



Geeta Ramana

Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Mumbai

(21st July 1965 – 7th April 2023)

Prof. Geeta Ramana:
*Essence of Lord Krishna's
 Bhagwad Gita*

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Professor and former Head, University Department of Philosophy Geeta Ramana (21st July 1965- 7th April 2023) was a good human being, great academician, finest administrator, a true philosopher and a reasonable individual in the field of philosophy.

Her personality is a narrative of her name. *Geeta* a beautiful name that symbolizes the beauty of song (*Song of Krishna*) and all that is good in the world is bound to be music to your ears! She was born on 21st July 1965 in Dharwad Karnataka. From childhood she was interested in philosophy. She has done M.A. in Philosophy from Department, later she joined department as junior research fellow,

and then she became a permanent faculty in the Department of Philosophy, University of Mumbai. She joined the Department of Philosophy as a Lecturer on 7th September 1995. She has published several books and articles in Analytical Philosophy, Western as well as Indian philosophy in renowned journals viz. Indian Philosophical Quarterly, Journal of Indian Council of Philosophical Research and many more.

Her most valuable contribution in academics is a book entitled, *Human Action, Consciousness and Problems of Representation*, published by Oxford University Press, makes an intensive effort to use the basic philosophy of

language and analytical philosophy. In this context, she also manages to cross into classical Indian philosophy. According to her parents, Prabha Shankar and K.R. Shankar, the title of her book sums up her life: she was a soft-spoken and gentle human being, whose actions displayed an evolved consciousness. Deep within, she was always at peace.

Prof. Geeta was a pure academician and a competent administrator, one who always worked for the development of the department and others. She was very compassionate and caring not only in personal life but also in her professional life. She took pride in building a department that reflected the scholarship and academic rigor expected from post-graduate students, and always appreciated the achievements of her staff and students. She had a magnanimous heart which focused on the larger picture for a greater public good. She always helped temporary staff of the department whole heartedly, whenever they were in need. According to her, "power or authority means the ability to do well to others and headship means

one more opportunity to do good for betterment of department and others who are associated to department."

The department will never forget the three years of her Headship; June 2017 to June 2020. During these three years, the department was extremely vibrant and we conducted many activities. Several National and International workshops and conferences were organized during this period. She has changed the face of the department during these three years. She took care of the department like her family. During her term, the department purchased service infrastructure like the coffee machine, refrigerator and microwave oven for the office staff and the Blue Star Water filter to all faculties. She ensured the maintenance of the library for students, arranged computer room with internet facilities for students and started Online Screen Marking so that faculty members can check answer papers from the department itself. During her headship she has given full freedom of work to everyone in the department. Her headship period was in fact full of celebrations for all of us.

I had been associated with her for 20 years with a close friendship of 18 years. During these years we walked together in sun as well as in rain, we used to talk a lot, enjoyed University moments together with having lots of chai with samosa and also worked together till late evenings during NAAC preparation and conferences which I had the privilege of organizing with Prof Geeta. The biggest achievement of our lives was to host His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama's inaugural talk at our International Conference on Maitri, on 12th Dec. 2018. It was an honour for both of us when His Holiness personally called us for Lunch on 14th December, 2018 at the JW Marriott International Hotel. During our meeting His Holiness had personally appreciated our efforts and blessed both of us with shawl which he brought from China.

In addition to her excellent academic qualities, Prof. Geeta is a duty-bound, responsible, caring, humane and affectionate person. The best part of her personality is that she never blamed others if something went wrong. She was a believer and a follower of Karma Theory, whatever happens in life she used to say "it's my

Karma". With this philosophy of life, she was very humble, soft spoken, and even when she was angry, she had a cool disposition. The real friendship which we had without any barriers, full of trust and understanding to each other can be described in the words of Lord Krishna. According to Krishna, friendship does not have any kind of selfishness as it's actually the being of selflessness. He says,

One who know your love behind your anger..

Who know the sea of words behind your silence..

Who know the tears behind your smile...

That's a real friend as he was with his best friend Sudama...

It was a difficult time for me along with her family since the last week of February 2022 when we came to know about her disease and the short life span attached with it. But as a responsible human being, during the last one year she tried her best to complete her responsibilities towards family and her research students. I am a witness of her last year while she completed her pending works and functioned steadfastly even amid every painful moment.

I will always remember her calm attitude, natural smile, simplicity, dedication, and our *Maitri*. Her's was a short life, but a life thoroughly lived. Never ever she presented herself to me as having a very bad condition, though I knew what she had been struggling through in her last months of life.

There are so many moments which will endure with me till the end of my life. There are many more individual memories that I could share, and qualities that I could describe, to pay further tribute to my dearest friend. It has taken me a while to adjust with

the reality that she has moved away. But I know that my loss is nothing in comparison to that felt by her family. I am extremely grateful to her for the massive support I had received in my life from her, like a companion during my good and bad times. She has been more than friend to me.

This is my humble tribute to her for the love and true friendship that I received from her. Though she is not here physically, her love and blessings are always there with me. As I always described her, "*Tum Krishna Ki Geeta ho....Aur Mai Tumhari Archana*"

