

From
P.S.Narayana Iyengar,
Secretary,
Bank of Alagapuri Ltd.,
Kilasavalpatti Post.
Ramanahapuram Dist.

25 NOV 1958
10.4
To
Dr.K.S.Krishnan,
New Delhi.

Dear Mr.Krishnan,

I come to know that Your 60th Birth day falls on the 7th December 1958. I know it will be celebrated in a most fitting manner. As a token of honour regard and respect due to a great man, I am herewith sending a paper "My remnicences of Dr.K.S.Krishnan's early life" for publication in the local daily there. Please go through the paper to make such alteration as you desire before sending the same to the press.

In this connection Mr.S.V.Chari of the planning Commission New Delhi will call on you for consultation.

Kindly do the needfull on this behalf.

Expecting your reply!

I remain.

Your ever loving friend

P.S. Narayana Iyengar

"My Reminiscences of Dr. K.S. Krishnan's early life"

(By P. S. Narayana Iyengar).

I ardently desire if I may, that life to wise like our Dr. K.S. Krishnan should be long for the simple reason that their unparalleled eminence in bringing to light the hidden secrets of Nature ~~are~~ ^{is} greatly beneficial to mankind. Our country does not lag behind in producing wisemen whose name and fame have already spread throughout the world. Among the wise that top the list are Mahatma Gandhi, the embodiment of patriotism, Tagore, the poet Laureate of India, and Dr. Ramanujan, the Newton of India who have all gone to the grave for their eternal rest after hard and arduous toil for the sake of our country. Though the great men have departed, they have left behind them footprints on the sands of time. And the great men who now shed their light on the multitude are continuing the good work of their predecessors. Among the living great are Dr. Radhakrishnan the philosopher, Mr. Nehru, the Statesman, Dr. C.V. Raman and Dr. K.S. Krishnan, the twin physical scientists and Dr. Baba, the nuclear scientist who are serving our country and who have readily responded to the nation's call. Each is great in his own sphere. Now, the occasion has arisen to mention all these names by way of introduction to "My reminiscences of Dr. K.S. Krishnan's early life".

It seems his 60th birthday falls on the 7th December 1958. I presume that the dear and memorable occasion will be commemorated in a most befitting manner by his associates in New Delhi. An inner voice tells me "Look here! Mr. N. ~~profuse~~ ^{profuse} presents will be ~~pouring~~ ^{pouring} forth on that eventful day. Are you not one of his intimate friends? Does he not possess your esteem? Should you not do something as a token of honour, regard and respect for the great man?

It is true that you are away thousands of miles from New Delhi. But can you not bridge the distance and lay bare your love for the greatman in a fitting manner". It is in answer to the call of the inner voice that I have made bold to write these few lines giving my impressions of our past association which I have cherished for well nigh ⁵46 years.

Watrap is a little village at the foot of the Western Ghats in the extreme south of India. It is 12 miles by road from Srivilliputhur a taluk centre and a place of pilgrimage in Ramnad District. It is very fertile with luxuriant growth of rich vegetation, surrounded by wild mountain scenery. In that lovable village, an orthodox Brahmin and a Sanskrit Scholar lived a life of piety in action and purity in thought. He is widely known as "Karumenicka Vathiyar". He was a stranger to poverty, vanity and pride. Virtue was his friend and vice was his enemy. He never failed to discharge his karma of "Agnihothram and Upasam". As a result of his piety, nearly 60 years ago a child was born to him, the source of his unlimited pleasure and unbounded joy. As a father, he did at the proper time "Namakarana, Jathakarana, Annaprasana, Choula and Upanayanam". "As unto the bow the chord is, so a wife is unto a man". Long Fellow. A mate for Life was selected ~~at~~ at a very early age long before the child Marriage Restraint Act was passed. This child who has now grown into an angust personality, is our Dr. K.S. Krishnan.

Our Dr. K.S. was taught in the little local school to read, to write and to do sums in Arithmetic. He inherited the rich legacy of Sanskrit and the power to argue

in matters concerning philosophy such as origin of existences, the necessity for evil, the doctrine of birth etc.

At a later stage, he successfully advanced powerful arguments in the matter of idol worship with Mr. E.M. Flint the then Prof. of Physics in the American Collage. His adversory was vanquished in argument. Without admitting his defeat, he went on arguing like the "Village School master".

