A Backward Glance Over Travelled Roads

"The pleasures of heaven are with me,
and the pains of hell are with me;
the first I increase and graft upon myself....
the latter I translate into a new tongue"

Walt Whitman in 'Leaves of Grass'

This is what I shall attempt to do while recapitulating the events and the people that I have met on the roads I travelled for the last four and a half years. This incomplete list is of those who have had a significant impact on my life over these years. They have made my education more rewarding and eventful, making JNU my true alma mater. For years to come, I will remember them and their deeds thus:-

Prof. M. Habibulla, for the freedom that he gave me to do things my way and his patience, patience and more patience;

Prof. Rameshwar Singh, for his active encouragement and support in all my times of need;

Prof. Rajendra Prasad, for his professionalism which made School - the theatre of my struggle against clock (both circadian and the clock on the wall) - a more competitive place to live in;

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Bhanu, for helping me explore the frontiers of my endurance;

Archana (a.k.a. Archie), for 'Sturm und Drang' ;
Priya Ranjan Sahay and Abhijeet Sengupta, for helping me demolish and revise my entrenched opinion about the nature of gratitude;

Jose and Babu, for vulnerability;

Prem, for an act of kindness and his reckless kami-kaze spirit;

Raghu Ram, for courage;

Mukesh, for his art of gastronomy and prejudices;

Neeraj, for confidence, rhetoric and his existential and teleological questions about (my!) life;

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Edvi, my brother, for keeping me financially buoyed for two long years;
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Amma, for her wisdom and militancy;
Male albino rats, for their silent sacrifice without which this work would have been impossible.

To summarise, let the raw tongue of Whitman speak for my sentiments which I have (had!!):-

"There was never any more inception than there is now;
Nor any more youth or age than there is now;
And will never be any more perfection than there is now;
Nor any more heaven or hell than there is now"

In my finest hour,

Scientifically,

MELVI MARTIN JOSEPH M.