

You will think of the many individual Indians you have met who are building the new India of their dreams with their sweat and tears.

I think, for example, of a young Muslim civil servant who is the devoted, overworked director of a great community project who travelled with us for five days showing us his project. I think of two senior officials of the city of Calcutta who spent one morning showing me the Calcutta slums - the worst slums in the world - and who said goodbye to me with tears in their eyes because of the interest I had taken in what they were trying to do to remove this blot on civilization. I think of a saintly Hindu scientist who is devoting his talents to agricultural research because of a saying of his spiritual leader, the great Hindu saint Vivekananda "You can't teach religion to people with empty stomachs". Since he wants his countrymen to be more religious, he is trying to find ways to fill their stomachs. I think of an old farmer in the Punjab who showed me proudly the twenty acres which he and his sons had cleared and brought under cultivation.

You will, if you travel in India, find the drama of India's development deeply moving not only because of the respect, admiration and affection which you will develop for the people of India and your love for the beauty of India's mountains and plains, its old buildings and its holy shrines, but also because of that which lies behind and beyond these things - the culture of India.

It is an ancient and a rich culture, a culture with a tolerant and a humane tradition. It has contributed to the world great saints and philosophers, great poets and dramatists, and artists and architects, two of the world's greatest emperors, two of the world's great religions. It is a culture which continues to produce great men. I think that if a group of wise men were to try to draw up a list of, say, the twenty-five greatest men of the last hundred years, they would find that there were strong arguments for including at least five Indians: the two Hindu religious leaders, Ramakrishna and his disciple Vivekananda, Rabindranath Tagore, Gandhi and Nehru.

The culture of the whole world would be impoverished if India, the vessel of an ancient, lovely and living culture, were to dissolve into anarchy, or if to save itself from anarchy it were to adopt totalitarian rule and thus be false to its traditions of tolerance and humanity.

On the other hand the culture of the whole world will be enriched if India succeeds in its programme of economic and social development. For success in that programme will release tremendous latent energies in India and those energies will produce not only things of the hand but things of the mind and the spirit.

Today the mind and the spirit of India are caged, cribbed, confined by grinding poverty - poverty deeper and more pervasive than can be imagined by anyone who has not seen it with his own eyes.

If a Canadian comes to Delhi who seriously wants to try to learn something about India, there is one piece of advice I always give. It is, "Get out of the cities and towns and see at least one average Indian village. Don't just drive through it. If you can drive through it, it is on a motorable road and it is not therefore an average village since few Indian villages are on motorable roads. Leave your car on the highway. Walk to a village which lies at least half a mile along a lane from the highway. Spend at least an hour or an hour and a half walking slowly up and down the narrow dusty lanes of that village and get the villagers to give you permission to go into their houses".