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**GREAT COMPLIMENT TO ACHARYA RADHA RAMAN DAS**  
(Third Death Anniversary)



**ACHARYA RADHA RAMAN DAS**  
(23<sup>rd</sup> August, 1936-15<sup>th</sup> November, 2009)

*It is because of his goodness;  
I am lost in wilderness.  
Though he left me out of his heart;  
Yet he is the theme of my art.*

Death is certain for the one who is born, and birth is certain for the one who dies (Bhagwad Gita- 2:27).

Death is not extinction of life but reveals the fresh horizons of a new journey for the soul to the known God. Buddhism does not talk about God it believes that life is ever changing. The process of life and death is like a river; it flows on and old water is continuously replaced by new. Change is the nature of life. Sikhism believes that life is a temple of God. It believes that life is a fire which when extinguishes results in no smoke. It says if a person pleases God, he merges into Him. *“Verily, we are Allàh's and verily to Him shall we return.” (Holy Quran - 2:156)*. Islam believes in the soul but not in rebirth. The body perishes but the soul remains awaiting till the Day of Judgment. The second life starts after death. With the passage of time we forgot the people who are not present with us physically. However, there are people who come and go, but not before leaving their memories behind. Prof Radha Raman Das belongs to later group.

Prof Radha Raman Das was born in the elite ‘Shah’ family of Banaras and was the student of Prof. Ram Dev Mishra (Prof. R. Mishra), father of Indian Ecology. Being his student, and having known Prof Das from three years to his sudden, unexpected death, I have many memories of this dignified man who served the community in so many ways. As I started my career as a researcher, and studied my home town on issues related to occupational health, I was in frequent contact with him. As a researcher, Prof Das was ideal to work with. He was greatly concerned with the upliftment of poor people and to his students. He was teaching by choice and not by chance as he was having the command on all professions. He had answer to all questions related to Botany, Environment, Religion and Astronomy. He was a man of great qualities with immense knowledge, values and ethics. He was a person with magic gift of love, friendly, caring, and sharing and was considered a noble man from God. He was a man with big heart that was a big home, with no doors and any one can enter at will, dwell at length, and love and leisure with him. Every body trusted him, whenever any body was in need, irrespective of caste, sex, religion; he was feeling free to get nearer to him. He was an agreeable personality and was on pleasant terms with everybody.

Prof Radha Raman Das worked almost on every aspect of Ecology and Environment. His studies generated an original planning and the modifications of the conventional methods of vegetation analysis and ecophysiological experiments. His innovative ideas played an immense role in the preparation of the State of Art Report on Chambal ravines by EPCO. His pursuits were recognized by a coveted award of **“C. V. Raman”** Fellowship by MP Council of Science and Technology and were made an honorary advisor of the Council. He successfully completed the research schemes funded by CSIR, EPCO and DST. Prof Das has published more than 150 papers in national and international repute and 35 students have earned Ph.D. under his supervision, presided over sessions and delivered key note addresses in national and international conferences. He developed

various instruments for the analysis of water, soil and air and currently students of Environmental Science are using them for practical purposes.

The various academic bodies, that he chaired and was member of, is a list long enough that can be added here. Prof. R.R. Das was the Vice chancellor of Jiwaji University, Gwalior and Possibly his most enduring contribution was the establishment of the Department of Environmental Science in Jiwaji University, Gwalior and Vikram University, Ujjain. His publications and books and his hand written volumes in a sweet calligraphic writing is all that remain with us now and his personal library of a more than thousand volumes has been donated to Department of Environmental Science and Department of Botany, Jiwaji university, Gwalior, is all that we cherish. I was enough privileged to be the last student of his last lecture '*How to make Gwalior a Sustainable City*' that he delivered to me, while he was in the hospital bed. His last article "Education, Awareness and Ethics was published in an International Conference on Climate Change and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources on November 10-12 organized by ITM University, Gwalior and was supposed to give key note address of the conference, and most of the eminent Scholars in the conference auditorium were anxiously waiting for this key note address, but he was hospitalized the same day early in the first light and after 3 days he was no longer with us.

Life is truly ironic Prof. Das untimely breathed his last on 15<sup>th</sup> of November, 2009. Prof. R.R. Das gave much to his community; His funeral was attended by hundreds of people from within the Gwalior and those who had travelled from across the country. Prof. Das role modeled the features of good professionalism, leadership and the importance of helping those around him. He will be deeply missed. As an international Ecologist and Environmentalist, we have lost the man – but his traditions, values and music will live on throughout our future discussions.

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