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Dr. B. V. Sreekantan
TATA Institute of Fundamental Research
National Center of the Government of India
for Nuclear Science and Mathematics
Homi Bhabha Road,
Bombay 400 005, INDIA

Dear Sreekantan:

Thirty years have passed since I first met you. You were then a young man, just starting on his scientific career. None of us had known you before your arrival at M.I.T., but soon you were to gain our respect and our affection as we began to appreciate your remarkable scientific potential and your engaging personality. Unfortunately, health problems cut your visit short. Nevertheless, you succeeded in absorbing most of whatever information of scientific interest our group had to offer; information which, as I understand, you put to use upon your return to your country.

You came back to M.I.T. ten years later, this time as a mature physicist, whose extensive research work, particularly in the field of cosmic ray air showers, had won wide recognition. I would like to think that this second visit was again profitable to you. It was certainly very profitable to our group because of your active and most effective participation in our research program. I remember, in particular, your role in the experiment which led to the optical identification of the x-ray star Sco x-1, a landmark in the history of x-ray astronomy.

In later years, your standing among the scientists of your country became increasingly prominent, so that eventually you were named to the very important position of director of the Tata Institute. As your friends, we rejoice at this well deserved recognition of your merits, while, selfishly, we regret that, because of your heavy duties, very little of your time has been left for our personal contacts.

Sincerely,

Bruno Rossi