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J.N., award function
→ IN audit of JNML

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Shrimathi Sonia Gandhi, Dr. Alexander and Members of the Award Committee, I am grateful to you for this Honour.

I owe much to my wife and children for their support and love. I also warmly thank colleagues at IISc., ISRO/DOS and Raman Research Institute. They have helped me in many ways.

Indira Gandhi and Rajiv lost their lives serving the country.

India's greatest contribution to world culture is the ideal of Ahimsa – Non-violence and selfless service.

Buddha and Mahavira in the ages past and Mahatma Gandhi and Mother Theresa in recent times have preached and practiced this ideal.

The contribution of the West is the Scientific Method. This was not completely unknown in Ancient India, as Aryabhata, Bhaskara and Sushruta demonstrated.

In recent times Jawaharlal Nehru was the foremost votary of Science and the Scientific Temper. He actively supported the formation of many scientific institutions, scientists and industries throughout India.

He urged the people of India to make 'Friends with Science' so that Hunger and Poverty could be banished from the land.

In the vicissitudes of a changing world, human beings live by their values along with the physical necessities to support life. Thus the Ethical and the Material aspects mingle and the particular forms this Amalgam takes, distinguishes the people.

Indians differ from the Chinese as also from the Japanese. The Europeans differ from the Americans – However all of us belong to the Human Race and in a real sense everyone must solve the same problems of existence.

India today is a Billion people – more than a third of this number – Men, Women and Children – still struggle for existence. No Indian can disown a share in this shameful state of affairs. Scientists, Technologists, Economists and Politicians – all of us collectively bear a part of the guilt.

The Scientists and Educators must move out of their “Ivory Towers” and sensitize themselves to the problems of the poor in our Cities and Villages.

They will find the Rag Pickers and the Urban Slum Dwellers as well as the Hungry Villagers to be extraordinary Human Beings. They do all the work on which all the Professionals thrive. And they can still smile! The corruption in Public life which everyone deploras seems to have by-passed them!

The Scientific Problems of understanding the Weather and Earthquakes, OR how to produce and use Energy in a non-polluting way and how to sustain the Forests, Soil and Plants for All forms of Life – provide us complex and exciting challenges. There is enough to do for all of us!

The Human Condition is one of perpetual change. Science and Society do not stand still - Existing problems of India can be solved – but each solution will throw up other problems and issues: that is the message of Life. We have to learn to face it together.

Once a Buddhist Monk said to Richard Feynmann, the physicist: “To every person is given the KEY to the GATES OF HEAVEN. The same KEY also opens the GATES OF HELL”. Everyone has to learn how to use the KEY.

Modern India has to evolve a shared NATIONAL IDENTITY:

- INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM
- SOCIAL JUSTICE
- FREEDOM from STARVATION
- NON-VIOLENT PROTEST AGAINST TYRANNY
- SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVITY AND RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

These are the VITAL INGREDIENTS for building the INDIA of our Dreams.

JAI HIND

S. Dhawan
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New Delhi