

Dr. Enamul Huq

Dr. Enamul Huq, the scholar, the linguist, the dedicated teacher, has passed away (For God we live and unto Him we return). He was seventy-six, and, from the point of view of the normal life-span of a man, his death cannot be said to be premature. But it is premature, in a different sense. It is men like him that we need at this hour of transition from a state of poverty to one of relative affluence. Men who would remind us of the importance of upholding age old values. Men who are honest to themselves and try to inspire others too to be so. We have lost Dr. Enamul Huq at a time when men like him are needed to symbolize for us respect for tradition, respect for culture in general and for the mother-tongue in particular and respect for the spirit of free and impartial inquiry that makes an academic study worthwhile and important.

Dr. Huq had made his mark as a student. His field of study at the graduation level was Arabic, but he switched over to the study of the Indian languages while doing his master's. He was awarded the Jagattarini medal and was the first ever Bengali Muslim to get it. His field of inquiry for the Ph.D. degree was

the history of Sufism in Bengal. He was a grammarian of the first order, and his interest in religion was deep too, as is evident from the book he had written on the history and role of Islam in this country. He had written a number of text books too, and did not keep his work confined to research alone. If his field of interest was not wide and varied, his interest in it was deep and he knew every minor details of it intimately as few else did.

Dr. Enamul Huq's commitment to his ideals was beyond question. He was a purist and a perfectionist and he would not accept anything that would tend to compromise either of these qualities. He had chosen his own way and stuck to it till the end of his life. In this sense, idealism was all that he cared for. He loved to lead a quiet life and kept himself carefully away from all that disturb the work of a scholar and tend to blur the clear vision he must have. In this world where clarity of thought is rather infrequent and self-advancement is more often than not a motto even with some of the scholars, he was an exception. His ideals would, we hope, continue to inspire many for long. May his soul rest in peace.