



Dr. S. Naranan
(April 17, 1930 - November 28, 2019)

From Family and Friends

Venil Sumantran

I am saddened and shocked at my father's sudden demise since he was slowly recovering from a chest infection. However, he was frail and had angina pain the day before he passed. When I asked how he was, he said "not so good" and that was a rare reply from him.

He was a rare combination of intellect, character, and discipline. His gentle spirit and respectful behaviour to all people is unique. It is a great honour to be his daughter and I learned a lot from him during the 6 years he was with us. My father sometimes hinted he was a burden—I said it was a privilege to take care of him—not just because he was my dad, but because he followed instructions and always did his best—even till his last minute. He was cheerful, and rarely disagreed with me. When I tweaked his medicines, I explained what I was doing, and he trusted me completely- a wonderful feeling!

My special thanks to Robbert and Ramya for inviting him to submit the kolam article to the Dutch Math Journal. My father never published in a Math journal—and he was delighted ! He said—"Im not a mathematician, but I got a chance to publish in a Math journal !"

Sumantran and I knew he was getting weaker -and I suggested my sister Mathy, visit earlier. But, my father rebounded—mainly because of the kolam paper due July 1, 2019, and his chats with siblings, Mathy, and Ramanan. He was excited to see Rangan Chithappa's latest translations and avidly read Ramanan's latest novel. When our temple Kumbabishekam took place in July 2019, he gave a large donation, and the priests gave special blessings. He was overwhelmed! So, my father had a very, very good year—and he leaves on a high note!

My father lived a righteous life with truth and excellence as guiding principles. I am sure his soul will reach its rightful place on its own merits. As he aged, he valued tradition and rituals. He looked forward to, and silently enjoyed chanting and keenly tracked thithis of my mother and sister, Vidya. Out of respect for my parents and their ancestors, the last rites will be performed by my Uncle Ramani Sundaresan.

My father was a rare soul. I used to admire his intellect, but as I aged, I realized what a simple and humble person he was. My mother said he never spoke an unkind word about anyone...she captured his goodness perfectly. My cousin Sashi said some voids are not meant to be filled...one learns and grows with them. I still learn from my mother and I expect to continue learning from my father Appa now.

I am overwhelmed and thankful for messages from family and friends. I knew my father was very special, but it is wonderful that so many were so fond of him and that he inspired and taught so many of you!

Venil

V. Sumatran

Today, Naranan mama would have celebrated his 90th birthday. Sadly he left us a little over four months ago. Thankfully, he lived a full life and enjoyed the love and affection of his family to his last days.

It was 2013, I believe, when Naranan mama and Visalam mami came to live with us. They had been independent in their Jayaram Nagar home until Visalam mami fell ill. Sadly soon after this, Visalam mami passed away. This was a big loss to Naranan mama, as indeed the entire family.

Subsequently, Naranan mama settled into his own quiet routine. Over the years his many admirable qualities were amply evident. He retained his intellectual curiosity and his faculties right until the very end – demonstrated by a paper he had published in a Dutch journal a few months prior to his demise. He had simple wants and enjoyed time spent with family – all of whom would take the time to visit him and keep engaged in conversation whenever possible. He enjoyed reading and had a very wide range of interests. He retained his love for movies although in the later years he needed the close-captioned text to follow along. He had a generous heart and never had an unkind word to say about anybody or anything.

The loss of Vidya hit him badly and the grief was amplified since he could do little to help her. This brought him closer to both Venil and Mathy, both of whom remained devoted to him and tried to get him to bear the loss as best possible. He remained close to Ramanan and his grandchildren, Ashwin and Amrita. Of course, his sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law did all they could to cheer him up – this was a great source of affection and support that he greatly valued. Likewise, his brothers and sister were close to him and he looked forward to his calls with them. He always seemed to brighten up after these interactions.

He had battled his weakening heart over the last few years. In the end, he avoided a further hospital visit – something he did not want to experience one more time. He passed away peacefully at home after his dinner, while he was still able to move about unaided. His gentle soul attained eternal peace.

