

# In Quest of Knowledge

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**A Biography**

**Late Dr Vibha Dineshkumar Shah**  
**MPharm, FCCA, MBA**

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***In Quest of Knowledge*** is published by Dineshkumar Devchand Shah

P.O. Box 1801-00606, Nairobi, Kenya.

Email: [info@inquestofknowledge.com](mailto:info@inquestofknowledge.com)

Website: [www.inquestofknowledge.com](http://www.inquestofknowledge.com)

Paper Back Edition: ISBN 978-9914-35-124-8

Hard Back Edition: ISBN 978-9914-35-125-5

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“Don’t simply dream; discover ways to stay your goals.”

In Gujarati wisdom:

**સપનાઓ દેખાવા નહીં, એને પૂરા કરવા જીવવું શીખો.**  
Sapanā’ō dēkhāvā nahīm, ēnē pūrā karavā jīvavum śikhō

## **DEDICATION:**

**To my late parents**

**Devchand Pethraj Jetha Shah (Karania)**

**Ratanben Devchand Shah (Karania)**

**To my late daughter**

**Shrena Dineshkumar Shah (Karania)**

**To Vibha's late parents**

**Chunilal Nathoo Khimji Shah (Jakharia)**

**Radiatben Chunilal Shah (Jakharia)**

**And,**

**To**

**All the Institutions of Shree Visa Oshwal Community**

# Acknowledgement

I luckily shared a wonderful relationship and marriage with Vibha for more than 42 years. During our time together, she gave birth to our three beautiful children, continued her pursuit of knowledge by attaining FCCA and MBA qualifications, worked as a pharmacist and an accountant, ensured efficient operation of the household, and ventured to several magnificent places.

Vibha was a humble, modest, and soft-spoken lady. Whilst compiling the necessary information for this book, I approached Vibha's dearest family, friends, colleagues, and acquaintances that let me realize the endearing way in which she left an impactful mark on their lives. The journey we have taken to obtain the contents of this book allowed us to reflect on the success Vibha had achieved in her lifetime, her continuous thirst for knowledge, willingness to adapt to challenges thrown her way, and, her honest and courageous outlook in life.

Amidst her Doctorate degree in Business Administration in 2019, Vibha tentatively suggested writing an autobiography about her experiences of growing up in the 1950s and stepping outside her comfort zone to pursue her ambitions. This was with the hope of inspiring future generations to follow their dreams, no matter the challenges that came their way.

Unfortunately, Vibha passed away in 2021 after her remarkably courageous battle with a rare autoimmune condition. On the eve of her second death anniversary, the idea to write about her life resurfaced, and a thorough and fastidious research was conducted to compile Vibha's endeavours and experiences.

This biography, titled *In Quest of Knowledge*, delves into the trials and triumph of our lives; that occurred before, during, and after our marriage. This book wouldn't have come to light without all the incredible people who contributed to its existence. I am the most grateful to Vibha's family – Prakash, Palvi, Swati, Kusum, Surekha, Suresh, Savita, Taramami, Kanchanmami, Jayafaiba, and many others, all of who ensured accurate details about Vibha's upbringing. I wish to thank Anju, Ritish, Trusha, and all of my immediate and extended family members, including the remarkable Shantakaki, who still has an incredible memory, despite being 101 years old!

The compilation of Vibha's school and university days wouldn't have been possible without the help of her dear friends, including Kiran, Tushar, Nisha, Maxi, Manoj, Alka, Rekha, Divya, Mahesh, Neera, Jyoti, Neena, and Anila. My utmost and sincere thanks to all the people who read various versions of this book and ensured harmonious compilation through their immense help. I wish to also extend thanks to the VOC Chairperson Bindi Shah, office bearers, and the staff for providing me with the minutes

of the Annual General Meetings, ensuring correct extraction of the history of Oshwals in Nairobi from 2000 onwards.

