

RADHAKRISHNAN

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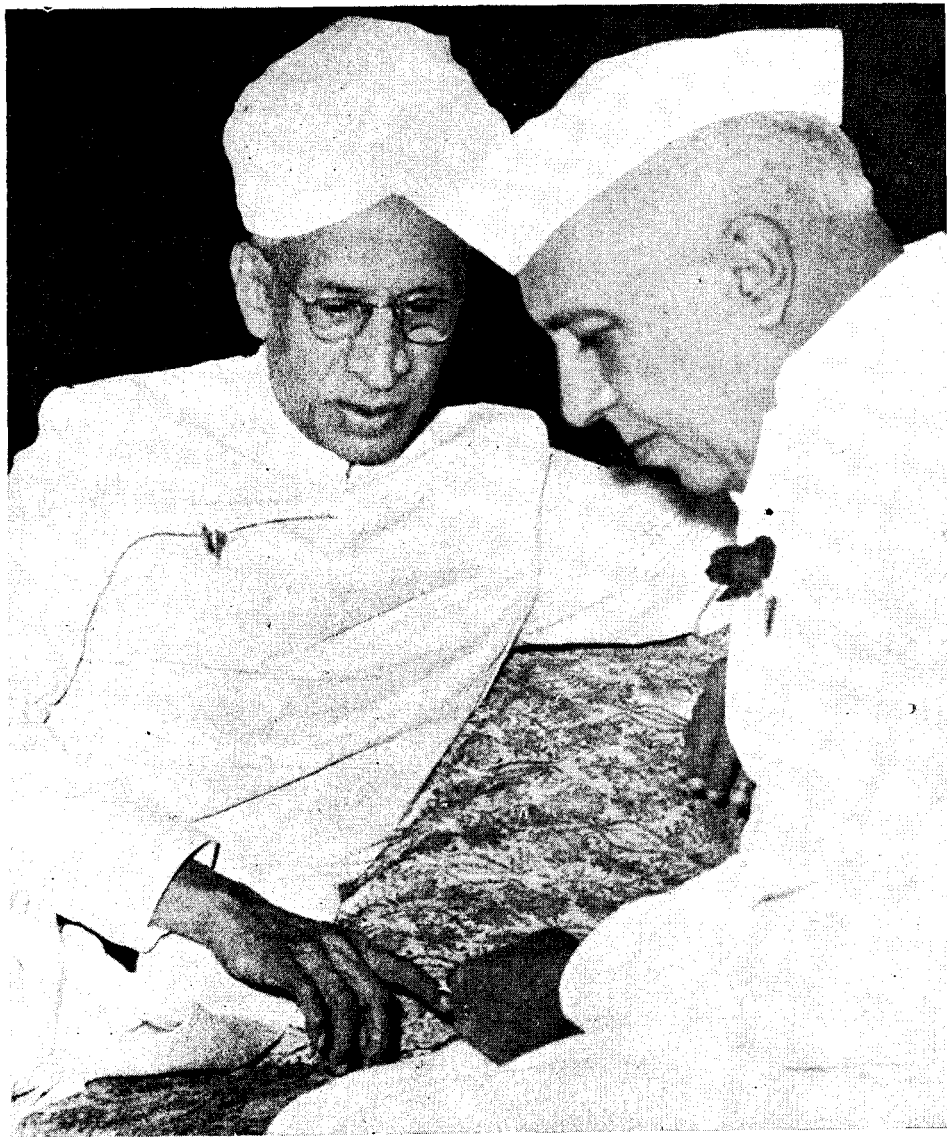
ON
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This is a collection of President Radhakrishnan's speeches and writings about Jawaharlal Nehru, beginning with his broadcast to the nation made a few hours after his death and ending with the one made on the eve of the first anniversary of that event. In these, Dr. Radhakrishnan stresses the pervasive leadership and influence of the man who, next to Gandhi, was the maker of modern India and calls upon the nation to re-dedicate itself to his ideals. Together, the sixteen pieces form a penetrating and objective assessment of Nehru's life, thought and achievements by one who speaks not only as a personal friend of his or even as Head of State, but also as one of the great intellectuals of our time.

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S. RADHAKRISHNAN

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A GREAT EMANCIPATOR

IN a moment so charged with emotion, I do not wish to say much; nor is there any need for it. It is an occasion when all of us, men, women and children, wish to keep our thoughts to ourselves and render in a mood of reverence grateful homage to a life of great service and dedication.

