



Azim Premji University Colloquium Series

presents a lecture on

Ethical Issues in the Mahabharata

Speaker

Trichur S Rukmani

Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Concordia University, Montreal

Date: November 26, 2015 (Thursday)

Time: 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm

Venue: 10th Floor Auditorium, Pixel A, Azim Premji University

Watch the live broadcast of the talk by clicking <http://lectures.azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in/>. It can be accessed from Android and iOS devices too.

About the Lecture

Ethics or moral behaviour is concerned with right behaviour i.e the capacity to decide what is right and what is wrong in any given situation and behave accordingly. However the capacity to decide right and wrong in any situation is not an easy task at all times. In difficult situations when faced with moral dilemmas the difficulty of knowing the right conduct has preoccupied moral philosophers at all times. Thus the literature on Moral Philosophy has no closure. Whether morality is something transcendental or empirical or again rooted in an overall ethos of individual societies is something we will never be able to decide. Different cultures have come up with models of behaviour based on their understanding of what it is to be the right behaviour under varied circumstances. In India the ancient Vedic world view developed a theory of dharma and authors like Austin Creel, P.T. Raju and G.C Pande considered a moral life in the Hindu worldview was a life lived in accordance with dharma. Accepting that definition as the best under the circumstances I examine the lives of some of the characters in the Mahabharata to see whether they fulfilled that criterion.

About the Speaker

Trichur S Rukmani is Former Chair in Hindu Studies at Concordia University, Montreal, Canada as also the former Chair in Hindu Studies and Indian Philosophy at the University of Westville, Durban S. Africa, T.S. Rukmani is Currently Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Concordia University, Montreal, from where she retired in July 2012. Her research areas are Advaita Vedanta, Samkhya-Yoga, epic studies, Gender, Gandhian studies and Hinduism. She has written and edited twelve books and has published numerous research articles in reputed journals both in India and abroad.