Let me return to the subject proper. His studies were over and he passed his III Form. When he was a boy, he had an attack of small-pox which had set its mark with more than usual severity. He came to Srivilliputhur for his secondary education. He joined the IV Form in the Hindu High School which was ruled by the famous Headmaster, Sri S. Krishna Iyengar well known as the

Arnold of Srivilliputhur. His ^{skill}~~skill~~ in the art of ruling an institution is unrivalled. Our Dr. K.S. was guided by him. It is here I came in contact very closely with him. His precocious talent was patent even then. I was attracted towards him even as an iron filing to a magnet. Our intimacy grew. He had a very strong memory. He was industrious. He always stood first in the class. His calligraphy was legible and fair, though tiny. He practiced free hand drawing. I questioned him about his purpose in such practice. He replied that he aimed to be an Engineer. Contrary to his own expectations he is a new scientist of International reputation. In the VI Form, there was in the course of the 2nd term a competition examination in general English. All the students of the V and VI forms took part in it. The questions were a

paraphrase, a precis writing and an essay. No choice was then given. We had also to answer three out of five questions expanding into a paragraph the idea contained in a given proverb. The papers were valued. I got 16 marks out of 30 while our ^{or} K.S. got only 15 and 16 was the first. Our Headmaster Mr. S.E. ^{Krishna Jyengar} doubted very much how ^{or} K.S. stood as second. He again went through the two papers and said "First rate answer should have both matter and style. Matter is the right eye and style is the left eye. Where there is matter there is always the style". He returned the papers saying that ^{or} Krishnan's answers had style, but no matter. Therefore he stood second. Our Headmaster was very fond of him and he gave much encouragement to him. It is not so easy to get through an examination in the old system of Education. The teachers were able and sincere. The old order changed and it gave place to new one. One cannot but laugh at the present system of education.

Question:- Read carefully the following passage
and answer the questions:

Passage:- Rama, King of Ayodhya went to Lanka and
killed Ravana

Question:- Who went to Lanka?

Answer:- Rama went to Lanka

Question:- By whom Ravana was killed?

Answer:- Ravana was killed by Rama.

Question:- Who was Rama?

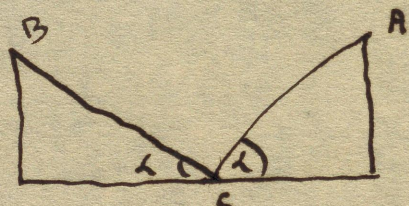
Rama was the King of Ayodhya. The boy gets
95 per cent in English and his father is very proud of him.

(the boy)
He is considered as a Milton. We never got marks ^{above} ~~about~~ 60 per cent in these days. Our ^{Dr} Krishnan is a man of real merit and he stood first in S.S.L.C. Our ^{Dr} K.S. is a gamster and tennis is his favourite game. He enthusiastically used to play cards and was an expert in Bridge. He used to be laughing whether he gained or lost. He was never offended or irritated. Rich as he is, he is neither extravagant nor lavish. But he is obliging to others.

Our H. M. used to arrange many pleasure trips either to "Charcambarsai", a water fall at the foot of the western Ghats or to "Neeratha IyanagaKoil", a place where elephants and calves are to be found in plenty. Forest Officer's Bangalore was our abode. There is a grove near the water-fall where we used to have our sumptuous dinner. These were spacious days when all of us - boys - lived lives of unadulterated joy and happiness.. The summer vacation came to a close and the S.S.L.C., result was out. Our ^{Dr} K.S. secured the highest number of marks to the entire satisfaction of our H.M. I and several of my friends joined the American College while ^{Dr} K.S. had an idea of joining the Christian College at Madras. At this time, his father died and the responsibility rested upon his shoulders. The funeral obsequies were all done as a son to the father. He could not get a seat in the Christian College. One month after the reopening of the College, ^{Dr} Krishnan came to Madura and Mr. Zumbro, the then Principal of the American College gave him seat in Group I. After some time, the Principal gave him a merit-scholarship. He lived in the hostel and without wasting the time, he studied diligently. I was his

co-worker in several experiments both in physics and chemistry. The precision and the quickness with which the experiments were done were simply admirable. I cannot but recall one or two incidents wherein he displayed his shrewdness eliciting our unstinted admiration and wonder. Once we did an experiment, if I remember right, on copper salt. I well remember the result. It was cuprous solution. The direction given was to leave the solution for some time in the open air and note the change in colour. At first it was colourless and then it turned blue. After recording the observation, he wrote in the inference column that cuprous ^{ion was} ~~ion~~ is colourless and cupric ^{ion} ~~ion~~ is blue in colour. Such was his talent even in the early College days.

