

To  
*Dr. Pralhad Chunilal Vaidya,*  
M. Sc., Ph. D.,  
*Vice-Principal and Professor of Mathematics,*  
*Vithalbhai Patel Mahavidyalaya,*  
VALLABH VIDYANAGAR.

SIR,

It is, indeed, with profound sense of affection, admiration and respect that we, the students of the Birla Vishvakarma Mahavidyalaya, have the privilege to present this address to you on the eve of your appointment as Professor of Mathematics (Class I) in the Gujarat College, Ahmedabad. With your exit, not only the Vithalbhai Patel Mahavidyalaya, but the whole of Vallabh Vidyanagar will miss an eminent educationist and social worker. In you Sir, we have been fortunate enough to find an ideal teacher and a versatile genius. The greatest drawback of the present academic set-up is the vast chasm that divides the students from their teachers. It is no exaggeration to say that your abundant humanity, keen sense of duty and sincere love of students have enabled you to bridge that gulf. You have been enthroned in the hearts of all the students here as their unfailing friend, philosopher and guide. This is no mean achievement.

During seven years of your tenure as Professor of Mathematics in the Vithalbhai Patel Mahavidyalaya, you were also on the staff of this College simultaneously for two years. Those of us who have had the rare fortune to study at your feet will never forget those moments when you cast a spell by your amazing grasp of the subject and superb art of teaching. Under you we found the study of Mathematics as fascinating as the enjoyment of literature.

Your exceptionally brilliant academic career in the face of odds, which confronted you at your very tender age after the death of your parents, speaks volumes for your tenacity, intellectual ability and strength of character. You had the honour of securing the B. Sc. and M. Sc. Degrees of the University of Bombay with distinction in first class. But your quest for knowledge is unquenching. And it is indeed a mark of your rare genius for research that you secured your Ph. D. by writing a thesis on the Distributions of Matter on Radial Symmetry in General Relativity - the research done independent of any local guide. But even the Ph. D., instead of satisfying your academic ambition, opened a gateway of advanced study, and you have been singularly devoted to the pursuit of knowledge. You worked as the Springer Research Scholar of the Bombay University for the years 1951, '52, and '53, and contributed several papers of outstanding merit on the Unified Field Theory of Einstein to various international journals.

There is about you Sir, a rare blending of Scholarship and the spirit of social service. You evinced a keen interest in the social and extra-curricular activities of this township. And thus you were an unfailing source of inspiration to all of us.

We cherish immense admiration for your intellectual ability, respect for your integrity and magnanimity, love for your way of life. We are sure that we are voicing the feelings of all our fellow-students when we say that with the departure of a professor like you Vallabh Vidyanagar will become poorer. Our loss will be the gain of the Gujarat College. But it would be rather selfish on our part if we go on thinking of our loss when there has opened in front of you a wider field with brighter prospects.

We pray, may the Almighty bestow upon you and your family his choicest blessings and grant you long happy life to serve the cause of education.

We remain,

Sir,

VALLABH VIDYANAGAR,  
29-9-'55.

Your most obedient students of  
THE BIRLA VISHVAKARMA MAHAVIDYALAYA.