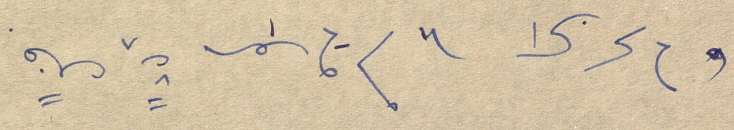


D. Krishnan

Friends,

I feel deeply touched by the very kind, warm and generous sentiments expressed by my distinguished colleagues and friends. When I read the address I was reminded of an episode in the Ramayana. Since I have been given ~~the~~ credit to a weakness for the Classics, I shall start with a little indulgence in that weakness. When Dasaratha announces that he has decided to instal his son in the Yuvarajya, there was a thunderous applause. In fact the audience, the Rishi says that, made such a noise that the towers were just shaking and the father was naturally very happy that they responded so generously to his proposal. But there was also a feeling that all that probably shows he is going to retire and he is going to, at least the people would probably wish him to retire from the way they enthusiastically responded to his proposal. When I read all that reference to my *close* association with the laboratory, I had almost a feeling that though I had not decided it has been decided that I should retire sometime from the laboratory. That has

also been my wish for quite sometime and I have expressed it repeatedly, ^{to} ^e ~~not retiring~~ from the laboratory side of it, but to be able to do science whole of the time. I hope it will be possible for me to indulge in that weakness too.

I do not remember, Sir, of having spoken about Mahatmaji. ^c ~~Beause~~ I fight shy of a great subject. But occasionally when I expound ~~the~~ Ramayana to some of the audiences, I emphasize that the great and noble ideals for which the Father of the Nation ~~ai~~ stood were also ~~the~~ ideals expressed in some of the chapters of the Ramayana and there is such a resemblance to the 

and naturally I would like to find deep roots for ^o these noble ideals in some of the classics in which many of us have been brought up so as to feel quite at home with those ideals. You, Sir, referred to the lives of the Curies. I cannot think of any parallel in physics to a generation, to a family, of physicists like that of the Curies. I will have to ^{step out} ~~stoop down~~ to

mathematics, to the great tradition established by the many *Bernaulis*. Once in the course of a mathematics lecture, I referred to the seven great *Bernaulis* ~~Brainies~~. One of the members in the audience, who later turned out to be a very good mathematician, was a little sceptical >

He told me later and he looked up the literature and

then he ~~told~~ ^{wrote to} me ~~that~~ ["] there have been as many as

fourteen *Bs* who had held at least *distinguished*

*C*hairs in *M*athematics, if all of them had not contributed

to *M*athematics in an original way. In fact it is

definitely a case of heredity. ^{*Because*} One of them

forbade ^{*ade*} his son from doing mathematics and threatened to

disinherit him if he discovered him doing mathematics,

because he was doing ^{*it*} stealthily and the father had a

little suspicion and finally the tragedy was this. The

son had competed for a prize offered by the French

Academy of Science ^{*at*} ~~S~~ Paris, in which the Father also was a

competitor. ^{*d*} The son won the prize and ^{*sent out of the house*} He was actually

disinherited. In physics, the Curies remind me of the

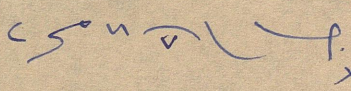
Bernaulis, though it was only two generations, but there are

four of them who ^{*have*} ~~made~~ made history and it is no wonder

that the life of Madame Curie had such a fascination for

our distinguished President ~~that~~ he undertook ~~to~~
 translate^{ing} the life. In fact she was interested, apart
 from science, in doing work for her country and she came
 to Paris ^{partly} purely with the view of doing some political
 work and she came with a letter of introduction from
 Mandeleef, one of the greatest ~~of~~ scientists the world
 has ever produced, the greatest in Russia, and she
 came to join Beck^{over}man in the early days. Finally
 she shifted to Professor Curie and Prof. Curie was one
 of those who seriously believed that no woman can
 turn out to be a good scientist and that was the irony
 and he married her and she was regarded, if not a greater
 physicist, at least a physicist certainly comparable
 with ^{the} ~~her~~ husband.

