

18-12-1986

Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.D. Ojha, J.

My Lord, Hon'ble the Chief Justice, Hon'ble brother Judges, Mr. Advocate General, Mr. President, High Court Bar Association, and members of the Bar,

I am beholden to you all for the affection and good wishes, which you have, in your magnanimity and large-heartedness, showered on me this after-noon. I am deeply touched by the sentiments expressed by you. The tradition of this Court has been that the members of the Bench and the Bar have always considered themselves to be members of the same family. It is common knowledge that one is apt to ignore and overlook the shortcomings of a member of one's family. No one knows better my weaknesses than me. But in your affection you have ignored them.

I started my practice at the Bar in the District Courts of Allahabad itself in 1947 and shifted to the High Court in 1951. In the District Courts I started my practice in 1947. My association with the Bar at Allahabad has thus been for a period of about 40 years, about 24 years as an Advocate and a little more than 15 years as a Judge of this Court. This is a long period and on this occasion innumerable events that happened during this period are getting flashed in my mind. It will not be possible within the short time at my disposal to give any details about them. All that I can say is that this has been a very happy and pleasant period of my life.

In, 1947 I took my six months training, which was then necessary for being enrolled as a legal practitioner, from Babu Krishna Deo Narain Advocate practising in the District Courts here at Allahabad. Thereafter I worked with Babu Krishna Behari Lal Nigam, Advocate. In 1951 I shifted to the High Court and before starting independent practice I worked for a few years under the guidance of Sri G.P. Bhargava, Advocate. The interest which all my seniors took in shaping my career was in no measure less than that which a father would take with in regard to his son. It is this interest taken by them coupled with their blessings which played a major role in my achieving whatever success I was able to achieve at the Bar. I am beholden to them for their generosity and large heartedness. During my career as an Advocate of this Court I

received inspiration from the stalwarts at the Bar of this Court whose number is in legion and who were practising between 1951 and 1971 when with the grace of God I was elevated to the Bench of this Court. It was a treat to watch them preparing and arguing their cases. On the Bench I have received affection of my brother Judges without any exception and I attribute their large heartedness to be its reason. All this is a pleasant memory.

I will be failing my duty if I do not express my gratitude to my Lord the Chief Justice and his gracious wife Lady Shetty. They have been for hardly about two and a half months here but within this short period they have endeared themselves to all of us by their generosity and gentlemanliness which appears to be having no limits. As for me I can say with all sincerity that they have treated me and my wife as members of their own family. The capacity of adaptability in them is marvellous.

One word of humble advice I will like to utter to my young friends at the Bar. The Bar of this Court has had glorious traditions which will be a matter of envy of anyone. These traditions have to be maintained. If you maintain them, they will land you dignity and respect. Have reverence and respect for the senior members of the Bar. Never entertain the idea that you are as much as LL.B. as the seniors and there is no difference between the two. The seniors are much more than a mere LL.B. Likewise, never entertain the idea that it is of no use to be unnecessarily respectful to the seniors because they do not get you engaged in any case or give you any financial assistance. I am saying so with my personal experience that even if nothing else, they give their blessings which are hundred times valuable than any material gain. Humility is in itself an asset and achievement. As regards material gain in the profession, you have to prepare yourself. First deserve, then desire is the golden rule. Apart from learning and industry purity of character in your public as well as your private life is essential for success in this noble profession of yours.

Before closing I will like to express my apologies to all of them whose feelings I may have injured in any manner during my association with this Court. I have full faith that they, in their magnanimity, shall undoubtedly forgive me. Forgiveness is a divine attribute. God alone is perfect. A human being on account of his imperfection is likely to err. The saying goes "To err is human, to

forgive divine.”

In the end I express my appreciation for the cooperation of the officers of the Registry and the members of staff of the Court including my personal staff in the discharge of my duties.

I am overwhelmed with your good wishes. I have full confidence that good wishes expressed on this occasion by you all, shall be a source of great strength for me in the discharge of my duties henceforward.

I thank you all.