

It was a prosperous farmer's household and there was plenty to eat and drink his all the children were healthy and strong and the sons had been sent to city to study in schools and in colleges. I must thank you for the affectionate and warm welcome which you have extended to me and for the love and regard and the gifts are of many kinds. Some gifts are achieved by one's own endeavour and are good and deserved but⁸⁰ no gift should be conferred on one whose worthiness has not been tested. You have laid me under a heavy debt and I should continue to prove worthy of it throughout my life. You have imposed on me a very difficult obligation so at present, I cannot say anything because I am bound by your love and affection and therefore, with your blessing and God's grace, I pray that I may prove worthy of it. If I fail, the blame¹⁶⁰ for my failure will be shared by you as well. On this occasion, I wish to place before you a few thoughts which occur to my mind because we have won our freedom. If I deserved the honour that you have done for me, you have also to think whether you have done everything to deserve freedom that you have attained after such a bitter and sustained struggle. There are people who think that having won freedom, there is²⁴⁰ nothing more to do about it. Freedom has come to us through sacrifices. Those who made sacrifices, they tasted the fruit of their efforts but it is for those who are now enjoying freedom to taste its fruit. After the last World War, there is deterioration in human standards and people have become self-centered. They have forgotten the wider interests of the country and the essential and the features of our struggle were sacrifice, truth and non-violence. It is very sad.