

I may forget Uma, the Nightingale, though that seems improbable, but how could I forget you'.

(From a letter written to Dilip Kumar by Gandhiji in his own hand quoted in AMONG THE GREAT, page 103, 2nd edition).

(After Dilip Kumar's devotional song at Gandhiji's prayer meeting, New Delhi - on 29.II.47 evening)

Gandhiji began by introducing to the gathering Shri Dilip Kumar Roy, who sang a bhajan. Gandhiji said though he knew nothing of the art of singing he felt that the voice of the singer was sweeter and richer than when he first heard him sing in the Sassoon Hospital in Poona, where he had undergone an operation as a prisoner. Probably very few persons in the world had Shri Roy's natural sweetness of voice. He belonged to the Ashram in Pondicherry of Rishi Aurebindo.

The audience should know, Gandhiji said, that there was no race or religious distinction at the Ashram. He remembered that the late Sir Akbar Hydari went to the Ashram as on a pilgrimage. Naturally, Shri Roy was a chip of the old block, and had no prejudices. He had been to see him earlier in the day when he had sung two songs, namely, *Bande Mataram* and Iqbal's *Sare jahan se Achha*. The concluding line of the evening bhajan meant that the wealthy had their crores in palaces, horses, etc., and the devotee had his all in and through his God whom he knew as Murari, Ram, Hari, etc. If they all took the lesson to heart, they would shed all prejudices. (U.P.1)