On some other occasion he was telling me that Part II of the First Law of Motion could be proved in a way. Two inclined planes of the same length and height be taken and arranged as shown in the adjoining figure:



The planes have a smooth surface of glass. A marble ball is taken and placed at rest at the top 'A' and then it is released. It comes to C with a ^{acceleration} velocity of $\sqrt{g \sin L}$. This velocity is enough to the ball up the plane CB and to the same height. The ball comes to rest at the top B. Then it comes down with a ^{acceleration} ~~velocity~~ of $\sqrt{g \sin L}$. Thus if one can imagine that the plane is frictionless and if it is covered by a bell-jar the marble ball will be going up and down for a pretty long time. This part (11) of the First Law of motion could be proved. I do not know how this ingenious method of proving the Law of Motion, struck ^{2 part of 1st law} Krishnan. In none of the standered books have

I noticed this method of proof. In that year he carried away all the prizes i.e., G.P. 2nd Language, English and the 1st Group. The difference in marks between the 1st and the 2nd was immense. Yet, the Principal refused to give him all the prizes and he asked our ^{Dr} K.S. to choose 2 out of 4 prizes so that it might not be discouraging to other Christian students. He did so magnanimously without saying a word though he could have claimed all the prizes as a matter of right. The District surgeon, Major ^{Dr} Ganapathi Rai who presided over the function, distributed the prizes. Thus the period of two years passed and the University examination came to an end. The result was out. The University of Madras was not pleased to give him a First Class. He got 1 mark less below the minimum fixed for 1st class. Here too our happiness was unabated. We missed no music parties. Pushpavansam was a musician of great eminence. Our ^{Dr} K.S. has a very good taste for music though he himself could not sing. He is an admirer of good music. Pushpavansam could sing at the top of his voice with such a sweet melody that all of us were greatly attracted. His voice still rings in my ears. I help our ^{Dr} K.S. to recollect ~~our~~ ^{our} pleasure trip to Anaimalai, a single granite rock 300 feet high. There exists a temple, the rock being carved and God Narasimha has been installed. It is 6 ~~miles~~ ^{miles} from Madura. We started from Madura after purchasing some vegetables in the market at Madura for our mid-day dinner. The temple Archaka was obliging and we had princely dinner after our bath in the Periyar channel which runs nearby. After rest, we ascended up the hill at 3 P.M. The ascent is a dangerous one. We reached the top. After having surveyed the pleasant and picturesque scenery we talked of this and that, in friendly

discourse and get down the hill by the tail end and reached the Periyar channel near by. It was 5.30 P.M. and we had our tamarind feed for supper. From there we marched along the road to Thirumohur, a sacred place of pilgrimage 2½ miles due east of Anaimalai. We all worshipped the Almighty God, Kalamoga Perumal and took our night lodge in a small cottage. Since mosquitoes were very active, none of us could sleep. At 2 A.M., one of our friends asked us to start for Madura, saying that the day had dawned. At dead of night we walked along the road mechanically half a sleep and half awake. Fear was not known then and we cared not for reptiles. Our ^{Dr} K.S. and ^{Late Mr. A. Ramaswami} his cousin brother stealthily separated from us went forward under the protection of shades of trees that stood by along the road and frightened us by pelting small stones on us. One of our friends took them as robbers and he actually fell into a fever the very next day as a result of fright. I well remember our ^{Dr} K.S. had a book on chemistry by Alexander Smith with him. ^{At} ~~the~~ the height of jokes, he left his book in a field nearby and we all came to the College early in the morning at about 5 A.M. It was only then Dr. K.S. recollected that he had left his chemistry book in the field. He returned to the place where he had left the book and came back again to his room. It is a touching incident which I cannot forget. I think ^{Dr} ever K.S. too remembers the incident this day. We had such other incidents and our life in the College was boisterous. Our leader was ^{Late} Mr. A. Ramaswami Dr.'s cousin brother, a brilliant and intelligent though a lazy young man. The University examination ended and we all went to our native village. The University result was out and both of them joined the Christian College while

I was held back because of my failure. Thus our separation began.

I do not know much about his activities at Madras. Whenever he came to Watrap, I used to meet him and spend one or two days with him. On one occasion we had a walk to the Tamarind Toppe adjoining his native village. We carried with us some sweet meat (Laddu). We had to cross a peppermint^{mt}-shop and its owner was very well known to him. Fearing that the shop keeper would share our Laddu, our K.S. played a trick. He applied to the shopman for some peppermints to eat as if he had nothing to eat on his way. He gave us a handful and we marched triumphantly to the Toppe and then returned home in the evening. It is pleasing to contemplate how even great men are but men and are not free from human imperfections.

