

14th March, 1954

CHIEF LUTHULI

It is a great opportunity for us to be here, but above all I must say it is so hard to express myself about the realisation that there are people all over the world representing various nations who give themselves to such an important work to the extent that they can go out of their way to meet us humble folks here as you have done today. When I met some of your people on Thursday and they told me you wanted to give an opportunity for us to see something of the team and one of the plays, as I was not able to come to Durban for certain reasons, I was touched then very much. As I said to them then I appreciated it but should you really go out of your way to that extent. They said we mean to have you see some of the things we are showing.

I must say that I am very much touched and I am quite sure that my wife and daughter and other friends who are with me here feel as I feel.

There is no doubt that the African Continent is awakening. We used to teach in the schools that our Continent was a dark Continent. It is still dark, but I always say now that there are so many other dark places in the world which are just about as dark as Africa. The paramount question is the question which the team tries to answer. When Africa does awake what direction will Africa take? This is a very important question.

Some of us fortunate people have been brought up under Christian influence. However, we are poor followers of the Master - shameful followers of the Master, but nevertheless one intensely believes in his own heart that the way in which Africa will be truly saved will be by the Christ way. There is no other way that Africa can be saved but by the Christ way. Other things are necessary no doubt.

I stand and work, through my deeply active life, for impressing upon the powers that be that Africans in this land ought to be given a better chance to lead than they do. This is partly the reason I cannot go to Durban at this time. That is necessary and that must be said, but that will not be the whole answer unless the people of Africa can be brought to follow the Christ way of life.

Certainly, friends, to come into contact with you as has been my pleasure and to meet members of the team coming to this house and to hear something of this programme, I must say we do appreciate it and are touched, and I do not know just what to say. I am also very grateful to our hostess having made it possible for us to be in these surroundings. Under the circumstances, I might say that I do not think I would have come under ordinary circumstances that are obtaining in this country. It is part of the MRA change that has taken place, but I still say I just wonder what her neighbours will think. I need not say much about that. It all goes to show what the Power of God can do. Under ordinary South African conditions it is a miracle. It is a miracle. I am personally grateful for this opportunity and one cannot help but pray that God will guide you by the principles for which you stand under the leadership of Dr. Buchman.

Words fail me to express what this afternoon has mean. I am very much touched. In our own language we have a saying that when words fail you "the departed must thank you". I have not got words to thank you so the departed must thank you.

We would like to sing our national anthem. These are the words:

God bless Africa.
May her glory shine up
O, Lord hear our prayers
God bless Africa.
Come spirit, come spirit
Come Holy Spirit, come Holy Spirit
and bless us.
God bless Africa.

We are glad that at any rate our National Anthem - what has become our National Anthem - does breathe within it something that carries us away from mere nationalism to the realisation that whatever we can do - not just in the spirit of our ancestors - can only come from the Almighty and the Holy Spirit. May that be the guiding spirit in Africa.