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**PROFESSOR KALIDAS BHATTACHARYA**


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It is with a profound sense of sorrow and grief that Indian Philosophical Quarterly records the sad and sudden demise of Professor Kalidas Bhattacharya who passed away on 15th March, 1984 at Santiniketan, West Bengal.

Professor Kalidas Bhattacharya, one of the foremost of the contemporary Indian philosophers, was born on 17th August, 1911, at Barisal, of the present day Bangla Desh. He received his education at Serampur and Calcutta. He was the recipient of Premchand Raichand Scholarship.

Professor Kalidas Bhattacharya began his career as a Lecturer at Vidyasagar College, Calcutta. Ever since, till the time of his death, Professor Bhattacharya led his life in the pursuit of philosophic truth in the most noble and illustrious manner. Rather than the textual research, he was more interested in the pursuit of philosophical ideas. Even at a young age, he earned the reputation of being a serious, competent and scholarly philosopher. In his philosophical endeavour he always treated basic problems in an original and profound way.

During the long span of nearly fifty years of his career, he held several positions. He was a Professor of Indian Philosophy at Sanskrit College, Calcutta. As a Professor he also headed the Center of Advanced Study in Philosophy at Viswabharati during 1957-71. Later, during 1967-71 he also became the Vice-Chancellor of the Viswabharati University. At the time of his death, he was occupying the National Fellowship of the newly established Indian Council of Philosophical Research. In fact, he was the first to be honoured by the award of this fellowship. He has also delivered special lectures at various Universities which include North Bengal, Ravindra Bharati, Calcutta, Jadavpur, Burdwan, Bhagalpur, Magadh, B.H.U., Lucknow, Delhi, IIT Kanpur, Jaipur, Tirupati and also many other Universities from the different parts of our country. He had also visited Universities of Hawai and Vienna. The Oxford University had invited

him to deliver Radhakrishnan Memorial Lectures during the year 1984-85. Unfortunately that was not to be and we are deprived of what might very well have been a major philosophical contribution from him.

Prof. Bhattacharya has served the larger philosophical community through the forum of Indian Philosophical Congress. For several years, he was the Secretary and the General President of the Congress. He was also the Editor of the *Viswabharati Quarterly* and the *Viswabharati Journal of Philosophy*. Several academic journals which include *Indian Philosophical Quarterly*, *Journal of Indian Philosophy*, *Darshna*, *The Philosophical Quarterly*, etc. received, in a very fruitful manner, his elderly advice in his capacity as the member of the Editorial Board.

All these activities are evidence of Prof. Bhattacharya's active involvement as well as his commitment to Philosophy. He was always ready to talk with the young students and teachers; and he encouraged them in every possible way. The coming generations of philosophers will always remember him for his philosophical writings. He has left behind him a corpus of Philosophical writings which include as many as thirteen books in English, two in Bengali and around sixty papers. During his own life time, all of these received a serious attention of contemporary thinkers. In fact, it was in January 1981, the Department of philosophy, Rajasthan University, under the scheme of seminars to discuss the works of living philosophers, had organized a full scale National seminar on Prof. Kalidasbabu's Philosophy. It was but natural that Prof. Bhattacharya's writings received attention of philosophers. The substantive character and the thoroughness of his philosophizing, and the clarity of his style demanded this. In a sense, and as he himself has admitted, his philosophical thought at its core, was a continuation of his father's thought. Prof. Kalidas Bhattacharya, indeed, was very fortunate in having Prof. K. C. Bhattacharya, a master mind on the philosophical horizon of our country, as his father. Prof. Kalidas Bhattacharya acquired from his father the fundamental principle of alternative absolutes, which, for quite some time, occupied his own philosophical thought. The earlier writings of Prof. Kalidas Bhattacharya which include his celebrated book *Alternative Standpoints in Philosophy* (1953) was a continuation of the tradition which

his father, Prof. K. C. Bhattacharya had set. But, it was not a mere continuation, rather, it was a furtherance of a philosophical heritage in all its richness. In its substance, in the matters of details, and in its simplicity, Prof. Kalidas Bhattacharya's thought presents a whole, which is truly indigenous. In all these aspects, he represented his father.

Truly, with the demise of Prof. Kalidas Bhattacharya, the living tradition of constructive philosophizing has suffered an irreparable loss, especially at a time when the young philosophers of our country are facing the crisis of direction in their work.

In his passing away, Indian Philosophical Quarterly, has to endure a specific and personal deprivation, for, ever since the conception of I. P. Q., Prof. Bhattacharya has graced our Editorial Board. I. P. Q. was always assured of his serene blessings and generous encouragement and support. It is with reverence and gratitude that we wish to pay our tributes to him.

Editors,  
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