



My Dear Usha:

Atthreya reaching 80 !!

I am thrilled to receive your letter dated 26th November, which reached me about a week ago, asking me to write about what it meant to be a friend of Nagam. I am one of those close friends of Nagam and so much indebted to him and it is therefore a great opportunity for me to express my feelings of joy on the very important occasion. Before proceeding further I wish to congratulate him on his 80th birthday with a prayer to the 'Para Brahman' that He should shower His blessings on Atthreya to lead a long life fully engaged in the performance of yagna of helping humanity in his inimitable way.

I have always felt a sense of thrill whenever there has been an opportunity to meet Shri Athreya or hear him on telephone. This was because there was always something novel in Shri Atthreya's approach to problems of our society and there was always an opportunity for a scintillating discussion. Above all Shri Atthreya is a good listener. So meeting Mr. Atthreya was always an intellectual feast.

My association with Nagam Athreya is nearly sixty years old going back to the college days. We were not that intimate in the beginning. I was a day scholar in St. Joseph's College, Trichinapaly. Being of a shy type I never used to mingle with my associates. On the other hand Nagam was a hostelite with a flair for being friendly with all, be they professors, classmates or juniors. Though a student of Mathematics, he had literary leanings. I used to admire his article in our College magazine. I always used to think of him as a class by himself. After leaving the College I lost touch with him.

My next contact with him was when I was in Poona working for the Meteorological Department. You could will imagine my surprise when on a Sunday afternoon he dropped at my residence in Poona. He was on a mission to form a forum of ex Josephites for the purpose of cultural exchanges. I then learnt that he had left some secure jobs and was exploring the field of studies in management techniques and consultancy. Being a quiet type, I used to be more involved in my own office work and research on atmospheric winds and temperatures in the Meteorological Department. You can therefore well imagine my astonishment when my friend, a student of Mathematics was contemplating studies on business management i.e. making studies as to how to conduct a lucrative business! At the same time I could fathom his restless mind ever exploring ways to contribute something original and at the same time far reaching in its application. Management studies was unheard of in India in these postwar years. Even in advanced countries it was a developing subject. I used to feel that the subject would not receive that much recognition especially in India with primitive infrastructure facilities. I therefore used to wonder at my friend in venturing into an unknown field. For a typical South Indian middle class man like





me, a secure government job was the only thing to aspired for since there could be disasters in other areas.

My association with Athreya became closer when I was posted in Bombay. By then he had become a full fledged management consultant having his own office. His creative thoughts could even affect me with my ideas more focussed on my official job of the taxman, along with side interests like religion, philosophy, astrology etc. But Athreya the motivator par excellence, the Adventurist in novel fields and a man with abiding interest in our ancient heritage viz; culture, philosophy, religion, was slowly opening my closed mind to have a look at other areas also in a better perspective. We used to have frequent discussions and it is needless to state that I was the gainer.

Astrology is one of my favorite subjects for study. But the study in the earlier stages was mostly superficial. But Mr. Athreya with his excellent power of motivation, used to make my study more objective and whether it could be put to practical use. He used to pose the problem whether astrology could be used for assessing the management executives. From his own record of interviews we used to make astrological assessments and compare the prognostications with the actual realities. It was unfortunate that these studies could not besustained for quite some time because of my transfer from Mumbai. In spite of the setback to the studies, I have come to believe that the planets and the zodiac play a great role in the formation of human character and inspite of vast change in the method of upbringing, the basic characteristics do not change. It has become a great pastime for me to study the characteristics of an individual from the horoscopes whenever there is our opportunity. Prognostications of the future from horoscopes may not be so accurate since the forecaster has to weigh several factors and also since the planets and the zodiacal signs have a variety of fields in which they operate. My belief is that only people with extra sensory perceptions can be good astrologers. But the delineation of characters and other physical traits all probably assessable by an experienced astrologer. I am thankful to Shri Athreya for helping me to study in this branch of astrology thereby making me a perpetual student in the branch of astrology.

In spite of my transfer to Ahmedabad I am still able to have occasional contacts with him during his tour programmes to Ahmedabad in his professional capacity. It is a pity that I have not been able to reciprocate in the same way due to lack of opportunities. There is however the consolation that we can reach each other over the telephone.

All of us here are sending our greetings on this grand occasion and we wish you all a glorious happy future.

With regards

Yours sincerely

Parthasarathy