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PARSI JUNCTION

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Committed to Transparency and Accountability

STAND UP AND STAND STRONG!

Dear Community members,

My colleagues Kersi Randeria and Noshir Dadrawala have taken to the media to defend their arbitrary stand on insisting the BPP announcing a date to hold elections at a time they are well aware, the SOPs do not permit holding of the same. Unfortunately only selective information is being shared by them to mislead the community into believing that as majority Trustees we are causing harm to them.

Allow me to provide you with a short and accurate update on what has transpired over the last two weeks.

■ On Tuesday October 5, Hoshi Jal and Anahita Desai along with a few supporters met the Board of Trustees to push for immediate mid-term elections for two seats with a 7 year term applicable to their elections.

■ Kersi Randeria and Noshir Dadrawala supported this stand. In fact, the individuals who attended the meeting were mostly employees of Kersi Randeria or Anahita Desai.

■ Following them stating their request, they were asked to come a week later after the Board had a chance to deliberate on the points raised by them

■ At the meeting on the following Tuesday, Oct 12, at 5pm, Dr. Zuleikha Homavazir, Rummy Zarir and Pheroze Amroliwalla along



Viraf Mehta

with likeminded supporters visited the Board and put forward a strong rationale for holding elections for 5 seats together in October 2022. Their rationale seemed to be:

(i) to save the BPP Rs. 40 lakhs to hold elections for two seats now and instead to hold elections for five seats in October 2021 together (BPP currently has Rs 11 crores in outstanding payments).

(ii) amend the term of Trustee from 7 years to 5 years by seeking to amend the prevalent Scheme of Elections. This was not acceptable to Kersi Randeria and Noshir Dadrawala as they continued to insist on wasting much needed BPP money to hold mid-term elections.

(iii) Avoid risking an election at a time when COVID is still rampant in colonies and in Mumbai and the August 2021 SOPs have yet not been further modified in regards to elections.

■ The meeting with Dr. Zuleikha Homavazir, Rummy Zarir, Pheroze Amroliwalla and their supporters was fruitful and positive.

■ Next at around 630pm Hoshi Jal and Anahita Desai along with their supporters revisited the Board. They were requested to wait outside to allow the Trustees present to deliberate on what the previous group had said as well to make a final decision.

■ After discussing at length the views of both sides, the Board passed a resolution by majority to move for an amendment of the scheme to reduce the term of a Trustee from 7 years to 5 years. It was also recommended to hold election for 5 seats in October 2022 after following due process as required.

■ Once the decision was made, Hoshi Jal, Anahita Desai and their supporters were called back into the Board room and the decision was then conveyed to them. Noshir, upset at the decision made (which did not favour him), submitted his resignation to the Chairperson. Unfortunately the meeting took a turn for the worse with the supporters of Hoshi Jal and Anahita Desai starting to create chaos.

■ What was even more shocking was the way Arzan Ghadially and Shahrukh Billimoria began yelling at us and also began to make disrespectful and derogatory statements against Chairman Armaity Tirandaz. When I tried to tell them that his was no way to speak not only to a senior lady but to the Chairman of the BPP, they showed no respite and continued to yell defamatory statements towards the Chairman. A recording of the entire meeting is available to hear the shocking manner in which these individuals have spoken to Mrs. Tirandaz. I am not surprised by this given that they are supporters of Kersi Randeria who has 4 criminal complaints against him including outraging the modesty of a woman, assault, cheating, fraud and forgery. Looking at this unacceptable behavior and yelling by a few individuals present, Chairman Tirandaz was forced to terminate the meeting.



■ It is to the credit of the Chairman Armaity Tirandaz, a soft spoken and noble lady that she has not filed a police complaint against them for outraging the modesty of a lady and the least the community expects from them is an apology to the First citizen of the community.

You will recall that from 2015-2020, Yazdi Desai was Chairman and Kersi Randeria, the ad-hoc Chairman, enjoyed a majority on the Board along with Noshir Dadrawala and Zarir Bhatena. The then majority Trustees took no steps to amend the Scheme even though the same was promised during their election meetings in October 2015.

■ Adv Berjis Desai had given the Board a draft back in 2016 but despite several reminders from me and at times from Kersi too, the majority (including Kersi) NEVER took it forward.

■ When probed further by Dr. Homavazir, Noshir Dadrawala took responsibility for this lapse and apologized for the same. He stated that now that he thinks about it, he has regrettably made many wrong decisions as a Trustee of the BPP.

