The novel as a work of art has fascinated me the most for the simple reason that of all art forms it is closest to life. The novel mirrors life and age, but since the age makes us what we are the novel remains a most intimate form for us. What has impressed me the most about Edward Morgan Forster is his profound moral vision shaped by the liberal, intellectual tradition and humanism. His intellectual integrity that transcends even the national and colonial prejudices that largely influenced the British approach to India is Forster's virtue that I admire, even adore.

My Forster studies took me far and wide. I visited central India and Dewas not merely as a literary pilgrimage but also as a quest. I saw the hill of Devi springing to reality, recalling to my mind Forster's India.

My gratitude to Forster scholars and critics is so great that I cannot adequately record it here. However, I must say how greatly inspiring have been some of our India critics like Dr. V.A. Sahane and Ku. Natwar Singh whose mature scholarship and criticism have gone a long way in shaping my approach to E.M. Forster.
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(Y. P. HATHI)