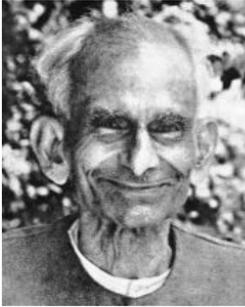


I. K. Taimni (1898-1978)



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I. K. Taimni was born in Lucknow, India, in a Kashmiri Brahman family. His father was Pandit Prem Kishen Taimni. Taimni's mother died early, and he was brought up by his grandmother, who, a devotee of Lord Rama, lovingly called him "Sri Ram." With only a younger sister and an affectionate but reserved father, his childhood was lonely.

The family moved to Allahabad, where Taimni studied in a government college and earned an M.Sc. in chemistry. He had a brilliant academic record and joined the teaching staff at the University. In 1928 he earned a Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry from London University and continued to work at the Allahabad University until his retirement.

Taimni joined the Anand Lodge of the Theosophical Society in Allahabad at the age of 21 (diploma No. 19388 dated June 12, 1919). Perhaps an important influence on his Theosophical vocation was his marriage to Kunwar Nagu of Indore, who attended the Theosophical Girl's School attached to the Indian Section headquarters at Varanasi and joined the Theosophical Society in 1925.

Taimni was instrumental in constructing the building of the Anand Lodge in 1935, and he contributed his own library to the Besant Memorial