In the address there was a reference to Leonardo

DaVinci I do not know from where they got 
 It is true of course. Once at a brains trust in America,
 I mentioned that the great Lord Rayleigh ^{probably} ~~probably~~ was the
 last of the "complete physicists" and someone asked me "Who
 do you think was the last complete mathematician." I said
 probably Poincare. Someone ^{asked the of "who was} ~~asked who~~ is the complete

scientist. I hesitated and said probably Helm ^hHoltz

and then a distinguished member in that group almost

~~dissent~~ ^{so I had to justify the choice} ~~and so I had justified the choice.~~ He

started as an army surgeon, ^{he was one of the most} ~~anatomist,~~ distinguished

held the chair of anatomy in Berlin and later held the

chair of physiology

Probably

h) e.p.

[Handwritten scribbles and notes, including "Holtz" and "H's"]

He also wrote papers on the foundations of geometry, I am

just trying to find out ^{whether} if I have omitted any major

branch which he did. Even after ^{I had} ~~citing~~ all that,

Oppenheimer who was in that group

" ^{shd} I would go a little further back to Leo ^Nardo Da Vinci "

and he ^{then} said, Helm ^Holtz did not do engineering. I said

" certainly I agree. "

I did not want to go that far back to a period when one

could be a complete scientist ^{and} would reserve Leonardo

for a complete man

The range of subject that he covered was amazing
and in each one of them he was so eminent, and
so original and such a great leader and I am glad
his name was mentioned.

If I may be permitted to shift to a lighter
subject, when I drank the vodka, I knew of course
it was vodka, though it looks like water there is
no mistaking it. One of the audiences I remember
mentioned 'Ah, we ^{used to} ~~of course~~ know about a man in the Balkans
~~who~~ could do that. He could drink straight
from the bottle. But that lead to a reputation at the
table, which landed me in having to propose a toast
to the Ballerina ^{of} Galena Mullenova. That was at an
academy dinner where ^{my friend Bhabha} ~~the Ballerina~~ was present

If it was a toast at the Academy Dinner for
Mulenova, naturally I have to find some relation
between the Academy and Mulenova and so I
remembered Boltzmann. In Vienna, he got into
disfavour with the Emperor and he was externed
from Vienna. Naturally his friends and
colleagues at the Academy were very unhappy.
One evening they found the Emperor in the Royal
Box at the Ballet ^{and the} of Pulenova was a favourite
Ballerina of his. He obviously looked very
pleased and the few Academicians who happend
to be there and who noticed it, thought that that
was a suitable occasion to put in a word to the
Emperor on behalf of Boltzmann. They went on
deputation to the Emperor and said "Your Imperial
Majesty, what is your favourite Ballerina is to
you Boltzmann is to the Academy." The Emperor
was very pleased and he asked them "Is Boltzmann
that good?" When they said it was, the Emperor
replied "Surely, you ought to have him" and that
led to Boltzmann coming back to Vienna and his

activities at the Academy.

That afternoon we had been talking about the establishing relations between the scientists of USSR and India and I said the easiest thing to achieve this objective is to send the Ballerina to India and I have already assured her if she comes to India four hundred million admirers, which Russia certainly cannot provide

When Dr Bhabha referred to the high table naturally by association of ideas with the Vodka, I feel that I have enjoyed life certainly. There is fun in it, and a good deal of fun in it and when I had an heart attack, that was a year ago, I had admitted, only a fortnight back, a friend of mine to the hospital for a similar attack and so I had read some literature and I knew all about it and I diagnosed it as the heart though there was hardly any pain. The books described it as one of the most dreadful feeling^s you are always aware of death

I was aware of death and it was not a terrifying experience. That was what I found. If the end is to come, probably this is the happiest way I would like it to happen and I was most happy it was the heart. I am merely mentioning when one enjoys life, one also enjoys equally well having had his innings to retire. I would like to retire in the most gently, most useful manner. That is my wish, but till I retire, I would like naturally to be associated with the NPL, not necessarily as the Director, and if the future Director would permit me, I would like to spend whatever time I can spend actively in the NPL.

Thank you