

A man of angelic appearance, extremely sweet in manners, a full idealist, but capable of dealing with reality and coldness from the right angle and not in a dreamy way, Sir Benegal is a man possessing the gift to surprise us when we least expect it. I do not wish to imply that Sir Benegal will solve a conflict which presents itself to many historical fates. It is not my purpose to give Brazil the hope that Sir Benegal may be able to bring peace and free us from the threats which are accumulating in Korea and China. But it is, indeed, a privilege to be able to put before the eyes of my countrymen such a beautiful expression of humanity, representing the highest and noblest human expression, indeed extremely human, the mirror of a culture many thousands of years old, which employs the language of the West in a better way than Occidentals do, because they do not possess the sense of eternity, of the everlasting. And it pleases me, in addition, to acquaint the Brazilian people with the fact that I work abroad in their name alongside Sir Benegal.

16. THE QUALITY OF HUMANNESS

Rau was very much pained at the use of the atomic bomb on humanity. While he was in the United States of America, he said in one of his speeches delivered at Philadelphia in October, 1950:

The atomic bomb is the greatest explosive force that we know in the physical world today. Yet, what starts this tremendous explosion is one single neutron—an infinitesimal, invisible particle which, acting as a kind of gun, first sets off two other guns and then each of these two sets off two others and so on, until there is a terrific force of almost earthshaking dimensions. What is true of the physical world is also true of the moral : there also we may have vast chain-reactions radiating from a single individual. One of the lessons which we may learn from modern science, therefore, is the importance of the infinitesimally small and, by analogy, the tremendous potential worth of the individual human person and the immense

value of individual freedom. If a single individual, organisation, or country can set in motion the right kind of idea, it may ultimately move the whole world.

He said in another place:

Let us consider for a moment man, not as an individual, but Man in the sum, Man with a capital M. The earth which he inhabits is a small planet revolving round an insignificant star (for that is what the Sun is)—so insignificant that if by any cosmic cataclysm it were to disappear, the event would not even be noticed from the remoter parts of our own galaxy, let alone the innumerable other galaxies in the Universe. On this planet, which is many millions of years old, Man is a very recent arrival, compared with other forms of life. His normal expectation of life is about 70 years. Thus on the purely physical plane, he is a mere speck in space and time. Most of his life is a struggle for existence, leaving little time for higher thought. And yet look at his achievements in the few thousands of years since civilisation began. ‘Perched precariously on this rotating speck of mud and water’ that we call the earth, Man, in the brief intervals of struggling to live, has by mere force of thought penetrated into the deepest mysteries of the Universe; has discovered the laws of the infinitely vast spaces around us as well as of the infinitely small world within the atom, and is now in the process of creating a miniature Sun that we call the hydrogen bomb. When we contemplate these truly wonderful conquests of external Nature, have we no reason for hoping that he will—before very long—discover the laws of his own well-being and learn to conquer himself rather than destroy himself? Surely, the end of all his labours could not merely be the destruction of the race.

17. ELECTION TO THE WORLD COURT (1951)

Rau was elected judge of the International Court of Justice in 1951-52 by the United Nations General Assembly. Justice Frankfurter wrote to him: “You are one of the people I have ever encountered who had a deep instinctive sense of