

# Preface

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Lakshmikantham: A Man of Mathematics

This Special Issue is dedicated in memory of Professor V. Lakshmikantham who passed away on June 7, 2012. The mathematical achievements of Dr. Lak have been categorized by S. Leela, Yu. A. Mitropol'skii and A.A. Martynyuk in "A survey of collected works of V. Lakshmikantham, Differential'nye Uravneniya, 22(1986), 555-572", and by R.P. Agarwal and S. Leela in "A brief biography and survey of collected works of V. Lakshmikantham, Nonlinear Analysis 40 (2000), I- 19. Dr. Lak was born on March 16, 1924 in the Ananthapur district in India. He would have never thought that he would end up in the USA and achieve such great heights in Mathematics. He migrated to the USA after he received his Ph.D. from Osmania University in Hyderabad in 1959. His passion was mathematics and he breathed and lived it. He was an example of what a Karma Yogi should be who freely shared his knowledge, gave advise and mentored all that came to him unconditionally. It was not just in mathematics that he shared but also his philosophy about life, Hindu scriptures, poetry, and Indian History. As we walked each morning, he used to share his views about the world and how to live in this world and how not to be too attached by it because you might be a king one day and become a pauper the next day. So it is important to keep your head on your shoulders and not get too elevated with praises nor get depressed when someone puts you down. He lived what he believed in life and never was afraid of society. He always said there is nothing one cannot achieve if one puts one's mind to it. He always used to say never accept anything blindly even the simple fact that  $2+2=4$ . Always analyze things and come to your own conclusion and make it your own. He was nothing short of a yogi in many ways- self-disciplined man with strong determination and mind control and yet simple and generous. We are grateful and thankful to all the authors for their contributions to this special issue.

Ravi P. Agarwal

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