

Dear Achen

Congratulations on your Eightieth Birthday!

Many of us have had the pleasure of your company and your intellect on so many occasions in Kerala, Bangalore and the US.

But, let me start by repeating one of my Dad's favorite refrains

"Eda, Nee, Endhene kola da?"

that he used when one of us did not get a very high score in our exams

He'd go to say.....

"Do you know Kuttappen Achen's story

He was a very independent young man,

who wasn't sure he wanted to join the family business

And so, he left for Calcutta to continue his studies

While most of you are complaining about passing high school.....

Kuttappen enrolled for his BCom, LLB and C.A. all at the same time!!!!!!

And would you believe it

He passed all his exams at the first shot

And obtained all three degrees in three years flat!!!!!!

And he would end by another one of his favorite refrains

"Eda, Nnine konde Thotte"

Achen, you set such a high bar for the rest of us

That in those moments

we couldn't help wising you weren't so clever and hard-working,

Because you made us look like foolish by comparison!!

But on reflection, the truth is that

Dad and you set such great examples for many of us

To put in the work and excel at whatever we chose to do

So, thank you for being an inspiration

"No Man is an Island"

Kunjmary Amayi and you have lived a dream

Together, you have planned and travelled the world

Together, you have built a beautiful home and family

And made us all feel so welcome

Amayi, Achen – When I think of you both, I'm reminded of a line from Tagore

"Thou hast made me endless, such is thy pleasure"

Thank you for everything and Best Wishes on your birthday

Tommy, Lisa, Matthew and Maria