

Just as you have a long cultural tradition so we, too, are able to trace our way of life back through many centuries although we have to leave Canadian soil to reach the sources of our tradition. Our cultural heritage derives from Greece and Rome and Palestine. It was enriched and transmitted to us by the successor cultures of Europe, and finally fashioned by ourselves to fit our own way of life in Canada and our needs and ideas.

Dr. Radhakrishnan wrote in his penetrating book, "Eastern Religious and Western Thought", "No culture, no country, lives or has a right to live for itself. If it has any contribution to make toward the enrichment of the human spirit, it owes that contribution to the widest circle it can reach". I think it is a splendid thing that our two countries, the one young, the other old, can join together at this time in each making its own particular contribution to the building of a better world.

I think, too, that it is gratifying that the people of India and the people of the West can see the best that is in each other, and that they realize that we are all human beings essentially equal in every respect.

I would like to repeat on this occasion what I said to your Prime Minister when he visited us in Ottawa in 1949. I told him then that we hoped and trusted that, even though the Indian people had had many more centuries of social experience and civilization, there would never be any indication by them that they looked down upon us as their inferiors. I said that we also hoped and trusted that, in spite of the rapid development of our industrial processes and industrial know-how, there would never be any feeling among the people of India that, because of this, we thought ourselves to be in any way superior as human beings to the millions who inhabit your country.

I thank you for the opportunity you have given me to come and say this to you today, and I thank you again for the great honour you have conferred upon me.

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