Now that the Board, under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Armaity Tirandaz wants to amend the scheme, Kersi Randeria and Noshir Dadrawala are opposing it. In fact Kersi Randeria at a recent Board meeting very openly stated that the amendment would be unfair to Hoshi Jal and Anahita Desai. Trustees are meant to work in the interest of the Trust, not in the interest of the candidates they support.

On the other hand candidates like Rummy Zarir and Dr. Zuleikha Homavazir have stepped forward to not only help the BPP save Rs. 40 lakhs but also steer it in the right direction to amend the Scheme of elections, something which the majority has only given lip service to.

They are also in agreement with us to amend the term of a Trustee from 7 years to 5 years for all subsequent elections, including their own. This is direct contrast to candidates like Anahita Desai and

Hoshi Jal who are not thinking of the Trust but themselves and want elections now only for two seats with a 7 year term even if that means the Trustees coming 10 months later in Oct 2022 get a 5 year term.

Ever since Mrs. Armaity Tirandaz has become Chairman, Kersi Randeria with the support of Noshir Dadrawala have only been putting forward road blocks in the Board and the progress of the BPP. Instead of helping raising funds for the BPP, they squander more charitable funds on meaningless litigation. A while back I asked Noshir Dadrawala what his contribution was to help raise funds for the BPP, he had no answer.

Here's a chronology of events this year:

January 2021 - Chairman Tirandaz announced elections for two seats to be held on 14th March 2021.

February 2021 - second wave of the Corona pandemic in begun to pick up and the Trustees were considering various options.

March 9, 2021 – Board resolved, by majority, to postpone the elections due to a spike in Covid cases and moved the High Court for postponing the March elections.

March 10, 2021 – Kersi Randeria, Noshir Dadrawala and Anahita Desai moved the High Court against this decision. The Court did not entertain them and help in favour of the decision of the majority Trustees.

March 12, 2021 - Kersi Randeria, Noshir Dadrawala and Anahita Desai went in appeal before the Division Bench of the High Court. A consent order was passed where March elections was postponed to May 2021. This was agreed by the Trustees UNANIMOUSLY.

April 7, 2021 – the Board of Trustees UNANIMOUSLY moved the Chamber Judge to postpone the May elections given the second lockdown.

July 2021 – after the second lockdown restrictions started to relax, the Board of

Trustees UNANIMOUSLY set the date for elections for October 2021.

August 2021 – BMC announced SOPs with restrictions on election meetings, election rallies and electioneering. Hence the Board, by majority, moved the date of elections to Nov 2021.

The SOPs above in regards to elections and electioneering have not been relaxed since August 2021.

Hence elections could not be announced till date. Now given we would have two elections within 10 months of each other, it was the right view to not only save Rs. 40 lakhs for the BPP but move for amendment of the scheme. Otherwise the community will not have enough time to amend the scheme even for the October 2022 elections.

If the community has noticed that ever since Mrs. Tirandaz has become Chairman of the BPP in Jan 2021, Kersi Randeria has been misusing his Parsi Times and is constantly being critical of the Board. He does not miss an opportunity to wash dirty linen in public. In fact he has very brazenly started leaking minutes of our meetings to support his biased views. But what he will not reveal is that the problems being faced today by the BPP are the culmination of mis-management by Majority Trustees that he was part of from 2015-2020.

I have repeatedly asked my colleagues to work together to help improve the BPP but instead week after week Kersi Randeria choses to wash dirty linen in public through the Parsi Times and Noshir Dadrawala, instead of being a team player, decided to step down as a Trustee.

I am sure their whatsapp warriors will make another vicious attack yet again on me and my family, but that is to be expected. That is not going to deter me from doing what is right by the community, by the BPP and by the beneficiaries.

Stay safe and may Better Sense Prevail

Viraf Mehta
Trustee, BPP
9820146244

THE RESIGNING TRUSTEE

In yesterday's Parsi Times of 16th Oct 2021, Noshir Dadrawala has given a two page monologue as to why he was **"Submitting My Resignation As Trustee of BPP Was The Only Honorable Option!"**

While his resignation letter dated 12th Oct 2021 was unconditional, we are informed that he has now made it conditional by first discussing the legal validity of the alleged Resolution of postponing elections for two seats and wants the Board to declare the date and program of elections. Mr. Dadrawala should realize the resolution has not only been passed but notice to the Charity Commissioner has already been given.

A quick trip down memory lane:

In 2008, Noshir Dadrawala became a Trustee of the BPP for the first time. Within three years in April 2011, Noshir Dadrawala resigned from the BPP citing "Serious differences" with the other Trustees on the BPP Board.