Vibha's wish of having a book about her life written would not have been realized without the dedicated help of Kaushal Mhatre. I extend my special thanks to Laura Harris and Denise Clark of Edioak, New York, for their exceptional development editing; line editing, copy editing and proofreading, which infused the biography with a personal touch that is able to draw readers into the narrative. I am deeply grateful to Vows Literary Consultants, Kenya, for their indelible role in coordination and facilitation of interviews, and skilfully transforming them into valuable testimonials that enriched the biography with a balance, and manuscript proofreading. The book cover and design layout was done by David Njuguna (*njuguna.boro@gmail.com*) Lastly, special gratitude to my wonderful children, Shail & Preksha – thank you for the support. It would be most apt to end this piece with one of Vibha's many words of wisdom – “If you truly wish for something, even the gods will ensure it happens.”

I hope this book inspires you to achieve all that you desire and hope for. After all, life is short, so we must live whilst we can.

Dineshkumar Devchand Pethraj Shah (Karania)  
BA (Combined Honours) Economics / Statistics.  
Nairobi, August 2025.

## Handwritten Note by Vibha

Vibha's handwritten note offers a detailed account of her scholastic achievements, documenting her educational journey with precision and care. This note serves as a testament to her dedication and hard work throughout her studies, reflecting the pride she took in her academic accomplishments.

Vibha D. Shah

At primary level, my final result was exceptional in that I was the only pupil in the school that year, who achieved Grade A in English.

During secondary school, my performance was notable since I was the top pupil in the form every term for the next four years. This culminated in a result of 1st Grade with 8 points and distinctions in all eight subjects attempted. This also made history in the school for being the best result ever achieved since the commencement of the school.

During secondary school, I also had the opportunity of acquiring Pitmans shorthand at speeds 60 and 80 w.p.m. In addition, I passed Pitmans typewriting at elementary level. After A levels, where again I was a top pupil with Grades A in Physics, A in Chemistry and B in Mathematics I joined Gibbys East Africa as secretary to the accountant. During this period, I attended evening classes at Queensway College, Nairobi, and acquired Pitmans Shorthand Certificate for 110/120 wpm and Pitmans Intermediate Typewriting, First Class. I read for Pharmacy at Uxbridge, Cardiff, from October 1972 to July 1975. During vacations, I worked as a temporary shorthand/typist for Alfred Marks Bureau, Cardiff and London. I also took part in cultural dances at university.

After Graduation, I underwent training as a pre-registration pharmacist at Hammersmith Hospital, London. This involved in-patient and out-patient dispensing including dealing with patient queries and queries about drugs prescribed. I also had training in the preparation of pharmaceutical products, for example skin creams, lotions, oral medicines. In addition, I was also trained in the aseptic preparation of sterile products, such as eye drops and injections and also the quality control of all medicines prepared in the



pharmaceutical department. I also had the opportunity of carrying out ward rounds.

After Registration, I joined Boots the Chemists at Ealing Broadway, London. During my employment, I had ample opportunity for the various trainings offered for managers of branches and various other aspects of retail pharmacy. Thus I had the insight of the management of a retail pharmacy.

In March 1978, I returned to Kenya. I was employed as a pharmacist at Eros Chemists, Nairobi from September 1978 till January 1980. I worked for Kam Pharmacy from February 1980 till July 1981. After that, I worked as a licum pharmacist at various retail, wholesale and industrial businesses. Thus I acquired adequate training in various fields as a pharmacist.

In January 1982, I started book-keeping for Motor Fuels Ltd. In April 1982, I registered as a student member of the Association of Certified Accountants, as it was called then. In June 1982, I acquired exemption at level one because of my degree of BPharm Hons. From December 1982 till December 1983, I passed 9 subjects of level 2 at 3 sittings, all at the first attempt. However, at June 1984 diet, I was not successful at level 3 because of my pregnancy. From November 1984 till March 1990, I turned my full attention to book-keeping for Motor Fuels Ltd., as well as looking after my son.

