

Hon'ble K.N. Singh, Judge Supreme Court, Designate:

My Lord, The Chief Justice, Mr. Sinha, Senior
Standing Counsel, Mr. A.D. Giri, the President
of the Bar Association:

I am overwhelmed by the kind words that you have all spoken about me and at the same time I feel nervous for the confidence and the high hopes that your repose in me. I have been a member of the Bar of the District Court Allahabad and of this Court and I have been on the Bench for the last 16 years and during, all this time I became part of this institution so much so that I can say with some confidence that I know each and every brick of this building, each and every individual who is pursuing his avocation in this building, and above all, I came to know the high traditions and conventions of this institution. I always regarded it, the High Court, as the temple of Justice where each and every conduct of ours must be like that of a priest who is expected to conduct himself according to Dharma. On this day, my thought goes to the day when I completed my education and I had no intention to join law. I was interested in politics because I started my political and social career at an age when I was in adolescence and as a child rather. During the freedom struggle and even thereafter I was submerged in the fight for national freedom. But when I finished my education my father took a decision from me and he forced me to join the profession of Law. I joined District Courts. While I was practising in the District Courts my family counsel, my Guru, Sri S.C. Khare, the celebrated Constitutional lawyer of this Court persuaded me to join his chamber and to sit in this Court. I protested as I said, the High Court is an ocean, I will be lost therein. But he persuaded and with his good wishes I joined his chamber but later I found that he was a great hard task-master and at times his words, his actions were irritating and annoying. But later in life I realized, it is all that his hard task mastership that forged me well, my destiny and my later career. He moulded my destiny, made me work hard as a result of which I could acquire some place in this institution. But when I was appointed Standing Counsel, I had to work under the towering personality and able guidance of late Pt. K.L. Misra who polished my legal acumen and gave me courage to stand up and argue cases not only in this

Court but in other High Courts of the country. On this day when I am bidding farewell to this Court when I am proceeding to take seat on the highest Court of the land, I consider it my duty to pay homage to my these two Gurus. On this day, as a human being I feel elated that I am going to join the company of illustrious Judges in the Supreme Court who are known for their profound learning and wisdom. That makes me nervous but your kind words and your good wishes shall always be constant source of strength to me to enable me to discharge my duties and to administer justice with ability and to the best of my understanding. I know my limitations. I have been here but whatever I am belong to this institution. Whatever success I have achieved I have on account of this institution. On this occasion, I consider it my duty to accept that I am indebted to the you and indebted to the society. Infact I am indebted to the people of India who have offered me the highest position in the judiciary. Mr. President has just said that I should do my best to improve the image of this Court and to discharge the debt that I owe to the society and to the Bar of this institution. I cannot say that I will be successful in that but I can only assure and promise that to the best of my ability and capacity I shall try to do that. My one word of advice to my young friends at the bar would be that you should realise that there is no short-cut in the profession of law. It is a jealous mistress. It requires hard work and complete dedication and whenever you take the things casually, you can never achieve success. While sitting in the Court, many a times I had occasion to put the junior members of the Bar to task but that was only with a view to initiate him to work and I am sure, the high traditions of this Court will be maintained by the Bar. There has been a lot of murmuring, whispering campaign against this Court in the country because of late certain things which have happened in this Court have really brought bad name but i do hope that with the change of atmosphere and with the prevailing circumstances you, the members of the Bar, will cooperate with the Bench and will do everything to restore the dignity and glory of this Court. With these words I would further add a personal note of explanation. The job of a Judge is very delicate and difficult one. While sitting in the Court, I had occasion to laugh with some one but you should realise that while administering justice we have to be objective and unmindful of the result which may follow.

Sometimes the counsel are full of their sentiments with the cases. Whenever there was resistance by me sometimes the atmosphere was heated. But may I say, with great humility, that I had malice towards none. I had charity for all. I believe in the philosophy of Abhram Lincon and I tried to plant flowers instead of thorns, Whatever I had done that was unintentional and if I have hurt the feelings of the Bar or the clients, they should kindly realise the difficult and delicate job of the Judge. I have been in this Court for 16 years. I got my education in Allahabad. I practiced here in Allahabad. I have been Judge here for 16 years and as I said, I was part of the earth, breeze an sky and it is really saddening that at this ripe age I am asked to leave this place. I feel, I am going to leave my WATAN. But the call of duty is there and I must go. I am going there with a sense of sadness that I will be missing you all and missing that atmosphere here.

On this occasion, I consider it my duty to express my deep sense of gratitude to the members of the Bar, to my brother Judges who have always given their love, affection and cooperation to me. And especially to My Lord, the Chief Justice who has treated me always as his younger brother, not only after becoming Chief Justice but since the day I joined the Bar and both of us acted as Standing Counsel and later on in life throughout in this Court he has been very kind and chauvinistic to me. I shall ever cherish this.

And whatever in the discharge of my duties in this Court I owe gratitude to unstinted and loyal support given to me and services rendered to me by my personal staff, Mr. Nooruddin, my Private Secretary, Mr. Madan Mohan, my Personal Assistant and my Bench Secretary Mr. Sinha. They have rendered valuable service to me and with their help I could discharge my duties well.

With these words, I thank you all for what you have said and I can only assure that I shall try to respond to your expectations. I shall try to respond to the need of the society. I shall respond to the need of the nation with my best efforts.

I thank you again.
