

Basavanagudi

Bangalore 4

4. 4. 52

Dear Dr. Coleman,

Mr. Krishayya told me that in a recent letter of yours to him, you had referred to me. It is very good of you to continue to remember me.

I have the happiest recollections of our association. I have not written to you for many years. There was nothing to write to you about.

It is now nearly 20 years since I retired and I have forgotten - and I am glad I have forgotten - most things relating to government service. But there are a few much cherished memories of that service and my friendship with you is one of the sweetest of these memories.

I am advancing in age, being now in my 76th year. Long life is for many persons like me a long misery. It is of course foolishness to think in this manner. One has no choice. My bodily health is tolerably good so far. I have had my share of the misfortunes of life and my mind, in spite of the best effort on my part, has not that peace which I value so much.

I understand you are busy as ever with your scientific work. To be occupied with some absorbing objective scientific work which makes one forget to some extent at least, the ills of life is the best course to follow. I have however no such occupation.

I do a lot of reading - literature and

and philosophy. Sanskrit literature, in particular, is for me  
a source of pure pleasure and much <sup>of my</sup> time is given to it.

But this kind of reading does not often give that detachment  
and peace of mind which the pursuit of some promising scientific  
problem, would, I think, give. But such pursuit is ~~however~~ denied  
to me.

India is now under what is called the Congress  
Government. The people had believed that independence and  
government of the country by Indians would make their lot better.  
They have, however, been much disillusioned. The administration of  
the country on the economic side is most unsatisfactory. Prices,  
specially those of the necessaries of life are frightfully high.  
Under the system of rationing and the allowance of insufficient  
quantities of food articles some people have not even enough to eat.  
Extravagance in public expenditure and ever-increasing taxes  
are other gifts of this government to the people.

There is a deplorable lapse in efficiency and  
purity of administration. Corruption in all ranks of service is  
rampant. No body seems to care for the suffering inflicted on the  
people by the degradation of the moral standards of administration.  
When we were in service we hardly heard anything about bribe-taking. There  
were perhaps a few cases of petty bribes taken by ill-kind officials. But the higher  
services were, I think, as free from this intolerable taint as any human institution  
could be now. However, the position is wholly different. Persons guilty of colossal  
corruption simply flourish.

I do not underestimate the value of independence which  
India has now attained but it is difficult to reconcile oneself  
to the many ills which have come with independence.

There is no use however in complaining. People get the government they deserve.

I trust you are keeping fit.

I am air-mailing this letter not because there is anything urgent or important in it. I am doing so only to show the pleasure I feel in writing to you -

With best regards,  
Yours sincerely,  
Hemanta Ran

BY AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION

Sr. Leslie C Coleman, M.A., Ph.D., C.I.E.  
2136 Ferndale Road,  
P.O. Box 5, Victoria.  
(Canada)

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Leslie C. Coleman, Esq.,  
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