

LIBRARY: THEROPY FOR SOUL*

I am, indeed, delighted to be associated with the inauguration of Sri

Narayanarao Melgiri Memorial National Law Library, in the campus of National Law School of India University. National Law School of Bangalore is a shining Pole Star in the horizon of law education in India. This library, inaugurated today would add more lustre to it. The present are the days of information revolution. Computers, laptops and access to unbound store of knowledge through internet, has brought a revolutionary change in the study style of scholars. The digital medium has opened new vista for the seekers of knowledge and provide them with unprecedented potentials and new possibilities. Howsoever, electronic medium may advance and howsoever our young scholars may become used to it, the significance and utility of printed information would not lose its utility nor shall ever shed its relevance. For a modern library, it is necessary to provide a balanced combination of knowledge-source, both print and electronic.

The modern library, led by a proficient librarian must be able to collect quality information, preserve it in an organised manner and make it easily accessible to the seekers. There is a *panchsheel* of any library. Firstly, the foundation of library is the belief that the books are meant for study. Secondly, the library must make available a book for every reader. Thirdly, every book must find a reader. Fourthly, the library must help in saving time of the researcher and lastly, library is a living ever growing organism.

Becon defined library as the shrines where all the relics of the ancient saints, full of true virtue, are preserved and reposed without delusion or imposture. There is a library with a signboard on its main entrance which says – “Here is a therapy for the soul.”

According to Ruskin – “All books are divisible into two classes. The books of the hour, and the books of all time.” I know the students of this School. I am very confident that this new library would enable them to see the philosophy of Becon come true: “Some books are to be tasted others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested.” My dear young students, let this library satisfy that hunger of yours.



* Inaugural Speech delivered at the inauguration of “Sri Narayanarao Melgiri Memorial National Law Library” on 27th August, 2005, at Bangalore.