Sumantran

Gomathy Naranan

A Daughter's Prayer

A Ray of Light enters my Heart
And I know it is You
A Constant Source of Love and Care
My Whole Life through

A Shining Path for us to follow
Your Footprints will never fade
Oh Heavens Rejoice, your Loving Son
Restored to your Grace

The Sun has set, and risen again
Another day has dawned
Time does not wait, Life moves on
But you will Shine on

A Noble Soul, whose gentle wisdom taught us all
In matters big and small
Sweet Memories circling in my mind
With laughter and tears, through it all

A Life of Truth, Beauty, Courage and Joy
Extraordinary Scientist, Mathematician and Artist Combined
Reunited with Blessed Parents, Wife, Daughter and Sister
Your Soul Soars Free, in the Divine

Gomathy Naranan

In Memoriam

Dr. Sundaresan Naranan

Survived by his 2 daughters Venil and Gomathy, and 2 grandchildren Ashwin and Amrita

April 17th, 1930-November 28, 2019

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Ramanan Gopalakrishnan

Dear Family, I first met Naranan mama in 1973. I had just come to the U.S. to do my MBA and he come here with his family to work at NASA. In subsequent years, we stayed in close contact. This was before I got married to lovely Vidya. I'll always remember him as a kind, gentle generous soul. Whenever he came to the U.S., he would always bring me some PG Wodehouse books he had purchased in India, because he knew I loved PGW. He kept track of every title he had gifted me, so that he wouldn't accidentally give me the same title twice! A remarkable man. I was planning to come to India early next year so that I could see him before something happened. I have been calling Venil regularly once a week for the past 2.5 years and talking to Naranan mama. I will really miss his presence. I admired the strength with which he handled my beloved Vidya's passing and drew strength from it.

Ramanan

Amrita Ramanan

I spent today holding Tha Tha in my heart and searching for the words that holistically describe him and the impact he had on everyone he encountered. While I don't think my words could ever fully encompass the incredible person Tha Tha was, here's what came to mind when ruminating on the essence of his humanity:

A brilliant, yet humble and compassionate scholar and teacher

A life-long learner with a wealth of curiosity

A son, A brother

A husband

A father, A grandfather, A Perriappa, Mama, and Athimber

A friend, A mentor

The curator of one of the best movie collections ever

A lover of Laurel & Hardy, Alfred Hitchcock, All in the Family, and I Love Lucy

An engaging conversationalist. There wasn't a single subject he couldn't talk about with excitement and knowledge.

A global traveler and adventurer, A french fry enthusiast, A precise sous chef (??)

A beautiful spirit, An inspiration to us all

Thank you sharing your memories of Tha Tha. I believe it is through our memories that we keep the legacy of our loved ones alive.

- Amrita

Amrita Ramanan

A day mixed with joy and deep sadness. During the beautiful poonal for my nephew Kalyan, I learned that my Tha Tha, S. Naranan, had transitioned from this life. Tha Tha (maternal grandfather) was one of the most brilliant, humble, compassionate, and curious individuals I have ever known. An extraordinary scientist and scholar, his life's passion was discovery. He traveled the world on a number of unique assignments and was a teacher to thousands, including every member of his family. His beautiful mind was married with an unparalleled joy for life. He maintained one of the best and most extensive film and television collections I have ever seen and was the first to introduce me to I Love Lucy, All in the Family, and Alfred Hitchcock Presents. His laugh would light up a room. He never shied away from a challenge and continued to publish papers after his retirement, with the latest released only two days ago. He was a french fry enthusiast. He loved having three daughters. I am so fortunate to be his only granddaughter and know he will be dearly missed and always remembered. It's surreal to think that my maternal grandmother, Amma, and grandfather have now all passed away, but I hope their souls are reunited in the cosmos or the next life.

- Amrita

Revathy and Krisnamurthy

Hi Venil and Mathy, We have been wanting to talk to you but we wanted to give a little time for you to get through it all. Yes Mr. Naranan was a perfect gentleman with no ego loving and kind to everyone he touched. His legacy will live for ever. Our entire family remembers him very fondly.

Revathy and Kris murthy

Selvi Viswanathan

I was thinking as it is Wednesday now We used to chat and last Wednesday we thought we will wait for today. I sent you a message in WhatsApp that I will reply soon to your touching and moving e mail. You have given details in that e mail and I see in this e mail also.

It is a coincidence our father also passed away after 6 years 2 months after our mother passed away.

I noticed Nannu sent e mail to Rangan, last one on 20th wishing him to complete his project.

Venil You and Sumantran gave very comfortable life and he knew that.

Mathy has new mobile phone and she will be there soon.

