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18 January 1974

Dr. Krishna Bahadur  
68 Dilkusha  
New Katsa, Allahabad-2  
India

Dear Dr. Bahadur:

This is in reply to your letter of 25 December 1973.

I am willing to respond in the hope that wrongs can be partly, if belatedly, righted. Let me say that I have remembered you through these last ten years as one I liked personally, but whose actions I deplored. I feel that you wronged yourself and me, in different ways, and that the most harm you did was to the science of the origin-of-life by the use of unsupported claims. Your letter suggests that you continue to blame others instead of the one who could have done the most for you and who has done the most to you-yourself.

At no point did I disagree that proteinoid microspheres grow, multiply by budding, and metabolize. We have believed in these and many other properties since 1958, you claimed these three on your own without adequate evidence (this is why I did not want my name on the paper you put together and sent to me), and we have obtained rigorous evidence for these properties and a whole lot more in addition. The basic question is one of evidence solid enough to publish. There are some who believe that the problem of the origin of life, therefore original life, not contemporary life, is already "cracked" by the proteinoid systems. It has not been at all surprising to me, then, that your particles resemble proteinoid microspheres. That's what some of them are; the crucial properties reside in proteinoid microspheres.

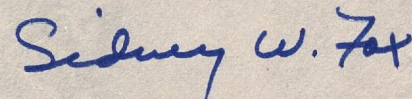
A number of Indian biochemists and biologists have in the past taken the initiative in contacting me about the relationship between you and me, and I was also invited to the international convention of biochemists in Bangalore in 1967. From scientists there I have learned that some of your work was harshly criticized before you came to Tallahassee. Since then, others have extended to me their sympathy based only on what they have read in the literature, which they interpret as intellectual larceny on your part.

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I believe that your conscience must bother you, whether you examine the facts closely or not. For the sake of your own conscience and for the sake of the science, I would hope you would publish papers that correct your misstatements of the past, and that make clear that you learned about microspheres in our laboratory. Practically everyone I have listened to recognizes that fact anyway; some object to your failure to cite our work, as in the Barcelona paper. Accordingly you can gain, but not lose, by belatedly stating the truth.

With associates in our laboratory, what they do on their own is theirs, what I do is mine, and what we do together is ours. With almost no exceptions, my associates and I agree on what is to be done and where and how to publish. You propose that you come here and that whatever you do will be mine. As I understand such words, I have to reject that completely.

Sincerely,



Sidney W. Fox

SWF:dm

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Dear Dr. Fox,

Thank you for your letter. I am herewith sending a reprint of the paper in the Journal of Agra University. It answers the points raised by you. I think this clarifies our misunderstanding.

My feelings for you had always been warm<sup>th</sup> and it pains me to think that you harbour such ideas about me. I can not imagine committing any type of larceny intellectual or otherwise. My conscience is quite clear and gives me no trouble at all (in fact my renewing our correspondance was only because of this.)  
With my best regards

Yours sincerely

Krishna Bahadur

1.2.74.

(You knew of my researches <sup>even</sup> before you wrote me the first letter to me. If there were any 'harsh criticism' you ought to have heard about that even before your Indian friends fed you with this.)

You must also be knowing that this is  
a ~~statement~~ not strictly true.