

Listen, Mr. Vice Chancellor !

(and other University bigwigs)

Ramjas College has been in turmoil for a fortnight and all that we are told by the authorities is that the Principal is willing to retrace his steps. Perhaps you think it a great boon for Dr Kartar Singh to withdraw his illegal and unjustified 'rustication' and expulsion orders on 8 students. Perhaps you think it an act of great wisdom that he offers to withdraw his eviction order on the hostellers — an order he could never have enforced, anyway. Perhaps you think he is doing the Head Mali, Sh. Sita Ram, a great favour by offering to pay him his salary. Dr Kartar Singh whips us, then expects us to be eternally grateful when, under pressure, he stops using the whip. Do you think, Mr. Vice Chancellor, that we are so stupid as to be fooled by all this trickery ?

The fact of the matter is, Mr. Vice Chancellor, that the entire University is in the grip of a moral crisis of unprecedented dimensions. No movement of this size can arise on the basis of 'instigation of 8 or 9 teachers', as Dr. Kartar Singh never tires of asserting. What is at stake is the **entire ethical credibility of the establishment** and you had all better realise this fact very soon. We can illustrate this very briefly :

1. Dr. Kartar Singh arrogantly **refused** to pay the salary of Shri Sita Ram for 3 months, without any semblance of due process of law. Sita Ram was harrassed, mentally tortured, and made the target of filthy slander. Was this **right** or **wrong** Mr. Vice Chancellor ? On this count alone has not Dr. Kartar Singh lost his moral status as Principal ? Answer yes or no, Mr. Vice Chancellor.
2. Dr. Kartar Singh 'expelled & rusticated' 3 student Union office bearers for causing violence and destruction in the College. He did not even **attempt** to confirm his suspicions as to their guilt, which still has to be proven. He did not even **know** that he has no power to rusticate a student. On this count alone, Mr. Vice Chancellor, does not Dr. Kartar Singh stand condemned as a man whose violent temper is totally ill-suited to the office of Principal ? Answer yes or no, Mr. Vice Chancellor.
3. Earlier this year, the Ramjas College hostel students convened a general body meeting to consider and demand the right to investigate an arbitrary charge of Rs 53/- per head for the annual hostel dinner. Dr. Kartar Singh barged into this meeting in a **drunken state**, Mr. Vice Chancellor, and was accompanied by **hired thugs**. He used threatening and abusive language against his own students, and attempted to manhandle them. He openly swore to punish them for their audacity in questioning him, and has brutally victimised several of the most courageous students. What do you think of all this, Mr. Vice Chancellor ? Leave aside all the legal quibbling about your powers, and tell us your own honest opinion is this man fit to be the principal of a college ? On this count alone is not his removal essential to the restoration of normalcy ? No 'ifs', 'buts' and 'may be's', Mr. Vice Chancellor. Answer Yes or No.
4. On the 14th of this month, the Principal's office was 'mysteriously' ransacked some time in the morning. By 1 pm, the entire hostel was ordered to be evicted by Dr. Kartar Singh. 5 boys were 'expelled and rusticated' for their part in this crime, and cases registered against them. The warden soon after unequivocally declared that the hostellers could not possibly have been responsible and refused to enforce the eviction. The principal, evidently acting as both prosecutor and judge, had decided to punish his own students, (for whom he claims to possess great love) for a crime

which many feel was totally stage-managed. You yourself, Mr. Vice chancellor, saw this room and admitted the necessity of placing it under seal (something which was not done). Now tell us, Sir, does this entire incident **alone** not suffice to demonstrate that Dr. Kartar Singh has neither any scruples nor any respect for the first principle of natural Justice, viz : that the accused must have the chance of proving their innocence before they are punished ? Does this incident **alone** not justify our demand that he be removed ?

5. On the 13th November, Dr. Kartar Singh authorised the police "to enter my college freely and make all the students quit the college premises immediately." Is Ramjas his **Private** property, Mr. Vice Chancellor ? Are we all **Criminals**, Mr. Vice Chancellor ? **THIS IS AN OUTRAGE AGAINST THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY, SIR**, can you not see that ? Furthermore on the 18th, 2 employees sympathetic to the Principal attempted, while in a drunken state, to intimidate a DUTA procession : - they were subsequently arrested and punished in the court of D. R. Jain, metropolitan magistrate. So Dr Kartar Singh uses goonda tactics against us, institutes false cases against his students and hands over 'his' college to the tender mercies of the police. Tell us, Mr. Vice Chancellor - is this man fit to be the principal of a college ? Answer us **Honestly**.

Now, if the principal attempts to retrace his steps, he demonstrates not his benevolence but his impotence. He gives too little, too late, Mr. Vice Chancellor, because one thing he has in good measure is an utterly **shameless** opportunism and determination to stick to power at all costs. He is respected by none, not even by himself. He cannot lose his self-respect, because has none to lose.

We ask you Mr. Vice chancellor—Can you not see, through your jungle of statutes and rules and regulations that Dr. Kartar Singh **HAS LOST THE MORAL AUTHORITY TO BE PRINCIPAL OF RAMJAS COLLEGE ?** If you force him upon us any further will you not destroy the faith and confidence that young people are expected to repose in you ? Whom should we go to, Mr. Vice Chancellor, if not to you ? And if you say you can do nothing to remove a hooligan from a position of power, are you not destroying the credibility of the **entire system of education in the country ?**

We ask all those other Principals and powerful persons who by instinct identify sympathetically with Dr. Kartar Singh - what do you gain by supporting such a man ? By defending him do you not tarnish yourselves with the brush of moral degeneration ? And if you come out on the side of justice will you not stand to gain in moral stature ? **What is one expected to do when those in authority constantly violate the law they are supposed to uphold ?**

Do not imagine, Mr. Vice Chancellor, that we are unaware of all the secret manipulations of ambitious persons who want personal gain out of this crisis. Do not think that the entire university community can forever be befooled by your claim that you are powerless. Between you and the Governing Body and the Principal plus various interested parties, you have wrought havoc with the lives of your students and employees.

And when your children decide that you do not care for them, that you are corruptible; then Messrs. Powerful People, power will no longer be worth the price you have paid for it.

Joint Action Committee
RAMJAS COLLEGE

N.B. : (We have not even tried to list here the several other charges of corruption and vindictive behaviour which cry out for his immediate removal).