

लक्ष्मणागच्छ भद्रं त कर्मिलामुद्यतां मया ।
प्रतीच्छ पाणिं गृहीष्व मा भूत्कालस्य पर्ययः ॥

“Lakshmana! come. Good betide thee.
Accept Urmila given away by me. Hold
her hand. Let there be no delay.”

तमेवमुक्त्वा जनको भरतं प्रत्यभाषत ।

पाणिं गृहाण माण्डव्याः पाणिना रघुनन्दन ॥

Having said thus to him. Janaka
addressed Bharata: “O! Delighter of
Raghus, hold Mandavi's hand in yours.”

शत्रुघ्न चापि धर्मात्मा अब्रवीज्जनकेश्वरः ।

श्रुतकीर्त्या महाबाहो पाणिं गृहीष्व पाणिना ॥

And the righteous-minded Lord of the
Janakas said to Satrugna also: O! thou
of mighty arms, hold Srutakirti's hand
in yours.”

सर्वे भवन्तस्सौम्याश्च सर्वे सुचरितव्रताः ।

पत्नीभिस्सन्तु काकुत्स्था मा भूत्कालस्य पर्ययः ।

“May all of you decendants of Kakut-
stha, be of amiable nature and well-per-
formed austerities, in the company of
your wives. (And now) let there be no
delay.”



SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN

Man of Culture, Wisdom and Sobriety

— S. Ramakrishnan



SHRI RAMASWAMI
VENKATARAMAN who was
born in on July 25, 1907 as the
11th President of the Republic
of India, the world's most
populous democracy, assumed
office in an attitude of deep piety
and humility, as befitting a man
of culture, learning and faith in
God. Before filing his nomination
papers on June 15, 1987, he of-
fered prayers at the Malai Man-
dikudi Temple of Lord Subramanya in New
Delhi, in whose planning
and construction he took a
leading part. Shri Venkataraman
chose an auspicious hour for
being sworn in as the
11th President.

His elevation to the highest office
as a gift of the nation was not a
“dream” come true” for Shri
Venkataraman who will be 77
on December.

“I did not imagine the nation
will one day confer the same
honour on me when, as a
Member of Parliament of India, I
watched 35 years ago, the
swearing in of Dr. Rajendra
Prasad as the first President of
the Republic of India,” he said in
his speech after assuming office.
With his genial nature and
characteristic candour, he con-
fessed that the Presidentship of
India was not one of the
“dreams” of his adulthood.

He took up office after bowing
his head in reverence to the
soldiers of freedom — known
and unknown — “whose
sacrifices have enabled your
fellow-citizen to rise to this posi-
tion today”.

Deeply conscious of his respon-
sibility and the high tradition of
this august office, Shri

Venkataraman said that he would strive to follow the example set by Rashtrapatis like Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Dr. Radhakrishnan and Dr. Zakir Husain: "I will neither fail to exercise the duties and functions attached to this high office nor stray beyond the powers enshrined in the Constitution by the Founding Fathers".

It is a measure of the popularity of Shri Venkataraman among all sections of people that in the presidential elections he polled more than the combined share of the votes of the Congress (I) and its allies.

II

Shri Venkataraman, whose political career covers nearly half a century, will bring to bear on his new office his wide experience in diverse fields.

A Post-Graduate in Economics and a Bachelor of Law, labour welfare was his first concern. He founded or led several trade unions including those for plantation workers, estate staff, dock workers, railway workers and working journalists. His plunge into politics soon followed.

In 1946, when the Transfer of Power from Britain to India was near at hand, I.N.A. Committee under the Chairmanship of Sardar Patel set up by the Congress,

included him in the panel of lawyers sent to Malaya and Singapore to defend Indian nationalists who had joined Netaji's I.N.A.

Shri Venkataraman was elected to free India's provisional Parliament in 1950 and to the first Parliament in 1952. He was also Secretary of the Congress Parliamentary Party in 1953-54.

Though again elected to the Lok Sabha in 1957, Shri Venkataraman resigned his seat to join the Tamil Nadu Government as a Minister, and for the next decade till 1967 he was the trusted lieutenant of Chief Minister Kamaraj.

During the Janata Government in 1977, Shri Venkataraman served as an Opposition Member of Parliament and was Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. He became Union Finance Minister on his re-election to the Lok Sabha in 1980 in the Indira Gandhi Government. He later became the Defence Minister which position he gave up to become the Vice-President of India in 1984.