It happened on Thanks Giving Day and only I could say to myself is Thanks to God for giving me an exceptional brother.

Today Rangan 80 years Birthday.

Love, Selvi athai

Hari Viswanathan

So sorry to hear about Nannu Mama's passing. I was going through all the email exchanges I've had with him over the years. Some as recent as just this last month. His interests in science, wildlife photography, astronomy all lined up with my interests. I've always looked up to him my entire life and was always amazed at how he kept pursuing science and even just the last few months published another amazing article on Kolams. I still remember how he was always so approachable and fun no matter what age I was and Gowri and Aditya also got to experience this. Looking through all the emails, the write up on my thoughts during the 80th birthday celebration turned up (attached). I think my thoughts from then are still very much the same and I'm really glad we kept corresponding all the way till now. We are all having a difficult time taking the news but very glad the Nannu Mama lived such an amazing life and he'll always be an inspiration to our family.

Love, Hari

Rangan Sundaresan

Ever since I heard the shocking news about your father passing away, I felt disoriented and couldn't concentrate on anything. But then I told myself that if I ever claimed Nannu as an inspiration, I must honor his memory by really involving myself in some creative endeavor, but it

didn't work out that way. I slept poorly and often it seemed safe to simply sit quietly in my apartment, reminiscing over past memories of my association with him. But I also remembered that nothing creative ever grows in a Comfort Zone. I forced myself into working on another Vindhiya story this morning . . .

I remember your father talked about அச்சோ பதிகம் (Accho Pathikam); it's a hymn our Mother used to sing, he told me. I learned it from my father when I accompanied him to the Siva temple in Chidambaram in 1973. We spent three or four hours in the temple and Father was interested in going around that huge temple; walking along the broad, long corridors; pausing and reading all the Tamil texts on the walls surrounding தெப்பக்குளம், the Temple Lake. We never visited the sanctum sanctorum! Later, he told me, he would try to recall to mind the grand temple corridors when he went to bed at night and recite the regular Accho Pathikam. It is a simple hymn thanking God for all He has provided while conceding the mystery of human life.

Love Rangan

Anu Sukhdial

We received the very sad news today of your father's passing. No words can truly describe what a wonderful person he was and how much he gave of himself to others — as a father, as a brother, as a grandfather and as an elder statesman/uncle in the Sundaresan family. Our thoughts and prayers are with both of you — his devoted children — and all his relatives during this very difficult time. He is with Periamma now. May Their souls both rest In Peace.

Love, Anu

Thaila Ravi

We are deeply saddened about Nannu Perriappa's passing and convey our love and deepest condolences to all of you. Perriappa was very special to me. I will never forget the kindness he showed to me when I visited him and Perriamma in India for several weeks. I had such a good time at their place that I asked if I could stay longer, and they readily agreed. I will always remember the wonderful photos that Perriappa took me of when I was in high school. He insisted that I get dressed up and that he would take photos on their rooftop, which he did with love and care. He also made the best thire (yogurt) that I have ever had. He and Perriamma also made a recording of several bhajans that I sang for them when I was there, and I was deeply moved when I realized that they still had those recordings, years later. During my visit, I spent so much time with Perriappa going to temples, eating good food, and chatting about life. I will treasure those memories.

I admire Perriappa was being so strong and mentally active even in his advanced years. I know that he still wrote articles, researched about kolams, and such. When dear Vidya passed, I cannot imagine what a huge pain and void it must have been in his life. Yet, he carried on courageously.

I deeply regret that Keshavan and Madhavan will not be able to meet him. I had just reached out to Venil and Perriappa last week, letting them know of our upcoming visit to Chennai and how much we were looking forward to seeing him.

Venil -- you took such good care of Perriappa all these years in Chennai, looking after all of his needs. His absence at home will be a huge void in your life, I know.

May all of the wonderful memories we shared with Perriappa bring some measure of comfort during this difficult time.

- Thaila

Seenu

Dear Venil: You are absolutely right about your incredible father's guiding principles. We are glad you are planning to perform the Vedic rites out of respect for your parents and ancestors and Ramani will perform them. Excellent decision. I think Sumantran also believes in these rituals. Suganda chithi is particularly glad to hear it! (Today Suganda told us: When she was in Coloba with Divya and Ramya in 1978, Nannu volunteered to take her to Mahalakshmi Temple. She did not even ask for it, but he knew she would like it. At the temple he told her that he can watch Divya and Ramya and she can go in and have a nice darshan. She said, no, because she wanted to take D & R too. He obliged and carried Ramya in while Divya walked! Your amma told her later, "he hasn't done that to anyone.!")

