
PROFESSOR N. V. BANERJEE
26th September 1897—31st March 1982

Professor N. V. Banerjee, one of the Eminent philosophers of the contemporary India passed away on 31st March 1982.

Professor Banerjee had a very long and illustrious career as a philosopher as well as an academician. His passing away is a serious loss to the philosophical tradition of India.

It is with a profound sense of sorrow that Indian Philosophical Quarterly records the sad demise of Professor N. V. Banerjee and prays for the peace of the departed soul.

Editors
Indian Philosophical Quarterly

A tribute to the Late Professor N. V. Banerjee, paid by Dr. Margaret Chatterjee appears on the following pages.

NIKUNJA VIHARI BANERJEE :

A Tribute

Professor Nikunja Vihari Banerjee who was born in a village in West Bengal was educated in Calcutta University. A pupil of Brajendranath Seal, Hiralal Haldar and S. K. Maitra, he had a distinguished university career, being both a Medallist and Prizeman. After a brief period as a young lecturer in Punjab, he joined Ramjas College as a lecturer in 1922 and served Delhi University until 1963 when he retired. First Lecturer, then Reader and Professor, his headship of the Department of Philosophy spanned the period 1946-63. In 1931 he was awarded a Research Fellowship on the recommendation of the Head of the Department of Philosophy in University College, London and in 1932 he obtained the Ph. D. degree from London University where he worked with John Macmurray on Kant's Philosophy of the Self. From 1957-59 he was Dean, Faculty of Arts and Chairman of the Board of Research Studies in the University of Delhi. An active member of the Indian Philosophical Congress he was its Secretary and then General President in 1956. It was thanks to Professor Banerjee's leadership and vision that the Buddhist Studies Department and the Psychology Department were founded, both of these disciplines having been nurtured within the Department of Philosophy.

Professor Banerjee's standing as a philosopher was such that he visited China in 1955 as a member of the Indian Universities Delegation and lectured in the University of Peking. In 1957 he lectured in several German universities, and held a seminar with Martin Heidegger and other Professors of the University of Freiburg. During the same year he lectured in the universities of Amsterdam and Croningen. In 1968 he was Leverhulme Visiting fellow at Monash University in Australia and lectured also in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth. In 1969 he lectured in Bulgaria, Hungary and Poland as an official nominee of the Government of India and gave lectures in several universities including those in Sofia, Budapest and Warsaw. During the same year he lectured in the University of Mainz and Vienna. He was then invited to U. K. as a guest of the British Council and lectured in the University of Southampton.

In 1973 he was invited by the Helen Vale Foundation to Australia and lectured to students in the Universities of Melbourne, Monash and La Trobe. He also held a seminar in the University of Adelaide.

From 1965-67 he was Professor of Philosophy and Comparative Religion at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Simla. Professor Banerjee was a prolific writer and contributed many papers to various journals in India and abroad, including *The Philosophical Review*, New York, *The Monist*, Chicago, and *The Hibbert Journal*. He was the author of the following books: *Concerning Human Understanding*, Allen & Unwin, London 1958; *Language, Meaning and Persons*, Allen & Unwin, London, 1963; *The Concept of Philosophy*, being Foundation lectures delivered in the University of Calcutta and published by that University in 1968; *Glimpses of Indian Wisdom*, Munshiram Manoharlal, New Delhi, 1972; *Philosophical Reconstruction* Arnold Heinemann, New Delhi & London, 1973; *Indian Experiments with Truth*, Arnold Heinemann, 1973; *The Spirit of Indian Philosophy*, Arnold-Heinemann, 1974; *Kant's Philosophy of the Self*, Arnold Heinemann 1974; *The Future of Education*, Progressive Publishers, Calcutta; 1976; *Buddhism and Marxism*, Orient Longman, New Delhi, 1978; *Studies in the Dharmasastra of Manu*, Munshiram Manoharlal, New Delhi, 1980; *The Future of Religion*, Munshiram Manoharlal, New Delhi 1981; *The Bhagvad Gita* (New translation and commentary) Munshiram Manoharlal, New Delhi, (In the press); *The Dhammapada* (with introductory essays and notes), Munshiram Manoharlal, New Delhi (In the press). At the time of his death he had also completed manuscripts of three books entitled respectively : *The Outlines of Jaina Ethics and Religion* : *Chaitanya and Vaisnavism* : *Knowledge Reason and Human Autonomy*.

The doyen among Indian philosophers, Prof. N. V. Banerjee was a devoted teacher and an original thinker and never failed to encourage the young. He leaves behind a corpus of work worthy of a scholar whose creative powers as a thinker were never dimmed by age, and whose philosophical outlook can best be described in terms of a humanism whose springs lay deep within India's heritage.

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Margaret Chatterjee

BOOKS RECEIVED

- (1) An Introduction to Ancient Philosophy : A. H. Armstrong
Published by Methuen & Co., Ltd., 11, New Fetter lane
London : Reprinted 1981 : pp. XVIII-242.
- (2) Epistemology and Ethics of G. E. Moore : Shukla
Sarkar : Concept Publishing Company, New Delhi, First
Edition 1981 : pp 202.
- (3) Evil Suffering and Salvation : Nitin Vyas : Vishwamanav
Sanskar Sikshan Trust Barodas : First Edition 1982 :
pp VII + 238.
- (4) Mahabhasya Pradipa Vyakhyanani VIII Adhaya 5 Pada
1-4 : Edition par M. S. Nara Simhacharya : Institute
Francis D Indologie Pondichery : First Edition 1981,
pp 253.
- (5) A Double Regime in the Malbar Church (1663-1716) :
Thomas Pallipurathkunnel : Pontifical Institute Publica-
tions, Alwaye, Kerala, pp 183.

INDIAN PHILOSOPHICAL QUARTERLY
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- (7) Mervin Ulm : Ohio State University
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David Holt : University of Virginia