16}{55}$ Pandey Haweli,
Varanasi U.P. India

2nd Oct. 1962

- Meredith,

Congratulations on your successful admission in Mississippi University. A great many diversing ideas came to my mind when I went through the newspapers of today.

You would probably be worried why I address you so intimately. This is because we are young persons and you know young people often come closer to each other quickly and observe less of formalities. So it is with me. I don't know you much. Would you like to know about me?

I am a student of Banaras Hindu University. I am studying Metallurgy. I am 20, a boy. I am Mohammedan by faith. Reading short stories and newspaper, attending music programmes & film shows are some of my hobbies. I have seen Ben Hur, Solomon & Sheba, Psycho, Two Women etc. What are your hobbies?

I am very happy that you got admitted in Mississippi University. We have a lot of hurdles in life, but we have to face them boldly and bravely. It is pitiful that people who are educated and cultured as the students of a university like that of Mississippi behave like uncultured fellows. It is not their fault. It is the fault of the basic education that they are taught. You will find that colour has never been a bar in any religion, be it Islam or Christianity. Do you think that these people are rightful and justified in calling themselves as Christians? Christ never taught distinction. In fact agnostics are sometimes better than them. In Russia, they are mostly agnostics, but there you will not find a problem like this. I suppose if there would have been a lot of coloured persons in Russia, they would have solved this problem long before.

But this is surely not a defeat of religion. I myself am not an agnostic. I hate communism; but I hate this racial discrimination also. In fact these things hurt the very ideal of democracy. America stands for the democratic set up for the whole world, but her own people try to ruin and pollute their own democracy. Would you call it a democracy where a section of people should try to guide other persons on the basis of colour? Do you think that they are justified in pouring out a lot against Soviet Russia and Communist China and keeping mum in the case of South Africa? Well Mr. Meredith, if they are to fight communism; if they think that newly independent and under developed countries should not fall in the trap of totalitarian government, if they wish to save the principles of democracy in other countries of the world; they must correct themselves in their own respective country and set an example for it. I remember the great principles and ideals of our former President Abraham Lincoln lived and died. Today is the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

In fact Gandhi & Lincoln had many things in common. Lincoln was first to end slavery in U.S.A. and to give the definition "of the people, by the people and for the people." Gandhi was one who never distinguished people on the basis of race or colour.

I hope, as time passes, more and more people will realise and come forward to preserve the doctrines of these two great personalities.

Mr. Kennedy has written a page of History by helping your admission. I thank him because you are one of my colleagues. But it is not the government but the people who should do it.

Let us wait for the time to come when the people realise their duties. For such a time to come early, I suppose the idea of brotherhood and non-segregation should be taught from early childhood and for this the system of basic education should be ~~revised~~ overhauled.

You will find, in the class also, that some non-intelligent people try to misbehave but we don't care them. A time comes when we pass on and succeed and others misbehaving persons linger. Any way we should face all these boldly.

NOTE I hope you will answer me soon. Please write your hobbies. What subject will you study in the University? I shall be glad to have a photo of yours. I don't know your address except what I have written on the envelop. Let me see whether you receive this letter or not. Please write about your family. Let us keep it informal.

Your colleague hopefully

M. A. Ansari.

BY AIR MAIL

हवाई पत्र

AEROGRAMME

NO ENCLOSURES
ALLOWED

Mr. JAMES MEREDITH,

(The Newly Admitted Student)

MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY

U. S. A.

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Sender's name and address:-

M. A. ANSARI

B. 16/55 Pandey Howeli,

VARANASI - U.P. - India.

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