

*C. L. Agrawal Memorial
Law Lecture, 1985*



Late Shri CHIRANJI LAL AGRAWAL

30-1-1906

1-12-1979

mamanusmara yudhya ca
"Think of Me and do your duty."

(Bg. 8.7)

C. L. Agrawal Memorial Law Lecture, 85

I and my other brethren from the Bar feel overjoyed and gratified on this occasion of inaugurating the Late Shri C. L. Agrawal Memorial Law Lectures. Late Shri C.L. Agrawal, Advocate, a legal luminary with sparkling brilliance, an eminent jurist of our country of his time, a great social worker and an enthusiastic devotee to the cause of education, was ushered to this mortal world on the 30th day of January, 1906 in a respectable Agrawal family of village Paota. His father Late Lala Shri Shiv Prashad Agrawal was in Government Service.

As the time rolled on, so did his educational career grow on smoothly emitting signs of his assured destiny. He took his M.A. and LL.B. degrees from the then renowned University of Allahabad in the year 1927 from where he brought with him both learning and industry. He joined the Bar at Jaipur in the year 1927 where i.e. in the erstwhile state of Jaipur, he was one of the Pioneer Law graduates. He rose like a shooting star in the legal profession attracting clientele from all walks and shades of life, including Chieftains of the former state of Jaipur. He reached dizzy heights of legal firmament where he stood like a shining star and held this position of his being second to none till he retired not only from the field of law but rather from this mortal world. Late Shri Agrawal had completed 50 years of practice at Bar. During this period not only that he enjoyed a roaring and lucrative practice but also he commanded utmost regard both from the Bar and the Bench alike. As a Lawyer, Nature had blessed him with sharp legal acumen, gravity of thought of human understanding, clarity of language and lucidity of expression to which the judgments of the cases argued by him bear ample testimony. He formed a class by himself. In recognition of his talents as a lawyer even in his young

age he was associated with the Wills Committee set-up to resolve conflicting issues between the then ruler of Jaipur state and the Jagirdars of Shekhawati and Torawati. His valuable contribution therein paved the path for his further active association with the Customs Duty Reform Committee Constitutional Reforms Committee, Laws Codification Committee in the erstwhile state of Jaipur. For his being a leading lawyer, he was nominated as a member of the State Bar Council.

With the formation of Rajasthan his fame, name, eminence and popularity, as the leading most lawyer throughout the state of Rajasthan, grew all the more, whereby, he was acknowledged to be a merited jurist. He was not only once but rather twice offered the august office of High Court Judge, first in the High Court of the former Jaipur State and thereafter in the High Court of Raj by no less an eminent than Hon. Chief Justice of India Shri M. C. Mahajan. But, on both these occasions he declined to accept the offers, as service to the public with larger role in wider spheres reigned supreme in his mind, as was unfolded by the passage of time. He adorned the Chairmanship of the Bar Council of Rajasthan between 1963-68. He hosted the first conference of Bar Council of India at Jaipur in 1969, so also he enjoyed the membership of the Bar Council of India from 1961-63 and than from 1968 till his death. He was a member of the Executive Committee and Legal Education Committee of B.C.I. But for the untiring efforts of Late Shri C.L. Agrawal Advocate, that the Bar Council of India Trust would not have come into being. His zeal in setting up a model Law School at Bangalore was highly applauded. He was the Managing Trustee of the Education Trust of Bar Council of India. He was nominated as a member of Rajasthan Laws Codification Committee and was Co-opted as a member of Law Commission headed by a personality like Late Shri M. C. Setalvad in 1956. He remained as a member of executive Committee of Bar Association of India

during 1961-64 and President of Jaipur Bar Association & Rajasthan High Court Bar Association for number of years. Countless were his contributions in the realm of law, few of which, have been mentioned herein-before and it can aptly be said about him that he was a lawyer of the ruling Princes and a ruling Prince amongst the lawyers.

