

M E S S A G E

By

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IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR DR. RAGHU VIRA

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It is always a grievous loss whenever a great scholar passes away, but when a scholar is removed from our midst while engaged in his important researches, it is a real tragedy.

Dr. Raghu Vira had the rare combination of scholarship with the initiative needed to conduct research and exploration and a remarkable organising ability. His expeditions to Mongolia, China and other Asian countries in search of early Buddhist texts and iconographic and pictorial material achieved a signal success and secured a large amount of valuable material and important and extensive data.

Dr. Raghu Vira organised the International Academy of Indian Culture at Delhi and has done a great deal of research work as well as translated and published a large number of important ancient texts, and in this he was assisted by his distinguished son and collaborator, Dr. Lokesh Chandra.

Through his researches and endeavours, Dr. Raghu Vira has enriched our knowledge in a most important field and

made a valuable contribution to the sacred repository of world knowledge. His work added to a better understanding among peoples.

Dr. Raghu Vira's indefatigable spirit expanded into many activities of human endeavour including Politics and I am sure his distinct personality would have made itself felt in whatever line of activity he chose to pursue.

It is rare indeed for an eminent scholar to have a worthy successor who could continue his work and enlarge upon his aspirations and visions. In this Dr. Raghu Vira was most fortunate as he could not have had a better successor than his son, Dr. Lokesh Chandra, himself a dedicated and distinguished scholar. I know he will continue the work left undone by his father and himself write a brilliant page in the annals of World Scholarship.

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