A leader of far-seeing vision and quiet efficiency, as Industries Minister of Tamil Nadu, his achievements are outstanding and unsurpassed. As Chairman

of the Rajya Sabha, he presided over its deliberations with distinction, combining dignity and efficiency, firmness and flexibility.

III

Shri Venkataraman, a truly religious man, is really pained that religion is being used by vested interests as an instrument of disruption.

He is also deeply conscious of the difficult times India is passing through and is keen that Indian democracy should emerge stronger during his tenure as Head of the State. "Today, India is a democratic oasis in a desert of dictatorships. It is the bounden duty of every citizen to ensure that the system of Parliamentary Democracy which we have worked successfully for four decades remains a permanent feature of our political system." This was the keynote of his acceptance speech.

He has pledged himself to play his due role "in clearing the mistrust and strengthening the foundations of mutual understanding and confidence and in building bridges of respect between people and institutions." We, in the Bhavan, hope and pray that he succeeds in

his mission, and succeeds eminently.

IV

Long and abiding has been Venkataraman's association with the Bhavan. His earliest association with the Bhavan dates to 1960, when he participated in the founding function of the Bhavan's Madras Kendra, where, among others, was addressed by Rajaji, Munshiji, Dr. C. Ramaswami Aiyer, Dr. A. Mudaliar (the Kendra Chairman) and Shri Anantharama Diks. Shri Venkataraman was then a member of the Madras Cabinet and represented the Government.

The next significant event in the history of the Bhavan, which he participated in, was the inauguration of the Bhavan's New York Centre on October 2, 1961.

Shri M. Hidayatullah, then Vice-President, inaugurated the Centre and Shri Venkataraman delivered the Keynote Address. He was then the Finance Minister of India.

Shri Venkataraman then participated in this of the Bhavan: "Many institutions started by eminent men have languished after their life-time. But it must be seen that the credit of this great in-

tion, the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, that due to the spirit of dedication and selflessness inculcated by its founders, it has maintained a steady growth even after their times."

Shri Venkataraman stressed that the Bhavan, while promoting modern scientific progress, sought to achieve a harmony between material and spiritual values. He was confident that the Bhavan in the U.S. would help clear from the minds of the people of America many misconceptions about India. He hoped that the Bhavan would also contribute to the spread among the Indian people 'an informed understanding' of the basic features of the American civilisation.



Shri Venkataraman having a chat with Shri C. V. Narasimhan, Vice-Chairman of Bhavan's U.S. Centre (extreme right) on October 2, 1981. To Shri Venkataraman's right is Shri Rameshwar Ashaant, an Executive Committee Member of Bhavan's U.S. Centre.

Thanks to the benedictions of good men like him, the U.S. Cen-

tre of the Bhavan is thriving and contributing its mite to promote understanding between the peoples of the two great democracies of the world.

A major project of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, the Swami Prakashananda Ayurvedic Research Centre (SPRAC), one of the three wings of Bhavan's innovative project, Ancient Insights and Modern Discoveries, was inaugurated by Shri Venkataraman in Bombay on March 1, 1986 at a function in which the American Nobel Laureate, Baruch Blumberg, was also honoured by the Bhavan.

In words which amply reveal his love and esteem for the

Bhavan, he said: "The city of Bombay is famous for two

Bhavans : Mani Bhavan where the foundations for our political future were laid and the

A great bhakta at heart Venkataraman who belong to the village of Rajamadom



Shri Venkataraman presenting on behalf of the Bhavan, a Tamra Patra to Laureate Dr. Baruch Blumberg in Bombay on March 1, 1986.

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan where a renewed interest in our heritage is fostered."

A visit to the Bhavan, he said, always filled him with a sense of pride — "pride in being a Bharatiya, pride in Bhavan as the home of Vidya, and pride in the work of Kulapati Munshi who reminded us of our cultural heritage. For the people of my generation the founding of the Bhavan in 1938 by Kulapati Munshiji marked a major cultural efflorescence."

