

Transcript of the speeches delivered at the Full Court reference held on 27th April, 1987 at 2 P.M. In Chief Justice's Court to bid farewell to Hon'ble K.J. Shetty, Chief Justice, on his elevation as a Judge to the Supreme Court of India

Hon'ble D.N. Jha, Senior Judge

My Lord the Chief Justice, K. Jagannatha Shetty, my brother Judges, Mr. A.D. Giri, President of the Allahabad Bar Association, Mr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, Advocate General of the State, Law officers, Members of the Legal fraternity, Ladies and friends.

We have assembled here to bid farewell to my Lord the Chief Justice on the eve of his elevation as a Judge of the Supreme Court.

He came with fragrance, Shed nothing but fragrance, and it would not be inappropriate to say: He came, he impressed and he conquered us. As Chief Justice, he earned the unique reputation for his erudition, great learning and deep studies. His judgements, which covered almost every fact of law, reflected profound knowledge of law and showed the amount of pains that he had taken in studying the decisions of eminent Judges of India and abroad. His learning and his power of analysis combined with quick grasp of facts enabled him to reach the point at issue in no time. His judgments are concise, devoid of irrelevance and characterised by robust commonsense. He cared deeply for the traditions and prestige of law courts and was ever vigilant to guard against any deterioration in its standards. His merit was, in a very short time, recognised inside the court as well as outside the court. He was always conscious of the fate of millions of down-trodden people living below the poverty line in this country. He was constantly devoting himself to ensure justice being imparted without fear or favour to the people belonging to all classes of society.

I cannot help referring to some of the glittering virtues he possesses as a man. He has been a devoted Chief Justice and a sincere friend. He never believed in lip service but always spoke in the unspoken language of his heart. His spotless life, both in public and private, is beyond the comprehension of anyone. His devotion to principles and regard for duty evoked universal respect. These virtues are the source of inspiration to all those who have the good fortune of coming in his contact. His lordship's smile, needless to

mention, is proverbial and I am always reminded of those famous lines:

"Smile a-while, and while you smile,
others smile, and life is worthwhile, because you smile."

I am offering farewell to such a unique personality with a mixed feeling of pride and sorrow. Sorrow is there as we are parting not only with a Judge but a friend, philosopher and guide. Pride is felt in the sense that once again the authorities have looked upon the treasure of this Court for supplying a Judge to the Supreme Court. His lordship undoubtedly is equipped with all the equipment that is required to make a successful Judge. I am confident that, enriched by the traditions of this Court and his vast experience and wisdom, you would not only uphold the Constitution but cement those traditions upon which the administration of justice rests. I am confident, you will maintain the well profounded concept of justice enunciated by Manu:

"Let not justice be destroyed by injustice
or truth with falsehood.
Let justice be not violated lest violated
justice might destroy us."

We would no doubt miss his guiding hand and the benefit of his vast experience. The end of one road is the beginning of another. Our loss shall be the gain of Supreme Court.

On my behalf and on behalf of my brother Judges I sincerely wish that he finds his new post congenial to his temperament and satisfying to his talents.

He came here and held a united court. I am happy he is leaving behind a united court without malice and it shall continue to be so: Two steps we walked together, and our paths now stands divided. Now you stand, my Lord, to proceed alone to reach the ultimate throne. My Lord, follow the eternal light and go ahead.

With these few words, I on my behalf and on behalf of my brother Judges offer to you our sincere and heartiest felicitations on your elevation as a Judge of the Supreme Court. We wish you and Mrs. Shetty a long, happy and prosperous life.

With these words I wish you good luck, godspeed, good bye, from this place but not from our hearts.

Thank you.