

22 East 8th St.

Nyc 10003

June 7, 1973

Dear Millie:

We have just returned from our little jaunt to Southern Spain. It was a very nice, restful yet interesting trip. It was the first so-called "tour" or "group" situation I've ever been in but that was all to the good since we were all "brothers" and "sisters".

I must re-assure you that the painting is just about finished, except for a few touches here and there. Also I'm a bit ahead of you, if I may say so, in regard to the skin coloration of Congo and his fellow captives. They are all quite black. I always realized that the color of the captives in the sketch were too red or too brown - which was untrue to the African blackness. So in developing the painting I portrayed all the captives as truly black, which you will readily see on receipt of the painting. Also,

Since the scene took place on a moon-
light night I have allowed the blue of such
a night to permeate the general color
scheme of the painting. Therefore these
flush colors are made to appear as
highlights on the blackish, reddish
colors of the skins of the captives. You
may recall in previous letters, or in the
issue where I mentioned that in the
final painting I would work toward
authenticity. So this is what I meant
authentic color, etc, etc. I have the feeling
that you will be pleased, as certainly, I am.
I hope to get it all shipped to you
some time next week, with frame, etc.
I want you to have it before your trip
to Africa. As I said before, I do so wish
I could go back there; Africa is my love!
But since the food, water, and general living
conditions create such a problem for my
ulcer-infected stomach, I just can't take
it. This is the case wherever I go abroad:
Mexico, the Caribbean, etc; anywhere!
you name it!

(3.) But please have a great trip, Willie!
I shall always remember the few
short days we saw each other in
Lapaia. Think of Ted and me, the
Island of Goree, etc.

Best love to you and Bob,
from Ted and me,
as always,
Hal

Via
Air Mail

#5



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