

Hon'ble Mr.Justice D.N.Patel, Chief Justice

My esteemed colleagues,

Smt. Maninder Acharya, Additional Solicitor General of India,

Shri. Mohit Mathur, President, Delhi High Court Bar Association,

Shri. Jatan Singh, Vice President, Delhi High Court Bar Association,

Sh. Abhijat, Honorary Secretary, Delhi High Court Bar Association,

Sh. Ramesh Singh, Standing Counsel (Civil), Govt. of NCT Delhi,

Sh. Rahul Mehra, Standing Counsel (Criminal), Govt. of NCT Delhi

Other Standing Counsels of the Central and State Government,

Executive Members of the Delhi High Court Bar Association,

Presidents, Secretary & Office Bearers of all Bar Associations of Delhi,

Presidents, Secretary & Office Bearers of Bar Council of Delhi,

Senior Advocates,

Learned Members of the Bar, Law Researchers and everyone present.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am humbled by the kind words spoken about me.

I wish I possessed a few of these qualities. There is no dearth of talented, hardworking and intelligent lawyers but I still attained this position as destiny was in my favour. Lord Krishna says “*Karmanyē Vadhikaraste, Ma phaleshou kada chana, Ma Karma Phala Hetur Bhurmatey Sangostva Akarmani.*” It means you have a right to perform your prescribed duty, but you are not entitled to expect the fruits of your action. Never consider yourself to be the cause of the result of your actions, and never be attached to not doing your duty.

I personally believe that destiny provides a direction but one has to strive hard to achieve the result.

The events which unfolded in my life have reinforced my belief in destiny. My father was posted in a remote forest area in Nepal with no facility of education nearby. When I was five years old, he wanted to get me admitted in La Martiniere college and thus, took me to Lucknow. Incidentally, his eldest brother also happened to be there. He was against the idea of my studying in a convent school being follower of ideology of *Hindutva*. He took me with him to a small village where he was posted as an Ayurvedic doctor in a Government dispensary. I studied there up to the Vth class in a primary school. In the year 1966, the Indian

Forest Service was constituted and my father returned from Nepal and join the UP cadre. I studied in Government schools at different places wherever he was posted. I passed VIIIth Class from Orai in Bundelkhand region, Xth class from Pipri in Vindiyachal region and XIIth class from Ranikhet in the Kumaon region of Uttar Pradesh. After pursuing B.Sc in Nainital for about 4/5 months, I finally shifted to the Lucknow University. My father wanted me to pursue Engineering but since I was fond of fun and frolic I found less time for studies and resultantly scored average marks in B.Sc. I then had no choice but to join law despite opposition from my father. After I completed Law my father advised me to prepare for the Civil Service Examination. However, I decided to join a Tea Company in Kolkata as a Law Officer. On my way

to Kolkata I stopped in Delhi and met Late Mr.P.N.Tewari, advocate, who was the elder brother of one of my hostel mates. He advised me to join the Bar. I followed his advice and started practicing with him in this Court and the Supreme Court. After 4/5 years I got a job offer in Hyderabad. But again I was persuaded by Mr.Tewari to continue in the profession. With the passage of time my practice flourished.

My entry in the Delhi Higher Judicial Service in the year 1994 was also absolutely unplanned.

Humility and Humbleness are the foundation of all virtues. In Srimad Bhagavad-Gita Chapter 13 Verse 8, Lord Krishna has used two words (Amaanitvam and Adambhitvam meaning Humility and Humbleness) which are pre-requisites characteristics of a person who

has attained true knowledge. In Quran also many words express the meaning of humility and in fact the very term Islam is derived from the word Salam which implies being humble to Allah in a gesture of surrenderance to Him. The Christians believe humbleness comes when the Holy Spirit resides within. Humility and humbleness keeps a person grounded by keeping him away from arrogance despite his acquisition of status and power.

Thomas F. Wilson had once said and I quote “A good judge should never boast of his power, because he can do nothing but what he can do justly: he is not the master, but the minister of the law. Authority without virtue is a very dangerous state”.

I have attempted to imbibe the above qualities in my day to day life as also while dispensing justice.

I am demitting office today after having served as a judge of this court for more than a decade without any blemish. With the blessings of the Almighty, I have succeeded in performing the job assigned to me without any fear, favor and bias and as per my wisdom. This gives me a feeling of deep satisfaction.

A court is much more than its judges. Without the assistance of lawyers, Registrars, the Registry, the administrative staff and the court officers, we judges would be quite incapable of administering justice on any terms. I wish to record my deep appreciation for the able assistance by all the concerned officers/officials of the Registry, more particularly Mr. S.P. Singh Premi

who has provided medical protocol assistance to me and my family members even in odd hours. I also thank my personal staff Pradeep Sharma, Gautam Aswal, Rohit Barariya, Satish Thaldi, Kiran Kalra, Ghansyam, Arun Kumar, Shashi Kumar, Surender Kumar, Trilok Singh, Sriram Prasad, Maan Singh, Ritesh Kumar, Inder Singh, Vimla Devi, Law Researchers Vinayak Shukla and Fiza Saluja, PSOs Balraj and Om Prakash.

My family has played an important role in my life. My parents had made considerable sacrifices to bring me to a new land and to provide me with good education and inculcate disciplinary values in me. My parents-in-law accepted me in the family fold with warmth and affection. Although, they are not with us anymore but I am sure they continue to bless me.

I thank my sons Aniruddh and Aranyak for their love and support and not being over demanding.

Above all, I thank my dear wife Indermeet Kaur for the constant warmth and unending support provided to me for enabling my life to flourish.

I bid adieu to all of you as a judge of this court but will remain in touch as an acquaintance. I end with a couplet of Mirza Ghalib:-

**मुलाकाते जरूरी है अगर रिश्ते बचाने है,
लगाकर भूल जाने से तो पोधे भी सूख जाते है !!**

JAI HIND