

RULE OF THE HEART : THE JUSTICE OF CHANDRASHEKHAR DHARMADHIKARI (2009) by Sheshrao Chavan. Global Indian Foundation, Singapore, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Smriti, Tees January Marg, New Delhi and Institute of Gandhian Studies, Gopuri Wardha. Pp. 303. Price Rs. 595/-.

IN 'RULE of the Heart', Sheshrao Chavan has produced a superb study<sup>1</sup> of one of India's most eminent jurists Justice Chandrashekhhar Dharmadhikari. This superb biography of Chandrashekhhar Dharmadhikari J, who was elevated as judge of the Bombay High Court in July, 1972 and served until he retired in November, 1989, takes the reader back into the period of 'emergency' when the 'Government behaved like a despot' and the judiciary was rendered impotent by the judgment of the Supreme Court dated April 28th, 1976 in ADM, Jabalpur case.<sup>2</sup> This period, the learned Judge has rightly categorized as the days of 'Judicial Impotency'.

Sheshrao Chavan is said to have authored more than a dozen books. Having read the present book, this reviewer is fascinated by the scholarship of the author and has decided to read all his books in due course of time though not immediately due to time constraints. Reading this book will make one realize that the author, like Chandrashekhhar Dharmadhikari J, is a true Gandhian.

Each chapter, except the last four chapters, goes in detail through the different phases in Chandrashekhhar Dharmadhikari J's life. One of the last four chapters titled 'Made for Each Other' tells about Chandrashekhhar Dharmadhikari J's wife Tara who had made her own mark in the field of literature. Going through this chapter, without being specifically told, one can visualize the silent contribution of this lady in strengthening the ideals for which Chandrashekhhar Dharmadhikari J stood for.

Justice William J. Brennan was one of the most influential jurists in American history and the primary architect of the individual-rights

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1. Sheshrao Chavan, *Rule of the Heart: The Justice of Chandrashekhhar Dharmadhikari* (2010).

2. A.D.M., *Jabalpur v. Shivkant Shukla*, AIR 1976 SC 1207.

revolution in the law through the 1960s while on the bench of the U.S. Supreme Court. He was a Catholic and personally opposed to abortion. He told one of his biographers that “It never crossed my mind... that my (Catholic) faith had a damn thing to do with how I decided the abortion case”. Though a hard core Gandhian with definite views, on many subjects, Chandrashekhar Dharmadhikari J’s personal views and beliefs had never been the basis of his order or judgments.

Chandrashekhar Dharmadhikari J believed that law is not static. It is this view that shaped his legal decisions. He molded his order and judgments within the existing legal framework taking into account the needs of time.

The book contains quotations in Hindi, Sanskrit and Marathi. The book is not complete without the said quotations but there is no English translation of the same. This deficiency needs to be supplied.

Sheshrao Chavan adequately puts forth an unbiased portrayal of Chandrashekhar Dharmadhikari J and the Bombay High Court. The book is a welcome addition to standard works on the life and contribution of great judges of the country. It is a useful and enjoyable book for anyone with an interest in dispensation of justice and the justice delivery system in the country. A ‘must read book’ for students of law, the bar, the bench and those who aspire to become judges. It is also a ‘must be available book’ in the libraries of all judicial academies and law colleges.

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