

ಸ್ನೇಹ ಸಿರಿ

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ಸಾವಿರದ ನುಡಿ ನಮನ



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An Ode to my Teacher

● **Dr. Subhash H. Patil**

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Good teachers impart good education, Great teachers groom their students to become leaders; ordinary teachers direct us along right path, but great teachers inspire us to seek our own path. They encourage us to discover our talents.

It is a matter of great honor and proud privilege to me that I have been asked to contribute an article on Dr.S.H.Patil Sir. I am too small to write about giant, towering personality who imbibed and practiced all the qualities of the noble profession. He was a great visionary, erudite scholar, an academican and a very good scholar, and serious researcher in the field of political science. Simple living and high thinking was the cardinal principle of his life. Nonetheless, his constant and continuous efforts for research and publications form another feather in his cap. It appears that by temperament he was a Gandhian, not merely in principle but by deed and action. Sincerity, honesty and holistic thinking were the mission and mantra adopted in his life always.

It reminds me an incident when I was a newly joined student in 1988 in the dept for MA first year. My parents and friends used to write letters to me to know about me to the depart-

ment often. One day it so happened that all letters written to me were found in the S.H.Patil Sir's chamber and two letters had been opened and read. As he could understand made every student in the class being part of his lecture. It gives me immense confidence and pride to think that he is my mentor. I hardly found anger on his neither content nor people, he kept aside those letters and made an enquiry about a student named S.H.Patil. To my surprise I was called to his chamber which was unprecedented and said- "these are your letters but by mistake I opened them and sorry for that". I just could not believe his honesty and simplicity. Then he gently asked me not to give department address which I meticulously followed later.

I was one of his optional political sociology students, as a student I found him a committed teacher. He never entered the class without preparation and would deliver lecture which suits students level and pursuits with lots of local examples and illustrations which impressed me a lot. He taught why reading is not just a intellectual pursuit, but also a need to understand 'self' and the 'other'. He taught subjects as a metaphor for knowledge and not as a signifier of marks.

He broke the barricades of hierarchy between teacher and students. His style of teaching was eloquent who made us think beyond curriculum. He made me believe that lectures impart content but it is the dialogue between teacher and student that churns out wisdom. I am privileged to have learnt not just lessons but life lessons from him.

Among several topics, Vilfredo Paretos theory of circulating Elites was his favorite topic. Simplifying the complex theories was his unique style. He therefore, kept whole class lively always. He face, he left everlasting impression on me being blissful, charismatic, and charming always.

Here I would like to mention a morale booster and confidence building measure. In my MA final year I did not answer well one question in research methodology paper which made me nervous with the apprehension of failure. After a week I happened to meet him in front of health centre, on his enquiry about my performance in exam I told him about my poor performance. He consoled me by saying- "Don't worry after all it is only one question. never mind, be patient and happy" Those words still linger in me and remind that one should not be disappointed and disheartened and never lose hope, for that paper I scored 58 marks.

Once, he asked me to do some data collection in Belagavi on Kannada and Marathi speaking people, schools, public institutions run by them, their voting pattern in assembly, parliamentary and local bodies elections, linguistic and educational data their trends and pattern, on which he wanted to do one project. I contributed as much as possible .

It appears to me that he never lived a life for himself. Live and let live was his policy. He helped others with knowledge, wisdom, love and service. Consumerism, materialism and materialistic way of life hardly got reflected in his entire life span. His passion for simple living and high thinking was noblest one. He was erudite scholar if one can glance his active participation in conferences, seminars and symposia and publishing them in book form which was his noblest contribution to literary world in general and political science in particular. He has published more than 30 research papers in refereed journals. He has been ICSSR senior and Emeritus fellow, has authored number of books like Karnataka Government and Politics(co authored). Failed Experiments in Coalition Governments, Constitution Government and Politics in India, Central

Grants and State Autonomy.etc are praiseworthy and widely circulated.

As a friend philosopher and guide he moulded us, influenced us through his enormous knowledge and wide range of experiences, guided us selflessly. It is said that influence of a good teacher can never be erased. I feel so blessed and thankful to God to have such a wonderful teacher. His sad demise is a great loss to the public in general and his student fraternity in particular. The teachers may come and teachers may go but the immortal values and lessons of sir lingers with all of us. May God give strength to the family members to recover from the loss of the great soul.

■ ■