In mid-2015, Noshir Dadrawala announced his candidature for the October 2015 elections. Within a few weeks he pulled his candidature stating

"I cannot compromise with crooks to achieve political ends. Sorry, but, let the community get the leadership it deserves."

He later on changed his mind once again and stood on a platform alongside Kersi Randeria and Zarir Bhatena.

In April 2018, Noshir Dadrawala once again resigned from the BPP as he was humiliated by the Chairman in front of staff members. His resignation however was not in the format prescribed in the Scheme of Elections. Noshir wrote

"I am aware that the scheme of election states that a letter of this nature should be addressed to the chairman. But, sorry that is a position he holds by 'default' and not because he deserves it."

Mr. Dadrawala claimed that this was not the first time that Mr. Desai had humiliated him in front of others, including BPP's staff members and the trustees. "His high-handed, arbitrary actions are by now well-known to everybody," Mr. Dadrawala wrote. "I re-contested in 2015 to give my very best one last time with a new team. But, it was a huge mistake on my part. This board is just as bad as the previous one, perhaps much worse! It is beyond redemption."

Noshir Dadrawala never re-submitted his resignation letter in the format prescribed in the Scheme of election and continued as a Trustee of the BPP.

We are also reliably informed that a few weeks ago at another Board meeting, Noshir Dadrawala began penning his resignation yet again when Kersi Randeria snatched the pen away from him and made him stop.

Lets take a look at the Irony of the statements made by Noshir Dadrawala.

He insists that there should be seven Trustees and any vacancy should be filled within 90 days. Yet he denied Muncherji Cama to attend BPP for over three years on a false Change Report filed by Yazdi Desai to avenge his wife's defeat.

Though at one point he tried to withdraw the patently trumped up Change Report, he did not take it further on Kersi Randeria's instructions. Even when Late Zarir Bhatena was in and out of Hospital for the major part of his term, except for a few months there were never seven Trustees but only five or six.

For the first few years of their term Armaity Tirandaz and Viraf Mehta were treated as Untouchables and denied access to anything at the BPP. The majority Trustees, of which Noshir was a part of, threatened all staff NOT to give any Minutes, files, Documents and any other papers to Armaity Tirandaz or Viraf Mehta or else they would lose their job. Ultimately Armaity Tirandaz and Viraf

Mehta were forced to move the High Court which ruled in their favour and restored their rights as

Trustees but not before they had to spend lakhs towards legal costs from their own pockets whilst Kersi Randeria, Yazdi Desai and Noshir Dadrawala shamelessly used charity funds to pay their legal fees to the tune of Rs. 70 lakhs. Where was Noshir's sense of Justice at that time?

When Kersi decided to give his business partner's relative a flat in Godrej Baug for a mere Rs 8 lakh donation despite the BPP having an offer for Rs. 60 lakhs for the same, Noshir was part of the decision to allot this flat. Where was Noshir's sense of Justice at that time which cost the BPP Rs. 52 lakhs?

When Kersi convinced the majority Trustees to allot flats out of turn to Karyesh Patel and Kaikashroo Irani despite them having alternate accommodations, Noshir was part of that decision. Where was Noshir's sense of Justice at that time?

When Kersi convinced the majority to pay Rs. 35 lakhs to his "consultant friends" for the ownership building at Godrej Baug, Noshir was part of that decision. The majority have paid falsely almost Rs.5 cr in taxes on that building when we could have moved Court against this levy in under Rs. 4 lakhs. Where was Noshir's sense of Justice at that time?

When Kersi convinced the majority not to auction flats for the first four years of this Board, Noshir was part of that decision. Today, the BPP is facing a financial crunch because of that decision. Where was Noshir's sense of Justice at that time?

Noshir by himself is a very logical person, kind and soft hearted but in presence of Kersi Randeria he is a totally changed man. An example



Noshir Dadrawala



of that is when he had agreed with late Parvez Driver, having coffee in Gaylords, to reduce the additional Service Charges from Rs. 750/ pm to Rs 350/pm. Even Zarir Bhathena, Viraf Mehta and Armaity Tirandaz had agreed. In spite of Majority agreeing, Kersi Randeria was able to dissuade Noshir not to reduce the increased service charges.

Ultimately in July 2020, the full service charges of Rs. 750/ pm was waived by Armaity Tirandaz, Xerxes Dastur and Viraf Mehta.

