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THE ROLE OF MENTORS IN THE LIFE OF THE MATHEMATICAL GENIUS SRINIVASA RAMANUJAN

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Abstract: This article, in this the Ramanujan (22 Dec. 1887 – 26 Apr. 1920) Remembrance Centenary Year, presents the role of mentors in the life of Ramanujan. In Dewan Bahadur S. Narayana Iyer, Ramanujan had a friend, philosopher and guide in India, who helped Ramanujan to go to Trinity College, Cambridge and also after his return to India, after a five year sojourn (1914 – 1919) in Cambridge. From the moment he landed in England, till his return, Professor G.H. Hardy was all-in-all, a genuine, true well-wisher. This article details the roles of Narayana Iyer and Hardy as mentors of the natural mathematical genius Ramanujan, a ‘Swayambhu’.

Keywords and Phrases: Biographical, mathematics, mentors, number theory.

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1. Introduction

There is a general impression in the minds of many that G.H. Hardy of the Cambridge University discovered Ramanujan. The facts, on the other hand, clearly reveal that it is Ramanujan who discovered Hardy.