In 1989, I acted as a judge for an essay writing competition organized by Jaycees for primary schools. I also attended a course of training for public speech arranged by Jaycees. Also ~~in~~ in 1989, I won the second prize for an essay-writing competition organized by Oshwal Youth League. In 1990 I attended Yoga classes organized by visitors from India. From 1988, October, till October 1993, I regularly attended swimming classes at Oshwal Sports Complex, Nairobi. My hobby is Reading Novels and Magazines.

In March 1990, I re-commenced studying for ACCA level 3 exams and passed at December 1990 diet. I am now qualified as a graduate member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, Great Britain. However, I could not commence employment as accountant due to my pregnancy in 1991.

My beautiful baby daughter was born in January 1992. Despite full-time care and attention for her slow development, she passed away in May 1994. From June 1994 till January 1995, I attended computer classes and learnt MS-DOS, Word-Perfect and Lotus spreadsheet.

In 1991 and 1994, I taught French during summer holiday classes at Oshwal Jain Primary School. From July 1995 my attention was given to taking care of my daughter born in July 1995.

In February 1998, I commenced part-time employment at Uchemi Quick Suppliers <sup>Ltd.</sup>. This has given me tremendous training in all aspects of accounting. I am still employed by the same company at present. I hope to register as a Registered Member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants soon.

## Praise for *In Quest Of Knowledge*

1. *In Quest of Knowledge, a biography* is of a life beyond measure: The story of Dr Vibha celebrates the chequered life of an extraordinary woman in a compelling display of charm, intellect, diligence and compassion. In this ground-breaking biography, Dineshkumar Devchand Pethraj Shah (Karanja) – Dr Vibha’s husband of 42 years – offers an intimate portrait of a woman who broke barriers and touched lives. From a childhood shaped by avid curiosity and resolve to academic and professional excellence across continents, Dr Vibha’s journey is both inspiring and unforgettable. Her story is an articulation of love, a record of cultural heritage, and a chronicle of a life lived with grace and quiet strength. As she embraced knowledge, community, and tradition, Dr Vibha left behind a legacy that continues to illuminate the lives of all who knew her. It is the story of resilience, purpose, and the enduring power of a life lived to its fullness.

**Dr Mwangi Macharia**

Author,

Lecturer: Department of Literature, Linguistics, and Foreign Languages;  
Kenyatta University

2. *In Quest of Knowledge* is a special biography depicting a woman’s strength, courage, resoluteness for living a full life to achieve her dreams - penned by an equally loving husband. It is rare to see this combination.

I am talking about late Vibha whose life is laid bare for all of us to look at, get inspired and follow her dreams. It shows that nothing is impossible to achieve one’s goals if one focuses on attaining them in spite of whatever obstacles come in one’s way. This is all the more difficult for a woman who brings up three children, has a full working life, first in pharmacy then accountancy, and still find time for other interests, especially travelling in many parts of the world and within Kenya - to enjoy life but also as an education in itself for family.

Vibha lived a quiet life, no glamour; she was a simple unassuming person. I had the prior pleasure of reading the book that Dinesh has brought before us with all the little and big details of Vibha’s life and how she handled so many aspects of her busy life. Readers will agree that once you take up the book in your hands you would want to finish reading it through. Hope you love it.

Vibha has left a legacy that many women would want to emulate.

**Navinchandra Bharmal Shah**

BA Economics / History – Nairobi University  
Educationist.

3. *In Quest Of Knowledge* is a biography authored by Mr Dinesh Shah as a heartfelt tribute to the memory of his late wife Dr Vibha Shah in celebration of her continuous thirst for learning and her humble nature.

I must say that I enjoyed reading the book which was easy to follow and used language that was simple yet sophisticated. The content was intriguing and I wanted to continue reading to find out what happened next lest I miss a sentence upon looking away from the page. The detailed narration of the late Dr Vibha Shah playing games as a child or her schooling and their experiences as a married couple from the attempted coup in 1982 to their adventures both local and international made me feel like I was following in their shadows.