Venil: Nannu was reciting the *Achopathigam* verses every night, he has told us before.

I can imagine that. Must be eerily quiet now. Yes, very dignified man. Words fail to describe him. I informed about him to an old friend from Berhampur. He said he always looked up to Nannu, wanted to join TIFR or Atomic Energy. He now reads scriptures after retirement.

Regarding Nannu's passing on almost instantaneously, he wrote: "The 'departure' in an instant reveals the purity of the soul within."

Love, Seenu Chithappa

Suganda Srinivasan

I was saddened and shocked to know about Nannu Anna's passing. This is a big loss for the whole family. I see from the notes, not only close family but anyone whose life was touched by Nannu Anna genuinely felt blessed to know him.

Since hearing the news, I have been remembering clearly all the times I met Nannu Anna and Visalam Manni and all the wonderful times we had with them in our place here and during our India visit.

Venil, you and Sumantran did such a great job taking care of both your Amma and Appa. Mathy, you made it a point to visit them every year and spend quality time with them. It will give comfort, I think, for you sisters to be together at this time, and I'm so glad, Mathy, that you are able to go earlier than planned.

Thinking of you and sending lots of love,
Suganda Sithi

Divya Srinivasan

This is beautifully expressed. How hard it must be to get your feelings down—so many feelings at once—and you did it so clearly and beautifully. I'm sure Nannu Periappa was so happy to be with you these last years. As you were so grateful to be able to be with him and take care of him so well. He was able to continue to flourish even after the loss of his wife and his daughter which were huge blows.

You gave him a sense of well being so that he was able to continue his work. (Though I know a huge part was also due to his inner strength and drive.)

Please don't second guess the yogurt rice decision. You were doing your best at the time. I understand the regret, but it makes sense since people say dairy increases phlegm. It's very different, but there have been several nights in the past few months when Uma has woken up in a terrified panic, shaking and screaming, and it took me time to realize that her allergies had caused a blob of phlegm to form in her throat and we spend 10-15 minutes in a real life horror film, her tiny face so scared and disappointed that I'm not helping her enough.... Until we finally are able to get it out with her coughing and spitting and my pulling it out of her mouth with my hands. She has been given a medicine that helps a little but it's so scary. I know that if there's something I could do to make that NEVER happen again, I'd do it. But there's no great seasonal

allergy medicine for such small kids. Hoping the current medicine is enough. This is to say, your worry about dairy made sense, and you did your best. Hindsight 20/20 and all...

I feel lucky we were able to make our trip to Chennai happen last year, and that you and Nannu Periappa were able to get a sense of what Uma is like. And for me, it was most important for Uma to meet you all, to have photos and videos with you and Periappa. So she at least will know she met Nannu Periappa and can clearly how free and happy she was to be with him (and you!). And of course the other big reason was that Appa, Amma, and I wanted to see you all. Grateful for the opportunity.

I hope we will see you again soon. Our memories keep people alive in our hearts. And there are so many shared memories we have. I know the house must feel empty and strange.

Sending lots of love to you and Sumantran and all those who loved your father (so many). I've told Uma that Nannu Periappa is with Umachi now, along with Visalam Periamma, Vidya, Thatha and Paati, and that he's watching over us, and happy to be reunited with those he loved. I tell her to comfort her, but I also believe it. I really do.

Love, Divya

Ramya Srinivasan/Pierre

I've been thinking about Nannu Peripa since hearing the sad, shocking news of his passing on Thursday. I'm so thankful I came to India for his 80th birthday celebration to see him and Visalam Perima, hear about his many impressive accomplishments and see the slideshow filled with photographs from their trips to National Parks. Appa has always talked about his positive influence and impact on his life, which has in turn influenced our lives. I have nice memories of talking with him about different subjects--a genetics class I took in college, phonetics, Hitchcock movies and film school. When we were younger, I remember he drew a profile of a person with his left and right hands at the same time and it was symmetrical. We were amazed! I wish I had visited India again, to introduce Pierre and Ila to Nannu Peripa.