The devotion and contribution of Late Shri C. L. Agrawal to the cause of education is no mean in as much as he was associated with different Universities of Rajasthan in one capacity or the other. He was a member of the Syndicate & Senate of Rajasthan University for a pretty long time. He was a member of the Faculty of Law of the Universities like Rajasthan, Udaipur and Jodhpur. He rendered valuable services as a Law Examiner and as a member convener of Legal Education Committee set-up by the Rajasthan University. Large number of Educational institutions would claim worthy association of Late Shri Chiranji Lal Agrawal.

His association with these educational institutions was not only in name but rather in full spirit and substance as is borne out by his having been honoured on the occasions of Silver Jubilee functions of St. Xavier & M. G. D. Public School in the year 1972 and 1973 respectively.

His pre-occupations and professional commitments did not deter him from sparing his time for political, social and Philanthropic causes, firstly in Jaipur State, thereafter in Rajasthan and beyond too. He courted jail during freedom movement, also took keen part in the agitation against the abolition of Bench of Rajasthan High Court, Jaipur, the achievement of both the causes in due course of time speaks of his championship for just and public causes. His political career started with his association with the Praja Mandal in the former princely state of Jaipur. He was chairman of the Reception Committee constituted for the Praja Mandal Session held in 1938.

His activities as a member, as a founder member and as a trustee in various social and charitable organisations and institutions and as president of Hindu Charitable Trust Jaipur and that of the Bansa Sarvajanik Aushdhalaya Samiti with sole trusteeship thereof from the year 1945 till his death, as President of Shanti Ashram, Jaipur do speak volumes of his contribution to the society. Not only this but that from out of his personal resources he found the Rajasthan—Educational—Trust of worth Rs. Fifty lacs. He also donated his Agricultural land near Niwia Railway Station to Bhudan Movement in 1952. He remained as a President of Council of world affairs Branch at Jaipur and Jodhpur. Late Shai C. L. Agarwal was a Rotarian since 1947 and held various posts in different Committees including that of Presidentship of this Club for various terms. He also became Harris Fellow in 1974-75.

As a man he was well-read and widely travelled and hence well-versed and informed about men and matters. He was every inch a gentleman. A favoured son of fortune, a legal luminary not silent but rather smart spectator of life with a full-blooded view of it, a cordial Colleague, an affectionate and obliging to youngsters of the legal profession, a patriot, an ardent social worker, an avowed educationist was late Shri C. L. Agrawal Advocate, whose liberally generous outlook of life will ever be remembered. He was gifted with rare qualities of Head and Heart which endeared him to all and sundry whomsoever came in contact with him. He was a noble soul who led an aristocratic life, yet dedicated to the cause of masses. He was refined and amicable in his behaviour, kind-hearted in conduct, highly accomplished. Besides these, there were so many other good human qualities in him which outclassed him as a distinguished personality both in the profession and the public. His exit from this world is an irreparable loss to the Bar and Bench alike.

On his death, while paying rich tributes to him and taking into consideration his deep love for legal education and his interest in creating the academic atmosphere in the legal world. The Bar Council decided to create a Trust to hold a Law lectures series to perpetuate his loving memory and to compile them in various volumes. We, for some reasons beyond our control could not start these lectures earlier but we are happy as Hon'ble Mr Justice P. N. Bhagwati, Supreme Court of India, has agreed to deliver the First lecture. We are grateful to his Lordships and equally thankful to Mr. Pradyot Kumar Banerjee, Hon'ble Chief Justice, Rajasthan for presiding over the function.

I shall be wrong, if I omit to mention here that, but for the efforts of the then Chairman Shri M. M. Singhvi, Shri N. L. Tibrewal, Shri M. L. Sharma, Advocates, other members, present chairman Shri C. K. Garg and Hon'ble Justice Mr. V. S. Dave (member Bar Council of India and former Convener of C. L. Agrawal Memorial Law Lectures Committee) this would not have been achieved.

Nagendra Kumar Jain

Advocate
Convener

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