

SIR ALLADI

An originator of our Constitution

By *His Excellency PRABHUDAS PATWARI**

Sisters and brothers,

Belonging as I do to the legal profession, I have immense pleasure in associating myself with this function and getting an opportunity to pay my homage to Shri Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar, who, for us all, had been a guru. I very much appreciate the Kesari High School (Mylapore) Parent and Teachers Association for their thoughtful idea of perpetuating his memory by installing this portrait.

For a long time, Alladi was a household name along the members of the legal profession throughout India. Many lawyers used to draw inspiration from the effective advocacy of Alladi. Unmindful of honours, Alladi worked so hard to build up his practice and reputation. I knew in those days that when Alladi argued a case in the High Court or the then Federal Court, the Bench and the Bar would hear in pindrop silence his series of devastating and irresistible points and arguments.

Alladi was a nationalist to the core. Honours came to him unasked. He defended the INA prisoners along with Bhulabai Desai and others. On top of all, I must particularly mention the learned contribution he made to the drafting of our Constitution. He also helped in the codification of the Hindu Law. He will long be remembered by posterity for being one of the originators of our Constitution. I wish particularly to quote a few lines from his speech in the Constituent Assembly regarding the momentous significance of the framing of our Constitution:-

“What is important is that at this session we must be in a position to proclaim to our people and to the civilised world what we are after. It has to be remembered that the main object of this Assembly is not the fashioning of a constitution of a Local Board, a District Board of making changes in the present constitution of this or that part of the country, but to give concrete expression to the surging aspirations of a people yearning for freedom by framing a constitution for a free and independent India, for the good of the people, one and all, of this great and historic land, irrespective of caste, class, community or creed, with a hoary civilisation going back to several centuries. More than any argument, as the resolution before the House has received the blessings and support of Mahatma Gandhi, the architect of India’s political destiny, from the distant village in Eastern Bengal, I trust that it will be carried with acclamation by the whole house without dissent.”

Alladi delivered a series of lectures on the Constitution and Fundamental Rights in later years. This work will interest all students of political science.

Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar was born and brought up in a Telugu-speaking area, but he was educated in Madras and he settled down in Madras. His contemporaries in the legal profession were all stalwarts and Alladi cut out a path for himself by dint of his hard

**Governor’s speech at the unveiling of the portrait of Sir Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar, at the Kesari High School, Mylapore, at 6-15 pm on 22nd September 1978.*

work and ability. One of his great friends, Sri Rajagopala Ayyaogar, who had risen to the position of a Judge of the Supreme Court has paid glowing tributes to the qualities of Alladi's heart. I came across this in a volume brought out to mark the centenary of the Madras High Court. Here is an anecdote that I have culled out:- "His address to the Court was masterly and extremely persuasive. He could never be dull and even to the most dry-as-dust facts, he could impart an interest which would be sustainedPossibly nothing could illustrate better the effect that Sir Alladi produced on the Court than the following incident. Sir Alladi was in Delhi arguing a case in the Federal Court before a Bench headed by Sir Maurice Gwyer, the Chief Justice of India. Sir Alladi had finished his speech by lunch. Sir John Simon had come to Delhi and was expected to visit the Court during its sitting in the afternoon. During the lunch interval, Sir Maurice Gwyer sent for Sir Alladi and requested him to continue his arguments during the afternoon also as he desired that Sir John Simon should have an opportunity of listening to him. The same thing occurred in Madras. Sir Lionel Leach requested Sir Alladi to commence arguments in a case in which he appeared that was lower down in a cause list when Sir John Simon visited Madras during the same trip to India." I I Many episodes can be recalled by friends to highlight the greatness of Alladi. Having started life as a poor man and having built up prosperity by hard work, Alladi was perfectly human and helped all good causes. His kindness and sympathy were quite marked. His own son Dr. Alladi Ramakrishnan is with us at this function and he may have a lot to say about his father. But before I conclude, I should like to quote a few inspiring words of Alladi to his son Dr. Ramakrishnan, for it is a message addressed by a father not only to the son, but to the younger generation as a whole:-

"Prosperity following adversity may bring about two kinds of feeling in a man. It may make him vain and self conscious of his great achievements in life. It may make him humble and better realise the lot of those who are not able to fight their way in life. I have striven after the second ideal, though how far I have succeeded in achieving that ideal, is for others to judge and not for me."

I have great pleasure in unveiling the portrait of Sir Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar. I pray that posterity may benefit by the life and work of this illustrious son of India.

Notes by Editor

Mr. Prabhudas Patwari (1909-85) was a lawyer and a freedom fighter. He was a follower of Mahatma Gandhi to the core. He led a very simple and austere life. He was a vegetarian and a tee-totaller. In 1976 he was imprisoned for his vocal anti-alcohol protest by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi (not related to Mahatma Gandhi) who had put an iron grip over India by declaring a state of Emergency. Following the loss of the Congress party led by Indira Gandhi in the 1977 elections, the Janata Party came to power and appointed Patwari as the Governor of Tamil Nadu (= Madras State) in 1977, a post that he held until 1980.

This 1978 address by Prabhudas Patwari when he was the Governor of Tamil Nadu was brought out in printed form by Alladi Ramakrishnan in 1985.

Krishnaswami Alladi

PROGRAMME
(22-9-1978)

- 6:22 - Prayer
- 6:25 - Welcome by Sri B. V. S. S. Mani.
- 6:32 - President of the function be requested to conduct the proceedings by Sri B. V. S. S. Mani.
An account of the founders of the institution by Sri Alladi Venkatanarayana.
- 6:42 - Sri N. S. Rao, Correspondent - -A report about the school
- 6:48 - Hon'ble Justice Sri Alladi Kuppaswamy announces presentation of the portrait and speaks.
- 6:58 - His Excellency the Governor will be requested to unveil the portrait by the Hon'ble Chief Justice and calls Sri N. S. Rao, Correspondent to receive it.
- 7:00 - Address by the Governor His Excellency Shri Prabhudas Patwari
- 7:20 - Address by the President of the function Hon'ble Chief Justice Shri T. Ramaprasada Rao
- 7:40 - Thanksgiving on behalf of the family of the late Shri Alladi Krishnaswamy Ayyar by Professor Alladi Ramakrishnan
- 7:50 - Vote of Thanks by Dr. V. S. Venkata Subbu.
- 7:55 - NATIONAL ANTHEM.