It is noteworthy that the writer highlights Dr Vibha Shah's humility from an early age, illustrated by an incident in which she quietly sought the help of a classmate to open her desk that had been mischievously barricaded by others. Equally well captured is her deep desire and eagerness to learn, evident in her decision to take up swimming lessons and later pursue accountancy as a second qualification.

It is evident that learning never stops and is not confined to a classroom. If one has a thirst for knowledge similar to Late Dr Vibha Shah, any opportunity can be turned into a lesson.

Reading this biography, I feel as though I have known the late Dr Vibha Shah far beyond the few occasions I was privileged to meet her.

**Daljit Kaur Chetan Solanki**

LLB University of Nairobi, Diploma - KSL

Advocate of the High Court of Kenya

## Foreward

*“A woman is the full circle. Within her is the power to create, nurture, and transform.”*

~ Diane Mariechild.

In the pages that follow, you will meet an extraordinary woman, Vibha, whose life story is as inspiring as it is unforgettable. This book, lovingly written by her devoted husband, Dineshkumar, is a celebration of a soul who embodied grace, intellect, humility, and service. It is also, in many ways, a chronicle of a community’s history and a glimpse into the beauty of the land she called home.



Her life was defined by a profound dedication to learning — education was her mantra, her prayer, her life-long pursuit. Her thirst for knowledge knew no boundaries; it took her beyond the classroom into the great classroom of the world. She travelled across continents, embracing cultures with curiosity and respect, and absorbing wisdom wherever she went. Yet, with all her accomplishments, she remained deeply humble — a devoted wife, mother, sister, daughter and friend whose compassion knew no limits.

Through her service to others, she left an indelible mark on her community, living the truth that giving is the highest form of living. And through her example, she reminded us that intellect without kindness is incomplete. Some lives cannot be measured by years alone – they are measured by the light they give, the hearts they touch and the footprints they leave on both people and places. This is evident from the testimonials in this book.

This work is remarkable not only because it may be the first biography in our community written about a woman, but also because it lovingly weaves together strands of larger narratives. It carries the story of the Oshwal migration from India to Africa — a history of courage, perseverance, and adaptation — and sets it against the backdrop of Kenya’s breath-taking landscapes and vibrant culture. In doing so, it becomes more than a personal memoir; it is a tapestry of people, places, and purpose.

The author, Dineshkumar Devchand Shah, himself a businessman and a tireless social worker offers us a rare gift: the chance to see this remarkable woman not just as the world saw her, but through the eyes of one who loved her the most. It is unusual, perhaps, even rare, for a man to chronicle the life of his soul-mate in such detail. His words preserve her legacy, not in marble or stone but in words that breathe. By doing so, Dineshkumar has also honoured the countless quiet contributions of women whose lives touch and shape their communities in ways history books often overlook.

This is more than the story of one remarkable woman. It is an inspiration to generations to come — a reminder that a life dedicated to learning, love, and service is a life that leaves the world better than it was found.

*“Here’s to strong women: may we know them, may we be them, may we raise them.”*

~ Unknown

Bindi Rashmikan Shah  
Nairobi, August 2025.

## Summary

Vibha was born to an affluent family in 1953 in Nairobi, Kenya. However, after Chunilal (Vibha's father) switched jobs due to the prevailing economic conditions in the country, both he and Radiatben (Vibha's mother) put up a decade-long struggle to keep their family afloat. Amidst these circumstances, Radiatben ensured that Vibha and her three siblings had the best access to education as per the family's ability. It was no wonder that Vibha was an excellent student at school, often topping the class in multiple subjects. Furthermore, despite being a quiet and studious child, she too played the popular games that young girls used to play back in those days, with dolls and miniature utensils.

Her academic exploits in school were not due to strict parenting – they were born out of a genuine desire to satiate her curiosity for knowledge. Hence, despite being the eldest daughter (second eldest among the siblings), she excelled at the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology (later renamed as Cardiff University), while adjusting to live independently for a considerable time. Her non-academic interests evolved as her education progressed, leading her to become a member of the Indian Association, and Debating Society.

