

**FAREWELL SPEECH OF JUSTICE DR. MUKUNDAKAM SHARMA,  
CHIEF JUSTICE, DELHI HIGH COURT, ON THE OCCASSION OF  
ELEVATION OF HIS LORDSHIP TO THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA  
(08.04.2008)**

**My Brother and Sister Judges of the High Court of Delhi,  
Mr. P.P. Malhotra, Additional Solicitor General of India,  
Mr.K.C.Mittal, President of Delhi High Court Bar Association and all  
Executive Members of Delhi High Court Bar Association  
Learned Standing Counsel of the Government of India and the  
Government of NCT of Delhi  
Senior and other Members of the Bar  
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

**Today's occasion grips me with nostalgia and transposes me into the year 1994 when I was sworn in as a Judge of this Court. Looking back, I can call myself destiny's child. When I accepted judgeship I had conceived my future as being a Judge in the Gauhati High Court. But that was not to be. I was transferred to this Court as a part of the transfer policy of judges existing at the relevant time whereby newly elevated judges were transferred out of their parent High Court. I came to this Court after being transferred from the Gauhati High Court with a brief stint in between of a few months as a Judge of the Patna High Court.**

**So here I was - almost a new entrant into the Judiciary moving to a new Court and into a new city. Those were the trying times for me. I was**

dislocated from my roots and my family. I was like a tree uprooted from the place it grew and put into a new environment. I did not know what this Court and this city had in store for me. There was some nervousness, some fear and apprehension of the unknown.

However, all fears allayed and apprehensions dispelled in no time. This Court happily took me into its arms and brought me into its fold. Right from the very beginning everyone went out of their way to make me feel at home. In my brother and sister Judges I found my friends and well-wishers and in this Court I found my new home. The Bar showered the same love and affection on me as it did to the Judges from this Court. I was never made to feel that I did not belong here. On the contrary, I have always felt as if I am a part of all of you. I shall always remain indebted to the Judges of this Court, past and present and the Bar for adopting me as its own. The great Roman King *Julius Caesar* describing his victory in a battle, spoke "*Veni, Vidi, Vici*" which means "I came, I saw, I conquered". With me also the situation was somewhat similar. I came to Delhi, I saw Delhi but unlike Caesar, it was me who was conquered.

I owe my judicial career to this Court. My janmabhoomi as a Judge may have been elsewhere but this Court is my karmabhoomi. The strength and support of my brother and sister judges and the able assistance of a Bar which can assert itself to be one of the best in the country (if not the best) has helped me blossom and bring me to the place I stand today.

Many judges who came from other Courts returned back to their parent High Courts in the years that followed. I could have too. But I decided to stay back as I realised that I had begun to relate myself to this Court better than my parent Court and that I shall always be reckoned as a judge of this Court and this Court alone. At that time little did I know that my association with this Court will go beyond being a Judge of this Court. I deem myself privileged to have taken over as the Chief Justice of a Court to which I had dedicated more than twelve years of my judicial life. It was one of those moments when a sense of fulfilment fills in.

After taking over as the Chief Justice, my first and foremost objective was to look for ways and means to bring about improvements in the existing state of affairs and also look for avenues for further development of this institution. My brother and sister Judges and the Bar have always stood by me and have helped with me with their invaluable advice and assistance. I can say this with a certain amount of pride that I have been able to take the Bar and the Bench together in the various spheres.

I have always endeavoured to upkeep the high traditions of this Court. I have strived to deliver justice to the best of my ability and judgment without fear or favour, affection or ill-will. When I became a judge I had told myself that in my court justice will not only be done but will be seen to be done. I can say without flinching that to this day I have never let myself down. However, in a court of law there is always a party which wins and a party which loses. There may have been times when

someone may have gone out of my court dissatisfied. To that I can say that there is always difference of opinion and it is this difference of opinion that keeps a legal system going.

There may have been occasions when I have been harsh on some members of the Bar. I wish to tell you all that it was always without any ill-will and it was never reflection of anyone's inability. I hope and trust that if and when the balance sheet of my judicial career as a judge of this Court is prepared, as I feel that the Bar is the ultimate Judge of the Judges, this aspect would be ignored.

This speech will be incomplete without thanking the Registrar General, the Registrars and the staff and employees of this Court including the personal staff associated with me from time to time. They have always rendered every possible assistance and have been there as a support system. They form the backbone of this Court.

I now stand at the threshold of a new judicial career in a new Court. I feel the same feelings as I did 14 years ago when I came to this Court. However, the difference today is that I have the brother and sister Judges of this Court and this Bar to call my own. I look forward to their continued support, strength, love and affection. In the end i'll only say-

Goodbyes are not forever,  
Goodbyes are not the end,  
They simply mean I'll miss you,  
Until we meet again!!

Thank you all.