

Science Association,  
210, Bowbazar St.  
Calcutta, September 25, 1942.

My dear Sir,

More than a week ago I wrote a letter to you but as I have not yet received any reply, I presume that it has been lost in transmission. I am writing this letter with the hope that I will receive an immediate reply.

My calculations are now practically complete. I want to start for Allahabad on Oct. 8, when the Association closes for the Pujas for about a month. I expect that you would be able to spare a few days for me at that time.

I went to Dacca about a fortnight back and saw Professor S.N.Bose. I had a talk with him about my work and future. He advised me to go to Allahabad during the ensuing holidays and get the thesis written by you. While at Dacca you also asked me to go to Allahabad for this purpose by the end of September.

I have seen Professor J.N.Mukherjee recently. I understand that there is no chance of my staying at the Association after the present term of my Fellowship is over in January next. In that case, I must have to go back to Midnapore however I may dislike it; but it will be very awkward to join my former post before submitting the thesis. I can have ~~have~~ no other chance of being absorbed elsewhere if I do not get the degree, nor can I approach to or wield any influence on persons in authority for any suitable post. You can easily realise that every thing now depends on the degree.

Hope you are well. Please accept my respectful 'pronams'.

Yours affectionately,

*Bhagawati*

Midnapore College  
Midnapore, Sept. 12, 1943.

My dear Sir,

I reached Midnapore on the 31st August and resumed duties on the 1st September. I ought to have written to you earlier, but this I could not do as I fell ill immediately on my arrival here.

I have been selected for appointment after that interview. Dr Jenkins, Prof M.N.Saha, Dr Kudrat-i-Khuda and the two Assistant Directors of Public Instruction were on the Committee. Twentyseven candidates were called for the interview including a few Muslims. The second and third nominations have been given respectively to Mr Fazlur Rahman, a Lecturer of the Dacca University and Mr Mohammad Alam who was temporarily appointed to this post. It was a tough competition, as all the candidates had first class M.Sc. degree and most of them had research and teaching experience. Your letter to Dr Jenkins must have had its desired effect. Dr Jenkins strongly very/supported me and ruled out the opposition of the three Muslim members of the Committee who wanted to appoint a Muslim giving me the second nomination. Prof Saha also supported my case:

I have been told by the A.D.P.I. that the vacancy is likely to occur at the Presidency College, Calcutta. He advised me to join the Midnapore College for the interim period till I got the letter of appointment.

My life till now has been full of blunders. The greatest of these has been that I often failed to see the wisdom of your counsel and guidance. I know I can never escape from the consequence of my mistakes. But if this frustrated life of mine ever again assumes a meaning, it will be wholly because of your good will and affection for me. As I look back upon the last two years, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude for all that you have so kindly done for me in spite of the heavy calls from other quarters upon your attention. I believe that your blessings will make my future struggles easier.

With respectful pronams, I am,

Yours affectionately,

*Bhagawati*

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS  
PRESIDENCY COLLEGE  
CALCUTTA

The 13<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1948.

My dear Sir,

I was advised by you to see Mr A. K. Chanda, Additional Secretary, Education Department, West Bengal, on my return to Calcutta. I thought it advisable to make an appointment with him in this regard. So, I wrote to him with a synopsis of my qualifications. In the mean time Mr. Humayun Kabir, Joint Educational Adviser, Govt. of India, whom I saw in New Delhi, addressed a letter to Mr Chanda requesting him to find an opening for me in Bengal, and this I learn from the letter Mr. Kabir wrote to me. On 11<sup>th</sup> last, I received a letter from Mr Chanda that it would not be possible for him to do anything for me. To apprise you of the contents of the letter, I am giving an English rendering of its relevant portions.

" I have heard people

speaking highly of your scientific researches but probably you do not know that as things stand at present in Bengal, my recommendations — and I have been shorn of all powers of appointment — do more harm than good. Realising fully my helpless position, I wrote to Mr Humayun Kabir asking him to use his influence in securing a place for you in the National Institute of Science. As far as I can see, there are only very meagre chances of the proper appreciation of your achievements by the Education Department in Bengal. It would be unfair of me to hold out false hopes to you and hence this my frank admission."

I regret to disturb you again regarding the paper you so kindly consented to revise. I believe you have taken the work in hand and am keenly expecting it.

With profound regards, I am,  
Yours affectionately,  
Bhagawati