

PROF. RAMAN ON THE RAMAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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SEVERAL times Prof. Raman has talked to me of the future of Raman Research Institute. He did this again between the 10th and 19th of November, only a few days before he died. I thought it may be worthwhile to record some of his thoughts which I noted down at that time. They are almost in his own words.

"The Raman Research Institute was created by me in 1948 to provide a place in which I could continue my studies in an atmosphere more conducive to pure research than that found in most scientific institutions. To me the pursuit of science has been an aesthetic and joyous experience. The Institute has been to me a haven where I could carry on my highly personal research work.

"This personal character of the Raman Research Institute should obviously change after me. It must blossom into a great centre of learning embracing many branches of science. Scientists from different parts of India and from all over the world must be attracted to it.

"The foundations of such a centre have already been laid. With its beautiful gardens, large libraries and extensive museums, I feel that the Institute offers a perfect nucleus for the growth of a centre of higher learning.

"I have always felt that science can only flower out when there is an internal urge. It cannot thrive under external pressures. I strongly believe that fundamental science cannot be driven by instructional, industrial, governmental or military pressures. This was the reason why I decided, as far as possible, not to accept money from Government.

"I am a very practical man and I am practical enough to see that it would not be possible for others to run or grow a good institution without funds. I have bequeathed all my property to the Institute. Unfortunately, this may not be sufficient for the growth of this centre of learning. I, therefore, will not put it as a condition that no Governmental funds should be accepted by the Institute. I would, however, strongly urge taking only funds that have no strings attached.

"The full potential of this centre of learning can only be achieved by exceptional leadership. Among the many qualities called for in a person who assumes this responsibility are scientific integrity, vision, receptiveness to new ideas and the enlightened outlook to let younger people grow unhindered to their full height. If these qualities can also be combined with the scientific reputation acquired by significant personal contributions in a chosen field of endeavour one has the leader who is likely to succeed in developing the Institute and incidentally rendering the nation a service. Any person who assumes the responsibility of running the Institute must have full control of the laboratories, libraries, workshops and other facilities. He must be empowered to acquire and dispense money in the name of the Institute. He must have powers to appoint or terminate the services of personnel required for the running of the Institute. Nothing is so detrimental to the growth of science in an institution than the existence of dead-wood floating aimlessly which cannot participate in the scientific growth of an institute."

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