Noshir admits that Zarir Bhathena expired on 24th June 2020 and because of Covid pandemic no elections were held within 90 days nor was Court moved for extension. Yazdi Desai suffered a stroke in April 2020 and could not attend office after that and Anaita Desai submitted his resignation on 23rd December 2020. Armaity Tirandaz then officially was elected as Chairman and it was proposed to hold elections for two vacancies on 14th March 2021.

Noshir Dadrawala proposed two consensus candidates –Berjis Desai and Anahita Desai. Unfortunately the Second wave of Covid Pandemic started in early February 2021 and kept on increasing daily due to which the Trustees decided on 9th March 2021 to move Court to postpone the Elections for the safety of the elders of our community.

Noshir falsely alleges that the Trio tasted its first triumph in terms of might is right. Several facts were kept hidden from the community. It was not the Trustees who postponed the elections but the High Court did it in view of the Covid pandemic and Govt. SOPs.

This has deliberately not been mentioned by Noshir in Parsi Times. On 10th March 2021, the High Court was moved for postponing the March 21 elections.

Unfortunately instead of all Trustees moving the postponement, two Trustees –Noshir and Kersi opposed the postponement and Anaita Desai also intervened to oppose the

postponement. **The High Court ruled in favor of the postponement due to Covid Pandemic.**

Since Berjis Desai refused to file an application to oppose the postponement and to support them, Kersi Randeria started terrorizing Berjis and warned him not to stand for elections and he would ensure his defeat which led Berjis to withdraw from the March 21 elections making it clear that he would never contest as long as Kersi Randeria is on the Board and only if he is not a Trustee will he offer his services in the interest of the community.

Being dissatisfied with the High Court order, the two Minority Trustees then went in appeal to the Division Bench Where it was mutually accepted to fix 21st May 2021 as the day for the elections of these two vacancies. However since the Second Wave was at its peak, all the Trustees moved the Court for postponement of the May elections which was allowed by the High Court even though the date was fixed by the Division Bench.

When things started to improve in June-July 2021, it was decided to hold the elections in September-October 2021. But on 6th August 2021, the BMC and Govt issued guidelines that no elections be held, no meetings or campaigning will be allowed. In view of the August SOPs, the Trustees decided to await its withdrawal or variation and decided to hold elections in November 2021.

However the said August SOPs have not been withdrawn as yet and hence since now the elections can be held only in January 2022 as more than two months time is required from its announcement to date of elections it was decided to move the Judge in Chamber to reduce the term to 5 years which should have been done long back when Randeria and Noshir were ruling the roost.

If it had been moved in August 2021 when Zuleika Homavazir first reminded the Trustees about reduction of term than by December 2021 we could

have had the elections but due to their obstinacy to hold elections for Anaita and Hoshang Jal with seven year term that everything fizzled out to have same terms for all seven Trustees.

Noshir alleges that might has become right and the three Trustees earlier in minority but now in Majority want to continue their rule. Parsi Junction would like to inquire of Noshir to point out one act of theirs that has been detrimental to the community at large or BPP in particular. We can point out a dozen lacuna whose advantage was taken by the earlier Majority but not a single one by the new Majority under Chairmanship of Armaity Tirandaz.

The present Majority when they came in power abolished the additional service charges of Rs. 750/ pm being levied on all BPP flats. During Pandemic, it took the Cama Baug Kitchen and supplied free/ subsidized food to the needy and deserving, It gave financial help to unemployed Mobeds for six months. It did several Welfare activities for the poor and needy. It is discussing ways and means to convert Leave License to Tenancy with tax experts and lawyers.

Hence why is Noshir so critical that the present majority wants to continue in power. Noshir and his majority were in power for five years and this paper can enumerate at least 10 instances where this power was misused by Kersi Randeria and Yazdi Desai.

Armaity has proved to be a far better Chairman with her grace, her humility and her treat all in same way attitude than Yazdi Desai who was vindictive and vengeful and gave complete abandonment of his duties as Chairman to the undeserving Kersi Randeria who has brought BPP to its worst financial crunch in its 300 year old history.

All the above facts have very conveniently been denied to the community so as to paint a twisted version to the community. The correct facts are as stated above and not the garbled version published in Parsi Times.



BPP ELECTIONS FROM PHIROZE AMROLIWALLA ON 16/10/2021



Phiroze Amroliwalla

Yesterday's Parsi Times is replete with the subject of BPP elections led by the Editor, who I appreciate for her thoughts and the power of her pen!

