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Dear Dr Joshi:

I have read with great interest your review of my book on GNR and I am very grateful to you for all your comments. You have been extremely generous in your remarks and I sincerely appreciate them. Allow me to comment on some of them.

First of all, if it is not too much of a trouble, I would appreciate receiving from you the names that are spelt wrongly, the names of students that were omitted, and how I have misinterpreted GNR's work on RAGA in the book. If there is going to be a second edition of the book I would very much like to make the corrections and make it as accurate as possible.

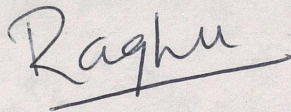
I agree with you about the cover page and the accompanying publisher's note. It came as a total surprise to me, but it was too late to do anything about it. I saw the finished version of the book just as I was leaving for India for the release of the book in January with 100 copies. I also agree with you that the analogy is 'atrocious'. But at the same time just as you felt that there was a "rather patronizing approach towards GNR in Bangalore" etc., the publisher, Rama Sarma (who by the way is no relation of mine nor was he scientifically associated with GNR) read the book and felt that GNR was unfairly treated in Bangalore. He felt that he had to somehow express it in the book. But I agree with you that it simply does not justify his analogies. It would have been better to print the triple helical structure and/or the Ramachandran plot on the cover page.

You commented that I have not written anything about my own work with GNR or my scientific interactions with GNR. I was an M.Sc. student for one year, taking courses in GNR's department and was a Ph.D. student for about five years, when the most exciting work in the Madras department was the stereochemical criterion. To talk about my own work would have been simply self-propaganda and self-fulfilling. I wanted to avoid that criticism. In fact there were several other students of GNR whose contributions had to be omitted because I felt they were not relevant in telling GNR's story. Some other readers of the book had pointed out the same comment to me before it was printed.

You correctly pointed out why some of my writing was “pedestrian...” and “banal...”, because I am NOT a professional writer. I undertook to write the book for all the reasons I stated in Bangalore. GNR was and is a very sick man and I wanted him to know that his biography is published. Unfortunately his wife was not alive to see the published book. There was indeed a bit of a rush to publish the book. I guess that does not quite justify mistakes in the book. I am truly sorry for any errors and I will make all efforts to correct them in any future editions. Please point them out to me.

Once again I appreciate your comments, I have sent a copy of your review to Rama Sarma, who may extract parts of it for any publicity material he may make. I hope we have your permission.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raghu". The signature is written in dark ink and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Raghupathy Sarma

PS: My email address is: rsarma@notes.cc.sunysb.edu