

Remarks made towards the end of banquet, Symposium on Fluid Science and Turbulence

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I am simply overwhelmed by your positive remarks: in some sense, I would have liked to have met the person that was described by so many of my friends in the last hour or so.

The organizers of this conference have given me a few minutes today, and a few more tomorrow, to make some remarks. Tonight I will confine myself to saying a few words of thanks, and put off all serious remarks for tomorrow.

I was already a moderately seasoned researcher by the time I came to the US. I had learnt the tools of the trade at the feet of Professor Narasimha, and later with Bob Antonia in Australia. To a youngster that I was at the time, it felt good that a few well-known people in the US recognized my name in connection to my work.

Nevertheless, it was Johns Hopkins that gave me the proper entry into the scientific community, especially that in the US. I came into a great group of people such as Stanley Corrsin, Les Kovasznay, Steve Davis, Owen Phillips, Bill Schwarz, Bob Long, J.L. Erickson, and Clifford Truesdell, despite his quirks. In addition, Hopkins connected me to its past students and post-docs, most of whom held great promise then, and are distinguished in their own right now. This made further connections possible. In significant ways, these people have influenced my career and, more importantly, my values. I owe a great deal to Johns Hopkins in the abstract, and to all my Hopkins friends in the concrete, for their steadfast support and the interest they have evinced in me.

Thus, it pleases me somehow that this conference is being held at Hopkins among so many friends and colleagues. I wish to thank Charles Meneveau, Shiyi Chen, Greg Eyink, Gustavo Stolovitzky, Dan Lathrop, Ashvin Chhabra and a number of others who took the time and trouble to organize the conference and all else. When Charles asked me if it was OK to organize this meeting, now some two years ago, I must admit to experiencing some trepidation. I now know I need not have worried. I did not get involved in this symposium until on one occasion recently. Thus, every credit here belongs to the people I have just named.

May I now take this occasion to present this painting to Charles Meneveau as a small token of my appreciation for Hopkins? It is the painting of Trieste at the turn of the previous century.

A few further comments are in order. To say that I am thankful to all of you for coming to this conference trivializes the depth of my appreciation. I cannot, however, say more. In particular, I am grateful to all the speakers — Professors Roddam Narsimha, Steve Davis, Leo Kadanoff, Daniel Joseph, Jim Yorke, Michael Fisher, Jacob Palis, Mitchell Feigenbaum, Uriel Frisch, Yukio Kaneda, Itamar Procaccia and Roberto Benzi. I don't deserve their kindness and friendship but accept it with great pleasure and many thanks. I owe an enormous amount to my former students and post-docs, some of whom are here,

for teaching me at least as much as they learnt from me. And to those who spoke at this dinner (whose names I will not mention for brevity), what can I say but think that I must have done something good, sometime, somewhere, in some small measure? Why else would people like Ronnie Probst, Joel Lebowitz, Pierre Hohenberg, David Levermore, Anneke and Jan Sengers, Bob Dorfman, Ajay Kumar, Tomomasa Tatsumi, Jerry Gollub, Walter Goldberg, Narinder Gupta, Steve Halperin, and many other great friends from fluid dynamics — too many to name here — come to this meeting? Thank you all. I am aware that the list of speakers this evening has included my son Kartik speaking also on behalf of his brother Aditya — who, by the way, is an undergraduate at Hopkins; I hope that he enjoys Hopkins as much as I did. I have a tendency to take my family for granted, particularly my wife Sudha, to whom I owe more than she imagines.

Perhaps I will make an additional broad remark. In my career, I have worked in several institutions: the Indian Institute of Science, Universities of Sydney and Newcastle, Johns Hopkins, Yale, University of Maryland and ICTP at Trieste. I have visited several other great institutions. I have worked in several countries. In each country and institution, I felt entirely at home and would not have been surprised if I had stayed in any of them for the rest of my life. But when it came time to leave them, I left them with no regrets or rancor. But I never stopped being part of all them. They have each influenced me in profound ways, and I have influenced them in more modest ways. The greatest gift that has been handed to me is the enormous range of interesting people whose paths I have had the honor to cross. More than anything, they have made me whatever I am; if it does not seem to be much, no one but me is responsible.

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