Through her editorial: "Wake Up And Smell The Conspiracy" she states

"WE RARELY REALISE THE VALUE OF OUR RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES... AT LEAST NOT UNTIL WE'RE DENIED OF THESE."

Very well said madame! Where were you when the owner of your paper which boasts of a masthead 'The Truth. Delivered Weekly' bulldozed his way and operated as if the BPP was his personal fiefdom, all the while denying the then minority Trustees of their rights? Have you conveniently forgotten that the then minority of Armaity and Viraf had to get their rights restored by approaching the High Court at their cost?

You go on to say that "In India and the world over, we cherish the select reputation of being Parsi." This Parsi owner of your paper has in the eyes of Vikram Jagdale and others damaged this "sterling reputation" of Parsis by denying that Jagdale had paid Randeria 30 lakhs for booking a flat and then claiming it to be a loan which also has not yet been refunded to Jagdale nor Interest paid even after six years.

It must be remembered that this 30 lakhs was borrowed by

Jagdale to book the flat by selling/ mortgaging his ancestral property and himself taking a loan from his employer Bhabha Atomic Research Centre Employees Credit society. What an Irony that a once Parsi headed institution like the BARC helped Jagdale to fulfil his dream of owning a home, Kersi Randeria on the other hand cheated him under the umbrella of being a Parsi!

And talking about democracy, sorry to say that word does not figure in Randeria's dictionary, for it is neither practised by him in the BPP nor does he allow it in his own newspaper the PT. If he did, he would have, in all "fairness" printed dissenting views also, which is what media is all about in a democracy!

Further to avoid dissenting views even in his rival paper Jame-Jamshed he purchased the Editorial rights from its Owner at a hefty price.

The Editor of PT further writes: "Thus, they instituted the Bombay Parsi Punchayet as an embodiment of these beliefs; to be run by venerated community leaders as its Trustees or custodians."

After what I have stated earlier, I ask by what standards would you judge your boss as "venerated community leader"? She writes "For over three hundred years, the Trustees delivered unto the community."

Randeria has only delivered unto himself and his cronies.

I agree with the Editor "Unfortunately, it's a different story today. The constant infighting and political power-play amongst BPP Trustees has hit a new low, compromising not just the foundation of the BPP, but the hard endeavours of our ancestors."

I ask who is responsible for this situation? The community is well aware that during the Chairmanship of Mr. Yazdi Desai, the defacto chairman Randeria ruled the roost and if the BPP is at its nadir, then all responsibility rests with him.

While I concede that "As a community, we have a right to choose our leaders." does it mean that we need to repeat our mistakes of the past? I can say that the present leadership at the BPP is doing all it can to correct the past mistakes. In doing so some feet are bound to be trampled upon but then no pain no gain!

While the PT issue explores in detail only what suits its owner, our community must rise to protect what is ours – as both, an individual's rights as also a collective responsibility.

I agree with the editor of PT, "it's time to wake up and smell the conspiracy. And then do what it takes to make things right." A beginning has been made by the three, Armaity, Viraf, and Xerxes!



THE CASH-STRAPPED B.P.P. CANNOT AFFORD TO HOLD TWO ELECTIONS, EACH COSTING BETWEEN 40 TO 50 LAKHS IN A PERIOD OF LESS THAN 9 MONTHS.

The gullible community was told that the B.P.P. is cash strapped and therefore in 2017 the then majority in the BPP led by Randeria and comprising Mr. Desai, Noshir and the late Zarir imposed a steep increase in Service Charges of Rs.750/- p.m. Was this steep increase levied so that community funds could be frittered away by having two elections within a span of 9 months? Has the cash flow suddenly improved that BPP should squander away the forcefully collected amount and spend almost **a crore** by holding two elections?

It is to be noted that the two candidates supported by Trustees Dadrawala and his co-panelist Randeria are keener to have the elections now, before the general elections in October 2022, as they fear that the term of the Trusteeship may be amended by the honorable Judge-in-Chambers to a five-year term and before that happens they would like to come in for a seven-year term. This appears to be their personal agenda not in consonance with the general interest of the community. A shorter-term is likely to make a Trustee more accountable to the voter.

Should an error committed nearly 15 years ago continue without being corrected?

Trustees have to work in the interest of the Trust and its beneficiaries and NOT in the interest of prospective candidates SOLELY with the hope

of garnering their support so that they continue to ride roughshod. During the meeting, it was argued on behalf of the two candidates by their supporting trustees that reducing the term to five years from the present seven would deprive them of two years in their term. These two years were essential as the new prospective candidates would need that time period to learn and study the working of the BPP. Learn and study at the expense of the community? Are you serious?

