

Dr. Ram Karan Singh, an Educational Administrator and an Idealist

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Ram Karan Singh and myself first met over thirty years ago at the Harvard University where Ram Ugrah Singh – Unhappily prematurely deceased – and myself were already students. From our very first meeting I was strongly drawn towards him just as I had been towards Ram Ugrah Singh. His simplicity, sincerity and unassuming manners have forged a link between us which is as strong today as it was at Harvard. At Harvard we lived and took our meals together. There was a time when we fell short of funds. As an economy measure, we used to prepare ad hoc lunches at home. It was the self-imposed duty of Ram Karan Singh to prepare sandwiches for the group everyday. He relished this duty and acquired considerable expertise in it. I was pained to lose a friend of mine of the Amritsar School days in the Quetta earthquake of 1934. I often think that his soul found reincarnation in Ram Ugrah Singh and Ram Karan Singh.

Dr. Ram Karan Singh has been the Principal of Rajput College for over three decades. When he took it over, it was a third-rate Intermediate College. Today, it is one of the very best College in the U.P. doing post-graduate teaching in many subjects with the great Rural Institute at Bichpuri attached to it. I had the pleasure recently of visiting the Bichpuri Institute. As I saw the library, with the cubicles in it for advanced students, the picture of the great Harvard library at once came before my eyes! I felt, as I was going around the institute, that Dr. Ram Karan Singh had added one more; monument to the traditional list which every visitor to Agra must see! However, the Bichpuri Institute is not a monument, like others, of medieval India but of India which is being reborn in the spirit of humanism. Bichpuri represents a new type of a temple which new India should adore.

Indeed, Dr. R.K. Singh has left the impress of his personality over the College which he has so devotedly served. B.R. College represents, without the least exaggeration it may be said, a model which all private and even Government Colleges should follow in the academic and administrative spheres. Our tribute is also due to the great Secretary of the college, Rao Krishna Pal Singh, the best type of princely India. With much more modest resources, originally, than its sister Institution, Udai Pratap College, at Banaras, it has not only forged ahead of that institution but has acquired a unique position in the state. The credit for this consummation belongs both to him as well as to Rao Krishna Pal Singh.

Dr. R.K. Singh is an educational idealist and represents standards far above those of the market place. I think he has been trying to mould B.R. College in the image of Harvard, our *almamater*. He has converted his College not only into a temple of learning but also into a centre; of service to the community. He has never been a devotee of money and has chosen to remain in modest circumstances. I do hope that, after his retirement from B.R. College, he may be offered the opportunity to apply his mature idealism to a wider sphere especially that of a University. The University which secures his services would be fortunate just as the B.R. College has been.

This article was written by Prof. Muhar

At the time of Dr. Singh's retirement as Principal, B.R. College, Agra in July, 1964.