When Amma called me with the news, we were packing up to head home from visiting Joshua Tree National Park. It was our first time there, and Ila loved climbing the rocks and looking for flowers. She didn't want to leave, and the next day came up with the idea to visit a National Park every year around her birthday. We all liked the idea, and it reminded me of my childhood, taking road trips to see the Grand Canyon and Carlsbad Caverns. It also reminded me of the

photographs of Nannu Peripa and Visalam Perima on their adventures to see National Parks.
I miss him very much and am sending love to you all.

Ramya

Bama Ramaswamy

It was a sad day today to bid a final farewell to Nannu Athimber. We were very blessed to have had him with us. I very happily recall the nice days, when he would tell us stories of "I Confess" and "Strangers on the train", Alfred Hitchcock's movies. His narration was like watching the movies. He had such wide interests. When he explained it made even the most difficult topic very easy. He never talked ill of any one. On a personal note, Ram and I have to thank him for helping Ram in his business venture. It was Athimber who introduced him to Dr. V. K. Iya, the HOD in BARC. Ram did a course in Radiography. That was how he started his company-IXICO. We will miss him. It was always a pleasure to visit him. I am very happy that Athimber could publish a paper in a Mathematics Journal. Thank you Ramya and Robert for helping him in this. He had the Journal near him and kept looking at it.

- Bama

V. Ramaswamy

Your memo on the last days of Nannu Athimber was very moving.. He was able to last this long because of your TLC , your scientific approach and execution of the same, strictly keeping to the parameters of Dr.Thillai and also improvising when needed. Wish he could have lasted till Mathy came. Nannu Athimber was a man who led an exemplary life, totally devoted to his research and teaching. Scores have benefited from this. He was a man with goodwill to all and malice to none.

RIP dear Nannu Athimber. Ram (aka Ramaswamy)

Ramya Ramaswamy

In 1987 when my thatha (appa's father) passed away appa told me that he felt he had lost his guiding light and anchor and felt like a boat floating in sea with no guidance and anchor to hold him down. I was a stupid teenager then and could not understand how a middle aged man could feel so lost at his fathers death. Now that I am a middle aged woman myself I understand the unconditional love you get from a parent and the anchor they are in your life, holding you to the ground. I can now understand how it must feel to lose a parent.

Thinking of periappa so many memories come flooding in. Most of them are about the lovely trips we took to Colaba. Periamma would have piping hot Rasam and beans , with thertipaal for desert ready when we got home. periappa would plan an activity each day. You three sisters were my heros, so it was a treat to visit.

In the later years I was so impressed by how he cared for your amma despite his own health issues. He was a devoted husband and his eyes would light up when he talked about each of his daughters. He adored his daughters and rightly so. Each of you are amazing. losing 3 loved ones in 6 years is a lot I hope you get the strength in knowing how much you are loved by all of us. As our beloved Patti would say "dhairyama eru".

I am happy that I could play a small part in his happiness. when Robbert mentioned the special issue I am glad I thought of periappa. We were both very nervous to ask him as we were worried he would feel obliged to write an article and it would be a burden to him. I am happy it brought purpose to his last year and ofcourse educated other people about our south indian culture of kolams and its mathematical relevance. I am very sad that he did not see the online version as I am sure it would have thrilled him to see it.

<http://www.nieuwarchief.nl/serie5/pdf/naw5-2019-20-3-195.pdf>

Love

Ramya Ramaswamy

Renuka Subramaniam

We will miss our dear Nannu Athimbere. He was a wonderful nice person. He could interact, encourage teach every one for reaching higher attainments. He excelled in all the fields he chose. He kept a meticulous record of many things for the progeny. In short he was the stalwart of the family. Indeed he has left a void in the family.

Love, Renuka

Priya Krishnamoorthy (Venil cousin)

I was so sorry to hear that Nannu periappa passed away. Just having seen the link that Ramya sent of the article that he wrote with Suresh and another collaborator, I was marveling at how he stayed active till the very end. He lived his life to the fullest, doing the things he loved the most. He kept himself occupied in such an admirable way. What an amazing role model for us all. I have no words to describe my admiration for you both, for how much care and attention you have given your mother, Vidya and your father. Your support, love and dedication meant a lot to them. And to me as well, Mathy, your RCH healing for my amma, Venil's care for my appa...

Dear Mathy, Please let me know if I can come and see you tomorrow. If it is too soon, I understand. I am here for you anytime.

Deepest condolences, and lots of love, Priya Krishnamoorthy

Rajeev Krishnamoorthy

Very sorry to hear of your father passing away.

