

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

Centre for Advanced Study in Mathematics & DST-Fist Sponsored Department

Panjab University, Chandigarh - 160014(India)

Tel. : 0172-2534501
Fax : 0172-2541132
E-mail : casmath@pu.ac.in



Math.....

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My experiences with my Ideal Dr. M.C. Puri

My association with Dr. Puri is almost 20 years old. I know him since 1984, when he taught me mathematical programming in M.Sc. in IIT, Delhi in 1984-1985 session. In 1985, I joined research under him. As a teacher and guide, he has been my inspiration, my ideal. He was a very clear minded, easily approachable and idealistic person. While discussing my problems with him, I always felt I am sitting next to my father. He was indeed my academic parent. During my research, he always made himself easily available to me, he would always welcome me with my problems, irrespective of time. Even, if I contacted him at his residence, at odd hour, he would welcome me with encouraging words.

Our association continued, as I joined as lecturer in Panjab University, Chandigarh, 1990. In all my ups and downs, not only in research but also in my life related problems, he always sheltered me with his morals and his encouraging words. I still-remember, once when I went to visit him in IIT, Delhi, with my three year old daughter, he gave her chalks, pens and said 'Your Mom has been teaching me with these, now its your turn to teach me and your Mom'. He used to tell my daughter 'I am your academic Nanu'. After a gap of 10 years, I could resume my research because of his efforts. He pushed me, supported me and helped me in all possible ways. He was not only my guide, but was my friend, my parent, in all he was my Godfather. I know, howsoever hard I may try, I can never be even one bit like him. I so much try to teach the way he used to, deal with students like him and stick to ideals and moral values of life like him, but I fail to do so.

His loss is a very big loss to me. It seems, I am in the midst of sea with all waves and waves around me and wonder how I am going to reach the shore, as the one who would show me the path is gone forever. The guiding light, which used to enlighten path of my life at every step is gone out of my life, with all darkness around me. We cannot bring him back but we can keep him alive among as by following his ideals and morals.

(Dr. Vanita Verma)

Reader

Department of Mathematics,
Panjab University, Chandigarh.