

0756.¹ MOZART TO HIS FATHER, SALZBURG

*À Monsieur / Monsieur Leopold de Mozart / maitre de chapelle de
S: A: R: / l'archeveque de et à / Salzbourg*

Vienne ce 5 de Juliet

*Mon tres cher Père!*²

1783

[5] We both thank you for the prayer which you sent up to God regarding my wife's successful birth. – Little *Raymund*³ looks so like me that everyone says so at once; – it is as if he were carved straight from my face, which gives my dear wife the greatest pleasure, since this is what she had always wished for herself. – [10] on the coming Tuesday now he will be 3 weeks old, and has grown amazingly. – Regarding the *opera*, you have given me advice which I had already given myself. – But since I like working slowly and reflectively, I believed it would not be possible for me to start too early.⁴ – Now an Italian poet here has brought me a book⁵ which I may perhaps take if he is ready to whittle it according to my thoughts. – [15] I do not doubt that we will certainly be able to travel in the month of September; – and you can no doubt imagine that both of us have no more ardent wish than to embrace both of you; but I cannot conceal from you, but must rather honestly confess, that I am being made so anxious by many people here that I can hardly talk about it; – you already know why;⁶ – [20] I can raise any objections I like, they reply: – Now, you will see, you <will not get away again>. – You would not believe <what this bad – malign prince⁷ is capable of >! – <Nor> do you know the <trickery> in such affairs. – I advise you – <meet with your> esteemed <father> in a <neutral place>. – You see, this is what has unsettled me and my wife up until now, [25] and still makes me fearful. – Often I think to myself, Ah, this cannot be true! Then, again, it occurs to me straight away that it could indeed be true, and that it would not be the <first injustice> that had been <perpetrated>. – *Basta!*⁸ – In this matter no-one can console me better than my own, best of fathers! – and I for my part would care very little about it, [30] I would be capable of coming to terms with everything – only – if I think of my wife – and my little *Raymund* – I can no longer be indifferent towards this! – Consider this well: – if you can give me an assurance that I am <not running a risk> – we will both feel more joy because of it – if not – we must think of ways – one would be my favourite! – [35] and I will write telling you of it |: after I have received a reply from you |:; – I believe that in order to enjoy a great pleasure – it is certainly also possible – to deprive oneself of something – even the greatest blessedness is, of course, not without blemishes – in the meantime I wish you well in every way – take care of your health – we both kiss your hands and embrace our dear sister from the heart and are, sir, [40] eternally your

most obedient children,

W: C: Mozart mp⁹

P.S. You should not cease to press *Varesco* on this account, who knows if the *opera* by the Italian poet will be to my taste. –

[45]

Adieu.

¹ This letter contains passages in "family code"; these are marked with angle brackets < >.

² = "To Monsieur Leopold de Mozart, Music Director to His Royal Highness the Archbishop of and in Salzburg. Vienna, this 5th day of July, 1783 / My very dear father!" ("de" adds before "Mozart" in the Viennese style).

³ BD: Raymund Leopold (17th June, 1783 – 21st August, 1783), Mozart's first child.

⁴ BD: It is not clear what Mozart intended to start on.

⁵ BD: Probably Lorenzo da Ponte's *Lo sposo deluso*. Mozart's composition (KV 430/424a) remained a fragment.

⁶ BD: Mozart is returning to the question of whether the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg might prosecute him.

(Cf. No. 0747/20 ff.)

⁷ "fürst".

⁸ = "Enough!"

⁹ mp = "manu propria" = "in his/her own hand".