He visited us two times, and I have great memories of our conversations -- on information theory, the work that he was doing, and surprisingly, Tamil films from the 50's (!) where I had a connection. I was recently reading some of his work, and his [correspondence with Martin Gardner](#) really struck me ... it's the kind of passion and excitement about work maintained throughout one's life that is an example for all of us to follow.

Affectionately, Rajeev

Mangala Harinarayanan

I was very, very upset hearing this news. We all felt very close to Nannu Athimber. He was our big 'Anna' buying us ice-cream, taking us to movies, helping with our homework. A simple man full of wisdom and a great teacher. We were very, very fortunate to have had him in our family.

Love, Mangala

Venkatesh Harinarayanan

Nannu periappa was amazing - brilliant mind, great teacher and such an egoless, gentle, and caring person. I have met many brilliant people, some awesome teachers and a few egoless people since, but never all in one person, other than periappa.

I had the good fortune of staying with periamma and periappa at tifr when i did my summer internship there. And as Periappa's interests had moved into computer science then, we talked a lot and i was amazed how quickly he had picked up a whole field.

He was inspirational to so many people in our family and i was no exception. Many of the choices i have made in my life can be traced to his inspiration.

Venky

Sunder Ramachandran

Dear Venil,

Words can not describe our feelings of loss with our beloved Nanu athinber's death, we all have profound gratitude for the time which we have learned from him the beauty of numbers in our natural and social world. He teaches us how the love of learning generates a compassion and gentleness.

With our deepest sympathies, Sunder and Komala

Komala Sunder

It has been more than a fortnight since athimbere passed away. All of the ceremonies would have been completed and you must now be missing him very much. You must miss him at all the times when you would have done something for him.

From the very beginning of my marriage, I had heard about your family and especially about athimbere the most - about how much fun Sunder and Gomathi had had with trips taken together, about how incredibly kind athimbere was, about the amazing photographs he had taken, about how much they had learnt from him, about how they loved athai's cooking, about how universally loved Vidya was and I also gathered that the cousin Sunder felt closest to was you. When I first each one of you I felt like I had always known you all. I always enjoyed meeting athimbere and talking to him. I feel very sad to think that I won't see him when I visit next.

I am not good with words. Especially when one is hurting I am worried about saying something that can add to the hurt. But you, Mathy, Ramanan, Amrita and Ashwin have been in my thoughts very often since November 28. The past few years since 2011 have been really hard on you all.

I send you lots of love . You are in my thoughts and prayers.

With Much Love and Deepest Sympathies, Komala

Prabhu Ramachandran

Kadambari and I wish you our heartfelt condolences! We were both shocked and sad to hear the news about Nannu Athimber. Just the day before I had opened his most recent article on Kolam designs (and still have that tab open). It was shocking to suddenly hear the sad news.

When we think of Athimber we are filled with a feeling of gratitude to have known such a wonderful person. Athimber inspired so many to be better scientists and more importantly better people. He loved his work for its own sake, and I never ever saw him lament or talk bad of anyone. His amazing discipline, keen mind, methodical nature, wisdom, and warmth have always been an inspiration. We will miss him sorely.

We cannot imagine how difficult this must be for all of you. Please accept our heartfelt condolences again.

Love, Kadambari and Prabhu

Mala Ramadorai

Chittappa's life was an inspiration for us all. We talk about simple living and high thinking - he was the true embodiment of this. Engrossed in his passion for research he never wasted his time in politics or had any negative thoughts about anybody. We've lost a great soul!

Love, Mala

Tarun Ramadorai

My sincerest condolences.

I'm really very sorry to hear this. He was the person who mentored me as a teen and young adult. It was his role model that I followed. The fact that I'm pursuing an academic career now is in large measure due to his inspiring example.

We will all miss him terribly, I know. His work lives on in many of us.
Tarun

TV Padma

I tried to call but was unable to get through. I just sent an email expressing my shock - I somehow didn't expect this - but here is another, as I just shared the sad news with Karuna and Rainer. They join me in sending heartfelt condolences.

Here is what Karuna wanted me to write:

I learned a lot from Nannu Opa. It was really nice doing maths with him. It was really fun. I still have the kolam puthakam that he gave me. It was very nice of him to spend time doing that with me. I will miss doing that with him and seeing him. I will remember him when I do fun maths and kolams.

