

28th July, 2004

MY LORD, THE HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE, YOUR LORDSHIPS, ADDITIONAL SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA, SECRETARY AND OTHER OFFICE BEARERS OF DELHI HIGH COURT BAR ASSOCIATION, STANDING COUNSEL FOR GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI, MY COLLEAGUES AT THE BAR, LADIES AND GENTLEMENT:

On 24th of this month, a great tree fell, leaving the forest barren.

Shri Bipin Behari Lal, a revered member of our Bar, left for his heavenly abode after having lived full and honorable life; He celebrated his 85th birthday only last month.

Most of us might have seen him or heard of him, some of us have known him and yet very few might have known him from close quarters. I have been fortunate to belong to the last class. In my formative years of practice, I met him often and each meeting was a learning experience. For a novice then, each interaction was an eye-opener.

Born in 1999, Lal Saheb did his Master's in History after his graduation from Delhi's St. Stephen's. After his graduation in law, he honed his skills in law from the chambers of the illustrious and

legendary Mr. Tara Chand Mathur, whose name needs no introduction to us.

Though not a designated Senior, when it came to criminal law, his performance possessed the highest mark of excellence combined with a level of unsurpassed knowledge and erudition. He was a jurist in the complete sense of the term and lived the life of Law & Justice. Many stalwarts came from his chambers too. Mr. Justice A.B. Saharya, (former Chief Justice of Punjab & Haryana High Court) and Mr. Dinesh Mathur, Sr. Advocate are the two that come to my mind now. He took pains, as such as for his own learning, to train his juniors too.

Lall Saheb possessed a high level of ethical esteem. Another enviable quality was his memory. Once pored over, facts and figures were permanently embedded there. Unfolding them before the Hon'ble Court in the light of relevant laws with in-depth analysis were a sight to witness and a feast to the intellect. Those who had the occasion to watch Mr. Lall in court would be disappointed if they imagined to see fire works; he was glowing like an ember slowly but surely divorcing opposition without any big bang, unlike many present day lawyers.

His ability to open new frontiers in criminal jurisprudence was commendable. He dared to take the unknown routes and bring in ~~newer~~ and newer insights. He was never content with what was

provided in decided cases, he always tried to reach out for something new, higher and better and sought light from various provisions of the Statutes. He manifested a rapid and penetrating perception of legal problems which he tried to resolve not from the light of the past but by exploring new ideas especially in relation to trials.

He was reliable and solid as Oak. State and Central Governments, CBI and other bodies sought his assistance in many a case. He contributing in many commissions of enquiries. The finest examples are his appointment as Special Public Prosecutor in Sanayal murder case, Kashmir conspiracy case, and Indian Airlines Highjack case. He also had the distinction of being a defence counsel in the one of first bride-bring cases, viz., Meena Tandon case. To cite, there are many more and that is not the intention here.


Mr. Bipin Behari Lall was multifaceted and multi-gifted personality, a soft spoken figure and serenity. Candles may not be sun, but they also give light. Some people in their own small way can lighten the path of those whom they enhance and make small heavens. He was an inspiration in whatever form and manner one came in his contact. He was goodness personified, whose presence anywhere filled the air with his fragrance.

Shri Lall was President of Delhi Bar Association, one of Asia's biggest Bar Associations and showed great qualities of leadership.

We have, amongst us, a promising lawyer from his own lineage, his son Akshay. Like father, like son, so goes the saying. Akshay has settled his foot on the criminal side. Our hearts go to him. May he grant him and other members of the family enough strength to bear the loss. Let them cherish the good memories of Lalil Saheb and steer ahead with more enthusiasm and interest.

A flame that burnt bright, will glow forever in our memories. For me personally, loss of Lalil Saheb is a situation difficult to reckon with, a feeling that chokes the throat. My silent salutation to the departed senior – may his soul rest in peace.

I, on behalf of the Delhi High Court Bar Association and on my own, request your Lordships kindly to convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.


(A.S. CHANDHOK)
President
Delhi High Court Bar Association