Jawaharlal Nehru was one of the greatest figures of our generation, an outstanding statesman whose services to the cause of human freedom are unforgettable. As a fighter for freedom he was illustrious, as a maker of modern India his services were unparalleled. His life and work have had a profound influence on our mental make-up, social structure and intellectual development. It will be difficult to reconcile ourselves to the image of an India without Nehru's active and all-pervasive leadership. An epoch in our country's history has come to a close.

As a man, Nehru combined a fine sensitivity of mind and a rare delicacy of feeling with large and generous impulses. To the weak and the

Message to the nation on the death of Jawaharlal Nehru
on May 27, 1964

MODERN INDIA HIS MONUMENT

FRIENDS: We are grateful to the distinguished guests who have come from abroad to express their sympathy with us and give comfort to us in this tragic hour of our history. We are extremely touched by their solicitude for us at this moment.

Jawaharlal was not merely a servant of the Indian nation but a servant of suffering humanity. Appalled by the spectacular developments in nuclear physics, he felt that the greatest enemy man has to fight is not this nation or that nation but war itself. So he tried his best, by the principles of peaceful co-existence, co-operation and non-alignment, to bring about a better understanding among the nations. All conflicts spring from misunderstanding and by producing understanding we try to reduce the rigour of the conflicts.

The blow which has fallen on us is the greatest we have had after the passing away of Mahatma Gandhi, and Nehru was trying

Address at a public meeting held at Ramlila grounds, Delhi, on May 29, 1964, to mourn the death of Jawaharlal Nehru

A CONSECRATED LIFE

FRIENDS: This day, last week, our great Prime Minister passed away. We are too near the event and too much under the influence of a powerful personality for it to be possible for us to estimate adequately the loss we have sustained. Yet we have to think of the broad lessons of Nehru's life. The great point about it is that he identified himself with the life of the people and tried to make their lives somewhat richer and fuller. He was great in spirit and true greatness consists in the realization that one is born not for oneself but for one's kind, one's neighbours and one's people. Destiny cast on him the role of not merely one of the prime liberators of the country, but one of its main builders as well. He strove in his life to secure for our people not only political freedom but social and economic justice. Indifference to personal comforts, to wealth and to possessions marked his career.

From the extracts of the will, which will be read to you in a few minutes by his sister

Broadcast on All India Radio, June 3, 1964, when extracts from the Will and Testament of Jawaharlal Nehru were released

KEEP ALIVE THE TORCH

THE passing away of Jawaharlal Nehru marks the end of an epoch in the life of our nation. Yet the ideals for which he worked and the values for which he stood will abide for all time to come. We find ourselves today overwhelmed with grief and a sense of loss. But we would not be true to his memory if we gave ourselves up to despair and uncertainty. Let us keep alive the torch which he lit for the freedom and progress of the country and unswervingly follow the path which he lighted for us. May his memory remain ever green with us—an inspiration for achieving the goal which he set before the country and the people. He did not fail us; let us not fail him.

Message on the occasion of the release of a commemorative postage stamp, June 8, 1964

FREEDOM FROM PREJUDICE

THIS is the first meeting we are having of the Council of Ministers after the passing away of our illustrious leader Jawaharlal Nehru. We wish to place on record our very high appreciation of the devoted services he has rendered to our country and to humanity at large. We are all passing through a period of crisis. The only way in which we can show our respect to Jawaharlal Nehru is by adopting an attitude of freedom from every kind of prejudice in dealing with affairs which are brought to our notice.

Address to the Council of Ministers after their being sworn in at Rashtrapati Bhavan, June 9, 1964

HIS IDEALS

It is my privilege once again to say a few words to you on the eve of the seventeenth anniversary of our Independence Day. This would normally have been a day of rejoicing for us; but we are living in the shadow of the loss we have suffered by the passing away of our great national leader, Jawaharlal Nehru, who left an imprint on our life and gave a new outlook to it. He strove to build a new future for India and gave to us a purpose in national life; and we should adhere to this purpose and dedicate ourselves to the task of accomplishing it. He gave us the ideals of parliamentary democracy, a non-communal State, planned development, sobriety in international affairs, friendship among nations and peace in the world. There were many in our country who were impatient with what they called the unnecessary patience of Nehru, but being a democrat, he wished to carry the bulk of the people with him in whatever he did.