Of course Karuna is just one of so many who learned maths from Nannu chithappa. I did as well. As did so many of us. He was such an excellent teacher - always giving of his time and so easily able to communicate his love of the subject.

We will all miss him. Love, Padma

Shobhana Suresh

So many memories of Nannu chithappa and Vishalam chithi keep coming back. Eternally grateful to them for nurturing Kavya's early years. We are so fortunate. We miss Chithappa dearly. Still remember last December (2019), he climbed up to our house for the chanting. Will always cherish that moment. Om shanthi.

Ramani Sundaresan

Apr 17, 2020: Good morning. Just now realised that Athimbare would have turned 90. I know that you will be remembering him. Please do think of all the happy times and how you and Sumantran were able to make his last years one of his most memorable and happy times. He was a truly amazing man and a very warm person, even though he never showed it. A great scientist,

a inspiring teacher, a devoted husband, and a fantastic family man. Just felt like sharing with you. Love.

Lots of love and hugs.

Ramani

Siva Sundareshan

I'm so sorry to hear of Nannu athimber's passing- Amma just called me and let me know! My deepest sympathies to you both and Sumantran and Jon. Athimber will be so missed! He was such a brilliant mind yet so gentle and generous with his gifts. While I never spent much time in Bombay, after athimber moved to Madras he was always such an insightful source of encouragement to me! His curiosity and inspiration motivated me to be more thoughtful about channeling my interests in wildlife and nature to thoughtful scientific inquiry rather than mere hobby. I always appreciated his genuine questions. His creativity in bringing ideas from diverse fields of music, language were unique! It showed and encouraged me to challenge myself to be broad in my own curiosity. In addition to his scientific brilliance, he was also a dear uncle to me and so many of us are cousins, maybe understated but so very affectionate and supportive! My condolences and sympathies.

Love, Siva

Sidhant Sridhar

Nanu periappa was one of the best teachers I could have ever asked for. He made me understand and appreciate the beauty of physics and math. I would never have been able to enjoy science the way I do without nanu periappa. I will miss him a lot. I am sending a recording I took when nanu periappa was teaching me when I was in Chennai on April 28 2017.

Sidhant Sridhar

Sita (Visalam's cousin)

Very sorry. I read his Fibonacci Theorem and Kolam with interest. Sita

Sriram (Visalam's cousin)

Dr. Naranan was the leading cosmic Ray scientist. His love of photography and genial temperament made him a superior human being.

SD Venkateswaran and Sakunthala

Deepest condolences on the sad demise of a great soul. Know him thro the Devonshire house of ARS. Great astronomer and scientist. Great cosmic scientist. His family's fondness for Tamil well known.

Regards SD Venkateswaran and Sakunthala (Visalam's cousin)

Picha Nagarajan

I am picha,. VKV's nephew. We were shocked to hear the sudden passing away of your father. We were thinking that he was doing alright. Selvi chithi used to keep us posted on your father's health condition now and then. It is really great loss to you especially when he has been staying with you for quite a few years.

We have seen him many times at his house and elsewhere. He always was very calm and composed. We used to wonder how he could always be very polite, calm and had soothing words for everybody. We will miss him.

We pray to the almighty to give strength to you and your family to bear the loss of your loving father.

Nagarajan (picha)

A Cousin in Visalam Family

Some of them he called What In the World. Periappa was an incredible photographer. He would magnify small things, eye glass hinges, surface of a ping pong racket and we would have no idea what it was. He made such an impact on all our lives. With laughter, Laurel and Hardy movies, Buster Keaton, and musicals like Sound of Music. I think I saw it for the very first time at periappa's.

A member of ARS joint family

Thinking of Periappa, so many memories come flooding back. Mostly about my trips to Colaba. Periamma would cook amazing meals, and Periappa would plan and curate our trips. Every trip

would include a movie at Churchgate. I still remember seeing the movie “Herbie” , and Periappa laughing so much that tears came down his eyes! Towards the later years he took such good care of Periamma despite his own health issues. What I admire most in him was his concern over our well-being and the fact he kept himself mentally busy till the end. He published a paper when he was 89 wow!!!!

Anjaneer Rao

Time does not wait but memories remain eternal. Naranan Uncle is now free from the bonds of terrestrial time and space. He is out there in the Universe, and you will always remain connected with him, because the relationship between a father and daughter transcends space and time. The physical self of a parent may change its address but the soul can never be separated from us. He will always be with you. You can now communicate with him wherever you are, no need of technology or travel. He will always bless and guide you.