B.A. examination result was out and to my horror, I found his number was in the part. Was he bad then in English? Certainly not. Here I stop without going into the details of his failure. Professor Maffet fought for our K.S. even with Macardney the then English Professor. Much depressed, he came to Watrap and remained there for some time. There was a local lower secondary school. The post of the Headmaster was vacant. He applied for the post. Here he had a rival Mr. Thirunarayanan a full graduate., who also applied at the post saying that he was a full graduate. But the school Committee, knowing Dr. 's intellectual superiority, confirmed the post upon him. He discharged his duties there for one or two months. Then

a change came in.

He had a call from Professor Maffet to go over to Madras immediately. He resigned his post of Headmaster at Watrap and proceeded to Madras to meet Prof. Maffet. Rejecting the application of a full graduate to the post of Demonstrator in the Christian College, he (Prof. Maffet) appointed ^{Dr} Mr. K.S. ~~to~~ to the post ^{amidst} ~~of~~ orthodox opposition.. He held his post efficiently to the extreme satisfaction of his God-father and in that year he became a full graduate. He continued there ~~for~~ another year. I was with him there for 3 months in Linga Chetty street to make my last and final attempt to get through the examination. At this time, he had applied ^{for} ~~for~~ a seat in the M.Sc. Class of the Calcutta University. Meanwhile a post was vacant at the Kodaikanal Observatory and Professor Maffet very strongly recommended ^{Dr} K.S. and the Government appointed him. His clothes suited to the cold climate were ready and he was about to join his duty. The man who was working at Madras Observatory became his rival and he claimed a preference on merits of service. Professor Maffet advised ^{Dr} our K.S. to ^{accept} the post at Madras. It was then he received a Letter from Calcutta University that they had provided him a seat in the M.A. Class. He proceeded to Calcutta and joined the M.A. Class rejecting the post at Madras Observatory. Like a stubborn warrior with a definite aim of life, he began his arduous ^{task} at Calcutta. He took up his abode in No.14 Bow Bazaar Street where he hurried himself in deep study. Here he came in contact with Sri C.V.Raman, one of the greatest scientist of the World., who ^{perceived} ~~perceived~~ his greatness in the field of

accept

science. A greatman alone can recognise another great man. They had frequent visits and as a result our ^{Dr} K.S. received much encouragement. Noticing the marvellous ability of ^{Dr} K.S. ^{Dr} C.V. Raman asked him to join the Research Institution. ~~S.S.~~ ^{Dr. K.S.} hesitated a little and overcoming a desire to become a full-fledged M.A., of some University, he joined the Research Institute. He began to specialise the subject of light - wherein the scope was very great. I was told that he had taken "the subject of scattering of light in liquids, crystals and amorphous powder. He worked for a pretty long time and one maiden paper of his was read at the Science congress held at Bangalore. It seems that one of the scientists enquired whether he was a chemistry man. The answer was in the negative. Afterwards he published several papers jointly with Sri C.V.Raman and the papers were circulated to all scientists of the World. Many scientists came to know him. His name and fame steadily grew. I received several of his papers and I particularly remember one paper i.e., "whether *gaseous molecules* oscillate in a magnetic field?" The theory of Glacier, the German scientist was proved erroneous. I was not a little proud of my old friend's success and prosperity and I often prayed for his long life and happiness.

When he was at Calcutta, it was advertised in foreign papers that a Reader for ^{Decca} ~~Calcutta~~ University was wanted. A special Committee was appointed to select a person. Many merited scientists of high qualifications appeared before the Committee for ^{Dr} viva-voce examination and our ^{Dr} K.S. with his simple B.A. degree also appeared before the Committee.

The Chairman of the Committee was rather thunderstruck at the extraordinary ability of our ^{Dr} K.S. and bewildered at his ready and correct answer. The Reader post was conferred upon him with the remark "He is head and shoulders above the rest, but no accademical qualification" M.Sc., D.Sc., degrees, F.R.S. and Knighthood came to him of their own accord.. His papers attracted many scientists such as Lord Rutherford of England and Prof. Hazenburgh of Germany. Lord Rutherford invited him to England to stay 1 month at Oxford and some 10 days at Cambridge where a series of Lectures were delivered and his real merits came to light. I received a Letter from Aden where he spent a few hours on his way to England, ^{informing me the purpose of his visit} He visited France and attended the Science Congress at Paris with Lord Rutherford. The President of the Congress paid a warm tribute and encomium without knowing that our ^{Dr} K.S. was also present. After the meeting, ^{Lord Rutherford} ~~he~~ introduced our ^{Dr} K.S. to the President who greeted him with great pleasure. He went to Holland and other European countries and returned to India hastily seeing the imminent danger of the 2nd World War. With much encouragement he came to Decca and invited me to Decca ~~des~~ describing the beautiful scenery of Brahmaputra through which one would have pass to reach Decca. I was then at Body as manager of the cardamom planters co-operative Bank after quitting my service as Cooperative Inspector, Thirumangalam Circle. My heart leapt up to go to Decca, but alas I could not do so for various other reasons. Then he came to Calcutta where he was introduced to Prof. ^{— if I remember right —} Hazenburgh of Germany [^] by Sri C.V.Raman. The Prof. replied