After completing her studies and graduation, Vibha worked at the Hammersmith Hospital as well as Boot's the Chemist. She eventually completed her registration with the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, attaining the license to practise within the boundaries of Britain. Her first professional employment in Kenya was at The School Equipment Centre Ltd.

I got married to Vibha in 1978. We met for the first time in mid-1978 – the alliance was set up by Kantaben, a relative in good rapport with Radiatben. The engagement took place in July of the same year, and on 3rd December, we tied the marital knot after undergoing the traditional Hindu wedding rituals.

After our marriage, Vibha worked as a dispensing chemist, first at Eros Chemist and later at KAM Pharmacy. She worked diligently, leading her commitment towards the job to extended working hours, which she competently handled while also managing the household responsibilities at her new home. Through all the routine, she was also inclined towards spiritual pursuits, taking a keen interest in the Jain philosophy.

Around this time, Vibha also decided to study accounting, an entirely different area of study from her previous endeavours. She had always been curious about accounting, ever since observing Chunilal's book-keeping skills. Between 1980 and 1990, Vibha managed the books of accounts of Motor Fuels Ltd, a company acquired in 1973 by Devchandbhai (Dinesh's father) which oversaw the operations of the Nairobi River Service Station. This decade brought about considerable shifts in our lives. In 1982, she

officially registered with The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, UK. In late 1984, Vibha gave birth to Shail, the first among our three children. We decided to move out of the joint family house mid-1988 to live independently, after acquiring our new home which was furnished to our liking.

Vibha's desire to learn was not restricted to books alone; and neither did it wane with age. In 1988, she became a member of the Jaycee Nairobi, a personal development organization catering to individuals from eighteen to forty years. The chairmanship of Jaycee Nairobi was eventually assumed by me in 1989. Here, she nurtured her skills in public speaking and negotiations, and also participated in social work.

In 1990, Vibha earned the title of 'Doctor' – a recognition conferred on her by the Pharmaceutical Society of Kenya. During these years, she adeptly handled the responsibilities of nurturing her son, Shail, who was attending nursery school. Despite her busy routine, she learnt swimming when Shail was attending his classes, striking up friendships with the fellow trainees who took swimming lessons with her.

As Shail started attending primary school, she had to adjust this routine slightly, but she continued taking her swimming lessons. In January 1992, Shrena, our second child, was born. However, due to ill fate, Shrena had a congenital affliction that led to stunted brain development, ultimately leading to her demise in 1994.

Through Shrena's condition, we discovered BIBIC which was founded by Keith Pennock in 1972, driven by his daughter Alison's brain injury. Inspired by specialized support in America, Keith established BIBIC to provide guidance and support to families. Under his leadership, BIBIC grew, became independent in 1980, and thrived by sustaining a legacy of compassion, care and support to families whose children are affected by brain injuries.

In mid-1995, Preksha, our third child was born. As a mother of two children, Vibha stretched herself considerably to manage her domestic responsibilities as well as social life. Amidst her growing responsibilities, she learnt accountancy in parallel before beginning to work as an accountant at Uchumi Quick Suppliers between 1998-1999, and later with Morrison Knudsen International from 1999-2003. She continuously upgraded her skills, particularly in the use of computer and software as the accounting practice slowly evolved towards increased digitalization.

Then, Vibha wrote a note by hand about her education and work background. This she did in 1999; at the time we were applying for our permanent residence in Australia. Having passed all her ACCA levels in 1990, she garnered enough experience to apply for formal recognition in 1999, ultimately resulting in being awarded the ACCA certificate in December 1999 during a grand presentation ceremony at the Intercontinental Hotel,



Nairobi. Both her qualifications – pharmacy and accounting – demanded her to commit to Continuing Professional Development (CPD), a commitment which she never faltered in. In 2004, she achieved the status of Fellow of Chartered Certified Accountants (FCCA) after an arduous five years.