It reminds me of my own father whom I lost in 1986. Naranan Uncle was an important part of my older childhood too. I have great respect for him. Not many men see their wife and daughter precede them. I am sure he is in a better place now. His death has moved me deeply too and while digesting the information I neglected to send my condolences. Please forgive me and take relief in the fact that I prayed for him and Divine Grace is with him.

Ruby Raheem (Va. Tech friend who knew my parents well)

Venil, He lived his life to the full and did what he enjoyed most and I am so happy that he was active till the end. That is the best way to go. It is a huge void but you must take consolation in the realisation that you gave your dad lots of love and care until the end. You are truly blessed. Your dad was there for many years, nearly 90. You had him for a long time. While that makes it harder to let him go, you must find peace in the memories. Bless you dear Venil. Please let Gomathy know that I am thinking of her too.

Ruby

K. Sudhakar

(An engineer and Tamil fiction writer, he admired Appa and was inspired by him to use the Kaprekar number 6174 in a Tamil adventure novel! He also translated Appa's paper on 'Kaprekar's constant' into Tamil)

I am deeply sad to hear this. A guilty feeling could not be resisted as I had told him I would visit. I wanted to meet him next week - we are unfortunate. It is personally a great loss to me. My son had recently written to him about his plans to go to USA and wanted to seek his blessings. I still remember he coming to the road corner in OMR road just to guide me to home. A simple, great person whose passion for science was not well known to the masses. I wanted to take his work to school children. He was a very different class of scientist. My family and I express our condolences and pray.

From TIFR Colleagues of S. Narnanan

Dr. TN Rengarajan and Vijaya Rengarajan

It was with great sorrow that we had Mathy's message about S. Naranan passing away. We were eagerly waiting to greet him on his completion of 90 in April. Alas, it is not to be. He was our closest family friend and also an honoured colleague of mine. I remember many a discussion on science and other topics. We fondly remember the great time we had as 301-302 Bhaskara neighbours. He was always a curious George; was doing science till his last days. I was always jealous of him for this, since my research has been very limited over the past few years.

Of course we remember him for a lot of entertainment and education he provided. Many more in TIFR will remember him for his video shows. You have lost a loving father and we the closest friend, colleague, and mentor. Our prayers for you to have strength to bear his loss. May his soul rest in peace.

Jyothi Rengarajan

Please permit me add my most sincere condolences. It really feels like the passing away of a family member...I too find it hard to believe that Uncle, Aunty and Vidya are not with us on earth. I'm so grateful for the strong relationships that we have had with your family despite not seeing one another for years. I hope we can see the two of you soon, in the near future.

Thinking of you during this difficult time. Love, Jyothi

Rajesh Rengarajan

So sorry to hear of your father's passing. We all remember him so fondly. I especially have a lot of wonderful memories in that Bhaskara house. Memories are flashing in my brain now of watching I Love Lucy with your dad, playing with Mathy, watching in curiosity as Venil was caring for a baby bird, wandering around the house with aunty, eating her yoghurt! Even though we are many miles apart those times shared together means that that there is always a bond between our families.

Our wishes are with you in this sad time, Rajesh.

Prahlad C. Agrawal

It is with a feeling of great sadness that I learnt on 28th November about the passing away of Prof Naranan in the early hours of 28th Nov. from Rengarajan. My deepest condolences to you and the entire family on this sad occurrence..

I was not aware that he was keeping indifferent health. I have worked with Prof Naranan for many years at TIFR and have many memories of close association with him. If I recall correctly, you had contacted me to write a brief account of these on his 75th or 80th Birth day which I did and sent to you.

Prof Sreekantan passed away about a month ago and with the death of Prof Naranan, virtually most stalwarts of TIFR who contributed to the growth of cosmic ray research in TIFR, have gone from the scene. Prof Naranan will be missed by all those who were associated with him.

Losing a parent is always a very sad event in one's life. I pray to God to give strength to you and your family to bear this loss. May His Soul rest in peace.

MVS Rao and Vijaya Rao

It is with extreme sorrow that we received the sad news of your father, Prof. Naranan's demise. I very fondly remember him as an esteemed colleague and a close family friend. I hope he had a peaceful end. May he RIP.