From message to the nation broadcast on All India Radio on August 14, 1964

OUR DEBT TO HIM

A FEW days ago, an appeal was issued to the public in connection with the commemoration of the great services which Jawaharlal Nehru rendered to our country to express our debt to him.

He left an impress on different aspects of our life. There is not any side of life in our country which has not been affected by him. Nations, like individuals, suddenly get a spurt, mobilize their resources, make a new start and determine their future. For us, the last fifty years have been a period of such shattering change. First Mahatma Gandhi, then Nehru. All the principles which developed during the period of the struggle were formulated in our Constitution. We had so many things to do but we tried to do all those things within the framework of democratic institutions. Ever so many countries emerged into independence after the Second World War. But many of them preferred to come under arbitrary and authoritarian rule. There are different kinds of demo-

Address at the first meeting of the National Committee of the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund, Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, August 17, 1964

“GO FORTH AND DO LIKEWISE”

It is difficult to say anything definite about so protean a character as Jawaharlal Nehru who left us at the end of May this year. He was a person of immense intellectual gifts and of genuine social passion. He was one of the greatest figures of our century, an outstanding statesman whose services in the cause of human freedom were unparalleled.

In this turbulent, changing world, our country had also been shifting its axis of national and international conduct under Nehru's wise leadership. To him life was not a simple parade but a perpetual battle, a continuous conflict between what is and what should be. Great men are like lamps which are a light to others and destruction to themselves. Nehru wore himself out in the service of the country and no other thought ever occupied his mind.

It was his desire to free the Indian mind from the shackles of prejudice and superstition which have such a powerful hold on us. He wished

Foreword to *Jawaharlal Nehru—A Pictorial Album*
published on the 75th birth anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru,
November 1964

A MAN OF DEEP HUMANITY

THIS day, had he lived, Jawaharlal Nehru would have completed 75 years of age and started his 76th year. Fate ordained otherwise. His services to the nation are well known. As a fighter for freedom, as a maker of the modern, scientific, non-communal, socialist State, he had given to us a purpose. He was a powerful, challenging personality and a man of many moods, of varied enthusiasms. He had a far-away look; he looked into the distant vision of the world. He had a high sense of destiny for himself, for his country and for the world. All through his life he showed a passionate love for humanity. Though trained in Western institutions, deep down he had a passion for the spirit of this country—the spirit which, he felt, was irreplaceable. “India clings to me as she does to all her children, in innumerable ways.”

Someone said he was an agnostic Lenin following a Christian Tolstoy. This is a misrepresentation. He sometimes called himself

Speech on the occasion of the presentation of a bust of Nehru by the Chitra Kala Sangam at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, on November 13, 1964

DEAR FRIEND OF CHILDREN

MY YOUNG FRIENDS : It is the first Children's Day after Nehru's passing away. You will all greatly miss him today. He was a very dear friend to you all and deeply interested in promoting your welfare. Our great leaders—Gandhi and Nehru—both loved children, talked to them, played with them and made them feel their importance and significance for the future life of our nation. They treated children as friends. Both these leaders along with others wished children to have a full life. Both encouraged dance and song and told stories to children about the greatness of our past and wished to endow them all with a purpose for the future. Even grown-up people are advised to have the outlook of children—their pure innocence, their lack of sophistication, their reverence for life, their tolerance and understanding of others. These are the qualities which make for a civilized outlook on life. In whatever we elders do for the children, we must see to it that we do not cripple their spontaneity, that we do not injure their innocence and that we help them to look upon the whole world as their own kindred.

Children's Day message, November 13, 1964

PART OF OUR HERITAGE

FRIENDS : I am happy to be here this morning and inaugurate the Museum.

If you look into the origin of the word museum, you will see that it originally referred to the sanctuaries for the muses of the Greek mythology. In the 3rd century B.C. a great collection of books in Alexandria used by Alexander the Great was also called museum. There are certain museums in the world which celebrate individuals. There is the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. This museum comes under that category because it celebrates a great name. You will see the very things which were used by him—daily articles, also his jottings, books, manuscripts and archives.

