

5. Vasanthapuram
Vellore P.O.

12. 4. 51

My dear Krishnairayar,

Thanks for your prompt & kind letter of the 2nd April which has given me an interesting account of the Shastriabodapoothe celebrations at Kanchipuram which you were able to attend thanks to the favourable concatenation of a variety of circumstances. Your achievements in the Physical sciences are beyond my equipment to appreciate, but when you say that in the midst of the vicious and very material atmosphere of official Delhi you still manage to feel that you are missing things of real value in which you have your roots, I can well believe what great strengths of mind you have at your command, and for which not even a Nobel Laureate is an adequate recognition.

May God grant you many more opportunities of this kind to maintain your vital contacts with things of the spirit is my earnest prayer!

I am glad to ^{have} your assurance that when ^{next} you happen to be in Madras you will try to spend some time with me.

I would like to have your guidance & advice on a matter which has been demanding my attention for some time.

Early in January this year the Tamil Academy of Madras sent me an urgent request to write an article in Tamil on "Life: its characteristics & origin" for their Encyclopaedia in Tamil before the middle of February this year. I do not know at whose suggestion this offer was made - I thought it might be you as a member of the Editorial Committee - but I had no hesitation in declining the honour, had-pressed as I was for time in coping with unavoidable personal pre-occupations from which I am not yet free. The chief Editor, however, wrote a flattering letter pressing me not to decline the offer if only because of the short notice at which the article was demanded & offering time till July to write the article. In a moment of weakness I gave in to his exhortation, as the article was to be only 12 pages of press. in Tamil with 36 lines to a page. After sitting at it for some days since the middle of last month, I have begun to feel that there is a formidable task before me, with my personal library totally inadequate for the purpose & my inability to spend more than a couple of days at ^{the University Library,} Madras. I realise that I must acquaint myself with ^{quite} a lot of the latest literature on the advances in physical as well as biological sciences. Having taken up a responsible task, I want to do it as well as I can. As my knowledge of Tamil is extremely poor, I would like to write the article in English, if later is time, then I would make an attempt in Tamil. I am sure you can recommend some ^{general} book or books in Tamil & English dealing with ^{summaries of} the latest advances in general science (than physical & natural sciences) blessed in such a way as to interest the general reader. If you have any books of this type in your personal library, I shall be glad to have them on loan for a while. With affectionate regards
Trust this finds you keeping fit. S. Srinivasa Rao

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28 MAR 1956

4/86, Katpadi Township,

Katpadi P.O.

24-3-56.

SK

My dear Krishnaiyengar,

I have just had a line from K.S.Krishnamoorthy of the B.B.C. in London, whom I had introduced to you in Delhi last December when I was there on a short trip, informing me that you will be visiting London in April and that he would like to meet you ~~there~~ if you were staying somewhere in Greater London and knew your address. I do not know your haunts in London on short official visits, but I have asked him to contact the Burlington House or Mrs. Lonsdale where you used to stay on previous visits. I hope I have not put him on the wrong scent. Krishnamoorthy lives in No. 87, West Cromwell Road, London S.W.5, and works in the city laboratories of the B.B.C. While he feels it a great pleasure to work with the B.B.C., he would like to return to India if he gets a reasonably good job in which his technical knowledge can be put to good use in this country itself. I hope he will be able to contact you in London and find out what his prospects in India are.

I met our old friend Moorthy Rao recently in Madras trying to acclimatise himself to the shelf on which he has been put after a very active and useful life in Geneva, but wistfully looking out for something to do apart from his daily routine of just existing. There are probably scores of others like him to disprove that scientific and technological work in India need ~~not~~ be held up for want of talent. But you know the true situation from the official angle too well to need anybody's spot-lighting for you.

Madhu has not heard anything from the All-India Radio in regard to the announcer's posts for which he was an applicant, and it is just possible that a selection has been made. He is trying for a suitable job in Madras.

I find it difficult to believe that I am doing any useful work either for the benefit of the family, the society, or the country, or to myself, all the same a semi-detached view of life is interesting from almost every angle.

Wishing you all the best in life and a nice trip abroad,

Dr. K. S. Krishnan,
New Delhi.

Yours affly,

H. Srinivasa Rao