Thanjavur District of Nadu, famed as the 'cradle of arts' and the 'rice bowl' of Nadu, was very happy to receive the Bhavan's prestigious volume publication "Ethical Values for a Changing Society" by Swami Ranganathan. At the book release function which was held in Delhi on March 7, 1986, he said besides spirituality, social economic questions, the role of science and technology in human advancement and moral material uplift of humanity

the immediate concerns of Swami Bhavan, were given away by Shri Ranganathananda and that the Venkataraman at a Bhavan's



Shri Venkataraman releasing Swami Ranganathananda's 'Eternal Values for a Changing Society,' in Delhi on March 7, 1986. At extreme right is Swami Ranganathananda and at left is Shri S. Ramakrishnan.

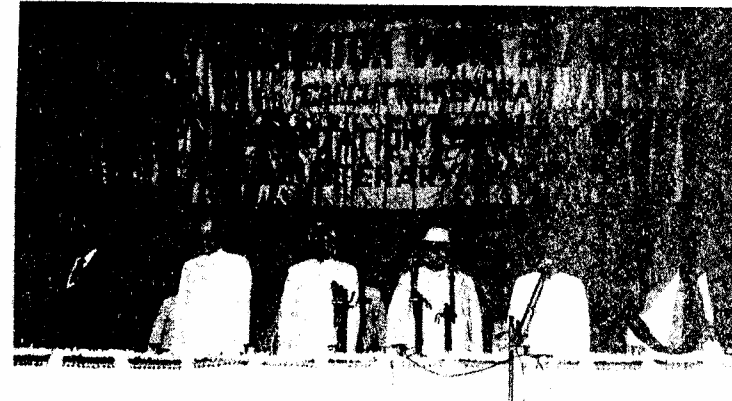
volumes deserved to be in the hands of every thinking citizen.

As though fulfilling his prophetic words, such indeed has been the popularity of this low-priced, four-volume publication that another edition is now under print and for which pre-publication orders for more than a 1,500 sets have already been received.

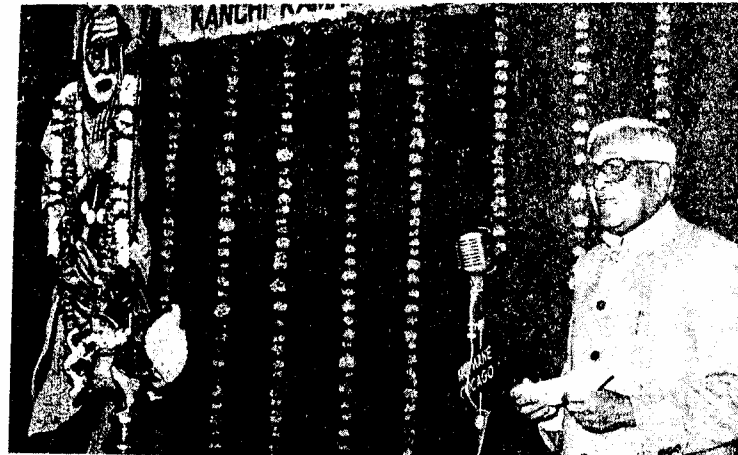
The prestigious Rajaji Literary Awards, instituted by the

function held in Calcutta on September 11, 1986. The prize-winners were Shri Hiren Bhattacharya (Assamese) and Shri Hiranmaya Bandhopadhyaya (Bengali).

On that occasion, he significantly stressed : "A spirit of linguistic mutuality rather than exclusiveness needs to be fostered in our country. Without such a spirit we will remain blind to all our cultural wealth."



Rajaji Literary Award (1984) function held in Calcutta on September 11, 1986. (R.) Shri B. D. Kanoria, Shri Girdharilal Mehta, President of the Bhavan, S. Venkataraman, Prof. Nurul Hassan, Governor of West Bengal, Subramaniam, Vice-President of the Bhavan, and Justice Smt. P. Khastagir.



Shri Venkataraman speaking at the 90th birthday celebrations of the Paramacharya held at the Central Bhavan, Bombay on July 8, 1986.

An echo of this very sentiment could be heard in the speech Shri Venkataraman made after assuming office as the Rashtrapati.

V

On June 15, 1987 Shri Venkataraman was good enough to receive an advance copy of Bhavan's latest publication — the autobiography of the legendary crusader, Baba Prithvi Singh Azad. He also graciously gave a message, a facsimile of which appears on pages 19 & 20. The book was released by the Governor of Maharashtra, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, on July 2, 1987 in Bombay.