Jawaharlal Nehru was a great literary artist. He fostered the arts and literature in our country, and his masterpiece, the *Autobiography*, like all masterpieces of literature, is both personal and universal; it has a sense of self-revelation and it is a historic record. If you read that book, you will see a distinguished mind at work, a delicate sensibility, a mind which is lost in the

Speech at the inauguration of the Nehru Museum at Teen Murti House, New Delhi, November 14, 1964

AN ENFRANCHISED HUMAN BEING

FRIENDS: Dr. Zakir Husain has just related to you the way in which these volumes were thought of and now brought out; and he has given me this great opportunity of releasing these two volumes. One is a pictorial album representing Jawaharlal Nehru in different stages of his life, from his infancy to his last hour. The other speaks about the emerging world society.

Generally history makes the man, who, in turn, makes history. The influences which were brought to bear on Jawaharlal Nehru in the early years of his life had something to do with moulding the pattern and outlook of his life. While at Harrow, he received a book as a prize for good conduct, I am told : Trevelyan on Garibaldi. He read the first volume and sent for the other books by Trevelyan on Garibaldi. He then felt the great and captivating personality of Garibaldi who was a revolutionary hero, who campaigned for the oppressed, who liberated and unified Italy. He thought, why should I

Speech while releasing two Nehru memorial volumes at
Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, November 14, 1964

GANDHI AND NEHRU

IT is a matter of great satisfaction to know that an authentic account of the life and thought of Jawaharlal Nehru, one of the most outstanding figures of our century, will now be available to the American public in these volumes by Dorothy Norman, a good and devoted friend of Nehru. The book gives extracts not only from his published writings but also from his utterances, speeches, interviews and press conferences, which are not easily accessible. Nehru was a dedicated servant of our people and humanity. He touched the conscience of the peoples of the world and made them feel responsible for the dignity of man and the promotion of peace.

In these first sixty years the influence of Gandhi on Nehru was immense. Gandhi, as an authentically religious man, wished us to banish any hatred or bitterness and to fight in a clean, non-violent way the battle of freedom for India. While freedom is a worthwhile objective, Gandhi taught that it should be won by peaceful methods, by self-suffering. Gandhi abhorred the use of violence and exalted the

Commending Nehru: The First Sixty Years by Dorothy Norman, December 5, 1964

NO GREATER INSPIRATION

THE last year has been a testing time for us all. The great leader who had guided the destinies of our country since its rebirth as a free nation is no longer with us. We who are left behind can have no greater inspiration than Nehru's life of dedicated service in our task of attaining the ideal and fulfilling the vision he bequeathed to us of a united, democratic, progressive and prosperous India.

Amidst the suffocating gloom of Nehru's departure from us, the nation displayed, as it has done before in moments of grave crisis, a remarkable sense of unity and responsibility; and the transition to a new leadership was effected with commendable dignity and orderliness.

From message to the nation broadcast on All India Radio on January 25, 1965, the eve of Republic Day

HE GAVE US DIRECTION

It is a year since we lost our great leader who loved us so much and served us so well. His qualities of leadership were well known. When we were confused and undecided he gave us direction. When we were lost in passion, he asked us to be calm and composed. When we were alarmed by the situation in the country, he stood like a brave warrior, asking us not to get disturbed unnecessarily. He knew that our country had lost its moorings. There was national deterioration. We were alienated from our roots. Through education, science and art he asked us to get back to our roots and behave as Indians worthy of the dignity of the country which had a great past and expected to have a great future. Through science and technology he asked us to transform our country and raise the material standard of our people. Even with regard to world relations he knew that humanity was on the verge of either destruction or renewal. We have either to advance forward into undreamt of advantages or go backward

Message to the Films Division for release on May 26, 1965, the eve of the first anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru's death

THE COMING AGE

FRIENDS: Tomorrow it will be a year since we lost our great leader. He was incomparably the greatest figure after Gandhi in our history—a man of dynamic force, intellectual power and profound vision. To these he added a feminine sensitiveness to atmosphere. He spent lavishly his rich and varied gifts for the cause of human freedom. He was involved in the major events of his time, national and international. He participated in them all while maintaining the highest standards of public conduct. Though he is no more with us, the qualities he possessed and the ideals he cherished remain with us.

Nehru had a sense of history. He looked not only to the past but also into the future. This endowed him with the vision without which true greatness is not possible. In the Constituent Assembly he said : “Whether we are men and women of destiny or not, India is a country of destiny.”¹ What is this destiny ? Civilizations are kept alive when their values are re-created in men’s minds. The principal values

Broadcast to the nation, May 26, 1965

¹*Constituent Assembly Debates*, Vol. VII, p. 322

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