Vibha was highly supportive of our kids' education. To a large extent, Preksha's academic trajectory as a pharmacist was influenced by her mother's qualifications in the field. They would indulge in multiple long discussions on various topics in the field, which went a long way in helping Preksha understand various concepts in pharmacy.

But Vibha was not done yet! In 2006, she acquired her final major qualification, an MBA from the Heriot-Watt University. She also did short-term stints as an accountant with Graphic & Print Supply Point (U) Ltd, Dunhill Consulting Ltd, and Sil Investments Ltd. Between 2008 and 2011, while I stayed in Nairobi, Vibha travelled with our kids to the UK to complete the formalities of obtaining British citizenship and passports. During this time, she took on locum jobs at various pharmacies in England – Morrisons, Boots, and Lloyds Pharmacy. Her diligent performance during these jobs showed how well she retained her proficiency in pharmacy despite focusing a lot more on accounting during the two preceding decades.

We had a passion for travelling. To the exception of South America and Antarctica (the latter for obvious reasons), we travelled every continent. Our frequent long trips served as a means of recreation and family bonding. While traveling, Vibha would always carry a book in hand, engrossed in reading about the places we were about to visit. Thus, traveling for her was as much an activity of learning as enjoyment.

In October 2021, Vibha breathed her last after suffering from a phase of deteriorating health, bringing down the curtains on a short but eventful life. Her journey of life in a way has been emblematic of that of hundreds of women of the Visa Oshwal community in Africa, whose support played a pivotal role in enabling their families to make shifts towards better fortunes. Moreover, her love for learning and self-improvement which she never backed down from, while handling all the responsibilities that came with the various stages of her life – as a daughter, wife, and mother – is something that can inspire other women.

Along with covering the ups and downs of Vibha's life, the appendix of the biography also includes, in reasonable detail, the origins of the Halari Visa Oshwal community, their history in Kenya, and how the role of women within the community has evolved in modern times. The 2600-year long legacy of the Visa Oshwals has been one of constant migrations, struggles and triumphs, as well as adaptation.

The beginnings of the Halari Visa Oshwal community is shrouded in folklore that is infused with mythical events as well as established historical events that makes for an

engaging read. As a community whose foundations are rooted in peace and non-violence, the Visa Oshwals survived and thrived through turbulent centuries filled with multiple invasions. However, the migrations of the Visa Oshwals were not out of a need to avoid the violence, but to continue on the path of resilient progress and advancement.

The first Oshwal caravan landed on the African shores in Madagascar, via Zanzibar, in 1896. Even after a decade, the community had the strength of roughly a hundred. However, in the years to come, the Oshwals would shed several societal restrictions that came with tradition, as the younger generations became the recipients of new ideas sweeping across the globe. This allowed the primarily entrepreneurial community to significantly improve their economic conditions while thriving in Kenya, which was a British colony at the time.

In Hindu tradition, the Mundan ceremony (Balmovara) involves shaving a child's hair to symbolize a fresh start and freedom from past negativity. It's believed to stimulate brain and nerve growth, with a tuft of hair (shikha) left at the crown. Families often offer the hair to their deity, visiting sacred temples like Tirumala Venkateswara Temple to perform this auspicious rite.

Vibha was born in the 1950s Kenya, amidst an inflexion point for the community, when the Visa Oshwals in Kenya had not just begun to break free of various socio-economic shackles, but women of the community had also begun to step out of their traditional role of homemakers. Several women therefore went on to carve a niche for themselves in all walks of life. It is thanks to the adaptability that within a century and a quarter since their arrival in Kenya, the Visa Oshwals have been able to emerge as one of the most prosperous communities in the country.