Shri Venkataraman is a shining symbol of discrimination —

I want to share with you some deeply-felt thoughts. The most significant of our achievements is the success of the democratic form of governance. No more is the patronising phrase, democratic experiment, applied to India. India represents today no experiment but a proven model and example of a successful democracy. Nor is our democratic structure a purely political mechanism. It has shown — pioneeringly — an ability to help transform the living conditions of our people in accordance with the popular mandate.

— Shri Venkataraman in his Independence Day-
eve broadcast.

Viveka. He is a devoted devotee of the Paramacharya of Kanchi, one of the greatest saints of all times, who happily is still amidst us and who is looked upon as "walking God" by millions of our compatriots.

Versatility, ability and humility, are the hall-marks of Shri Venkataraman. He is wise, witty and sober. He is a man of unimpeachable integrity. He is a gentleman par excellence.

As the Head of the Indian Republic and Supreme Commander of our Armed Forces, the nation's interests are safe in the hands of Rashtrapati Ramaswami Venkataraman.

Heartiest felicitations and prayerful good wishes to our new Rashtrapatiji.



सत्यमेव जयते

उपराष्ट्रपति, भारत
नई दिल्ली
VICE-PRESIDENT
INDIA
NEW DELHI

MESSAGE

June 30, 1987

The Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan once again has earned the thanks of the people of India for bringing out the autobiography of the patriotic revolutionary Baba Prithvi Singh Azad. The Autobiography is an authentic account of the contemporary India before independence and a fascinating story of a brave and adventurous freedom fighter. Most young people of India imagine that freedom for India dropped like manna from heaven. They are not familiar with the sacrifices and sufferings undergone by those who threw themselves recklessly into the fire of freedom struggle. Baba Prithvi Singh Azad Autobiography will, I am sure, shake them awake from the stupor of ignorance and open their eyes to see the great and historic struggle for independence in its perspective.

Before the advent of Gandhiji into the national movement great intellects like Sri Aurobindo felt that there was no way of achieving freedom except through armed revolution. The freedom struggles of most countries pointed only towards that path. No wonder that the patriotic youth of this early century adopted the path of armed revolution and laid their lives in the process. Baba Prithvi Singh Azad was one such revolutionary but fortunately still living in our midst to tell in his own words the trials and tribulations he had passed through. His robust constitution and Herculean strength has seen him through many hazards which would have killed any other human being, whether it be fighting single-handed an armed policeman or jumping out of a running train. His exploits read more like a novel than real life. His wanderings or incarcerations in Burma, Soviet Union, Afghanistan or Andamans, etc. and his final arrival at Gandhiji's doors is like a fascinating film script.



सत्यमेव जयते

उपराष्ट्रपति, भारत
नई दिल्ली
VICE-PRESIDENT
INDIA
NEW DELHI

-: 2 :-

For the youth of India, Baba Prithvi Singh cannot but be a hero. His life will serve as a shining example of bravery, perseverance, sacrifice and service.

It is our great good fortune that in this year when the nation celebrates the 40th anniversary of Independence, Prithvi Singhji is with us; a beacon light of inspiration. May the story of his life rekindle the ardour of those days when work was its own reward and patriotism its own fulfilment.

R. Venkataraman

(R. Venkataraman)

Mukundamala

KULASEKHARA ALWAR

English translation
by Dr. Raja Ramanna.

तत्त्व प्रसाव भगवन्! कुरु मय्यनाये
विष्णो! कृपा परमकारुणिकः किल त्वम्।
ससारसागरनिमग्नममन्तदीप्त-
मदन्तमहसि हर! पुष्पात्तमोडसि ॥ ३५ ॥

Lord, be pleased to enter my soul come unto me an orphan;
Thou who art the Supreme cause of things;
Anantha, deliver me from worldliness and elevate me;
O Hari, Thou art Parushothama.

नमामि नारायणपादपद्भुज
करामि नारायणपूजत सदा।
वदामि नारायणनाम निमल
स्मरामि नारायणतत्त्वमवधयम् ॥ ३६ ॥

O Narayana, I prostrate at Thy feet;
O Narayana, may I be in worship of Thee always;
O Narayana, may I be in meditation on Thy pure and holy name;
O Narayana, my thoughts rest on the supreme knowledge of Thee