that he knew him already through several of his papers.
He asked why he should not collaberate with our ^(Sri C.V. Raman) K.S. He
humourously replied " I fear he would eclipse me.
That is why I have sent him to Decca". Then he came to
Calcutta and occupied the Chair of Mahendra Lal Prof.
of Physics while Sri C.V. Raman came to Bangalore. Though his
position was very secure, he had many pin pricks in the
discharge of his duties.

Jealous people could not endure the growing name
and fame of Dr.K.S. All his research works were published
in the scientific magazine at Calcutta. The Committee objected
to this and told him that all his research papers should be
published in the name of the Committee to which our K.S. did
not agree. There was a tough fight. Our K.S. made
arrangements to publish all his research papers in England.
Having underetood the course adopted by Dr. K.S. the Committee
felt that the magazine would be dull. Feeling that their
attempt would be fruitless, they agreed to publish all his
works in the magazine under his name. They handled a
different weapon to crush our ^{Dr} K.S. The grant given by the
Government of India was not allowed to be spent as per
Dr. K.S.'s wishes. It ~~seems~~ ^{seems} he spoke to the Central
Government about the handicap which hindered the progress of
Research work, In the next year, the Central Government
imposed the condition that the grant should be spent as
per directions of Dr. K.S. Thus the Committee was
shorn of its power. It seems a member made a remark
that it was easier to fight Raman than Krishnan.

Once ~~our~~ Philosopher visited Calcutta. It seems a gentleman invited him to dine with him. In the course of conversation another gentleman remarked that he would dine with ^{Dr} K.S. a bird of the same feather. Our philosopher took it in the offensive and told that he would dine with ^{Dr} K.S. and nobody else. Such was the mentality of some in Bengal. He surmounted all difficulties successfully with his usual shrewdness.

I remember our ^{Dr} K.S. had sent one paper on photometry to be read before the science Congress held at Warsaw. That was the only paper read before the Congress and none else. Thus he became prominent as one of the International Scientists. Then he went to Allahabad University to take the Professorship of Physics. I casually met him at Madura in his cousin brother's house. The halt was brief, because he had to be at Srivilliputhur to preside ~~our~~ over the Golden Jubilee of our Hindu High School. After 7 years or so I have understood that he was to preside at Kambar Vila at Karaikudi. I went there to see him. He ^{asked me} ~~asked me~~ to come to ~~station~~ ^{Stadium} at KKD. There too I could not freely talk to him, because of the presence of Dr. Alagappa Chettiar and Dr. Vijayaraghavan. The talk was of a short duration and I introduced my son N. Sundararivassan to him. ^{asked me} If anybody asks me about any impression of Dr. K.S. Krishnan, I would unhesitatingly say that he is a man of genius. What is genius? Genius is greatness and greatness is genius. A greatman has great power and that power belongs to him and it is beneficial to man kind. Can we call a King or Lord Mayer a great man? The answer is 'no'. A King simply

-x-
Separate
paragraph

wields the Lever of the State which any child or an idiot can do. The power is not his own and he derives the power from the people. Greatness is every thing. He knows full well in any undertaking what to do and how to do. Talent, shrewdness of common sense, ability, ingenuity --all-- are found in a great man. I find in him perseverance which has ensured him comfort, tranquility and esteem. ~~He~~ ^{He} works truly with sincerity of purpose. True work has its own merit. Carlyle pays a warm encomium for true work. He says "In the being and in the working of a true great soul is there already a something that pertains not to this Death-Element of Time and that is and that will be when Time will be no longer". In other words, true work never dies and it lives for ever. It is eternal and perennial. It stands deep rooted in Eternity. Such is the value of true work.

Our Dr. K.S. Krishnan has done true and sincere work. To me it seems that his true and sincere work is not a means to an end but it is an end in itself. I ardently desire that the Glory-diadem of our Country's desire should be set up on the head of our Dr. K.S. Krishnan.

In fine, I pray to God to bless him with long, hale and healthy life and ~~let~~ ^{Let} Manna, Nectar and Ambrosia be showered up him and his family.

"Ved Hind"

--:|:--

*
* * *
*