Cardiff College of Technology was established in 1956 as part of the UK government's initiative to advance technological education. It underwent significant transformations, becoming the Welsh College of Advanced Technology in 1957 and gaining autonomy in 1962. In 1967, it received a royal charter, becoming the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology (UWIST). UWIST thrived until its merger with University College Cardiff in 1988, forming the University of Wales College of Cardiff, further cementing Cardiff's reputation as a hub of academic excellence.

This is the story of Vibha, my beloved wife, my companion through countless seasons, and a soul whose memory I now carry like a quiet flame. Though she is no longer with us, her spirit lives on through this book.

## Preface

When I was requested to read this biography, I had no idea what I was in for. My love for reading (auto) biographies was the impetus for me to read on. I knew this was something that I would not be disappointed to put my time on the line for. I had a premonition that this could turn out to be both educative and entertaining. The novelty of both the subject, and subject matter, was also an additional impetus.



Perhaps I should mention that the biography is one of the most informative and relevant aspects of literature. It is about time that the story of the people who we have lived with; who have experienced the world with us; who have shared with us their time and space.

I was introduced to this book by a friend who had been asked to do some proofreading of the original manuscript. I almost despaired over the word count. But I decided to give it a try, mainly due to my love for biographies and autobiographies. What started as a half-hearted attempt at reading soon graduated to a spirited reading session.

What I can point out about this work is that it had the literary merit to make me read it. This biography has something unique that sets it apart from peers: *a readership value*. That is one literary value that a good book must strive to have.

*In Quest of Knowledge* is the biography of Dr Vibha Dineshkumar Shah. The author is someone who is best placed to give an accurate account of the subject. Mr Dineshkumar Devchand Pethraj Shah (Karania) was the husband of the late Vibha. He is thus a credible authority on the subject of the story, having lived with her for 42 years.

Dinesh, as he is fondly known, weaves a story of the late scholar, right from her birth to her exit from the world stage. He takes us through the lady's childhood, schooling, and professional life.

There are several things that will strike you as being exquisite about the subject, Vibha. As one manoeuvres through the twists and turns of her life, one cannot help noting the many character traits which make her stand out. Paramount among these is the fact that from childhood, Vibha showed a human spirit that was unique to her. She was outgoing, generous, and hardworking. She was also brilliant. Yet in spite of all her peerless capabilities, she was very unassuming.

Her academic brilliance is outlined in flowery accolades by the author, her family, and her acquaintances. She showed unique aptitudes all the way from pre-school to university, where she studied one of the courses that are not the easiest, even then. This, coupled with the fact that her community did not put much emphasis on girl-child education, set her aside as unique; almost a person who was living beyond her time, as it were. More evidence of this is in the many areas in which she excelled. The reader would want to sample these for themselves, from Pharmacy to Accounts to Languages, among other pursuits. One remarkable thing is that wherever and whatever she turned to, she excelled. This sets her apart as someone with an immense intellect.

Her several trips of exploration, adventure and academic pursuits mark her out as a person of an inquisitive mind. She was a woman who had lots of questions she needed answered; and like the biblical Moses, she went to any mountain which could not come to her. The reader is called upon to sample this special pudding of her many odysseys. Just reading about them makes one aware of places as far removed as America, Italy, England, India, Australia, and various parts of Europe, not to mention the many trips she made to several parts of Kenya and Africa.

One cannot say enough about her involvement in community affairs, especially the Visa Oshwal community. Her contribution to her Hindu culture and activities is acclaimed. One also sees her involved in her extended family's affairs: ordinary family gatherings, feasts, pre-weddings, weddings, and even funerals.

What can one say, and not say? As a Chinese philosopher said, one cannot measure the bounty of the Yang Tse River using a cup. This book here cannot be understood and appreciated due to my very few words about it. So, do not just rely on my word; form your own opinion after reading *In Quest of Knowledge*, for it will be here for a long time, will travel to many parts of the world, and make a lot of literary noise.

**Charles O. Okoth**  
Educationist, Literary Critic, Editor,  
Award Winning Author: Burt Award and Wahome Mutahi Award,  
Busia, August 2025.