If these two worthies feel that a term of five years is too less to serve the community then even seven or ten years would not be enough. That itself speaks volumes for their ability.

And why may I ask are the two dissenting trustees championing the cause of these candidates when in the meeting of October 12, Noshir very equivocally agreed that he and his partner will both approach the judge in chambers to amend the term along with an enforceable code of conduct. If that be the case why the turnaround after the group comprising Zuleika Homavazir, Rumi Zarir and the undersigned showed with facts and figures that the community did not want to be saddled with a mid-term election and only then left the board.

After reading the message from Parsiana, it is difficult to fathom, that after agreeing with the proposal made by the undersigned along with Ms. Zuleika, Mr. Rumi Zarir, two likely candidates, who accept a tenure of 5 years for trusteeship, to move the hon'ble Judge-in-Chamber to only amend the tenure of the trustees term from the present 7 years to 5

years before the next election in the presence of all including Mr. Patel from Parsiana, one is surprised at the flip flop.

Therefore the community implores that the BPP implement the resolution and approach the Judge-in Chambers to at least amend the scheme to this effect.

One of the cronies of Randeria constantly refers to the Chairman looking at Viraf as a teleprompter. May I remind him that during Chairman Yazdi Desai's tenure, the Chairman's gaze was only fixed on Randeria and Randeria was the ONLY spokesman with the then chairman keeping silent and having no role to play! Tables have now turned and that is the sole reason why these two through their proxies want to thrust an election on the gullible voters.

I thank all those who were present at our meeting on October 12, 2021 to support the worthy cause of not having an Election at this stage.

Have a better weekend!

Phiroze Amroliwalla

COMMUNITY NEWS

THIS IS TO INFORM ALL THAT THE LANDLINE NOS. OF ALBLESS BAUG ARE NOT FUNCTIONING.

THE NEW PHONE NUMBER OF ALBLESS BAUG IS 9833972136 WHICH PLEASE NOTE.



DR. ZULEIKA HOMAVAZIR SENDS LEGAL NOTICE TO TRUSTEES TO REDUCE TERM FROM 7 YEARS TO 5 YEARS

Aspiring Trustee Candidate Zuleika Homavazir had sent her mail dated 17th August 2021 to the Trustees to move Court to reduce term of office of a Trustee from seven years to five years as promised by all the Trustees when campaigning for the October 2015 elections. Till date there has been no response from the Trustees except mail from **Noshir Dadrawala that Kersi Randeria had proposed it but it was not taken forward thereafter and pleaded guilty to not amending the Scheme earlier.**

On 12th October 2021, Zuleika Homavazir submitted her Advocate R. M. Vanoo's 10 page Notice dated 11th October 2021 in BPP Office calling upon the Trustees to amend the Scheme to reduce the term of office of a BPP Trustee to five years under Clause 16 of the Scheme of Elections as promised by them in October 2015 as nowhere does any elected office extend beyond four or five years at most before the next round of Elections commences first for PRESENT two vacancies, then three vacancies in October 2022, then one more in April 2023 and last one in July 2025. **The legal Notice calls upon the Trustees to urgently move the Chamber Judge for amendment ONLY of term of office to avoid lengthy delaying arguments if several amendments of the Election Scheme were moved and till then no Elections be held and recommends holding Elections of all five Vacancies together in September/October 2022. The Notice further warns of taking appropriate action if the Trustees do not take cognizance of the Advocates Notice.**

Along with this, Zuleika also submitted her letter dated 11th October 2021 wherein she has submitted the result of a Google Survey done by her of 3000 community members of whom only 261 responded in one day. According

to her survey 73% were in favor of reduction of tenure of Trustees to five years before holding any elections. Further 73% were against holding elections for only two seats and want elections for all five seats in October 2022.

Subsequently a delegation comprising Zuleika Homavazir, Phiroze Amroliwalla, Mr. Firdosh Homavazir (father of Dr. Z. Homavazir), Mr. Rummy Zarir, Mr. Jangoo Doctor, Mr. Cyrus Bharucha, Mr. Neville Wadia, Mr. Behrooze Khushrovi, Mr. Astad Palkhiwalla, Mr. Kerfegar Panthaky, Mr. Shahrukh Govadia, Mr. Darayus Mistry, Ms. Nazneen Govadia, Mr. Aspi Billimoria and several others. met the Trustees with prior appointment.

Phiroze Amroliwalla informed the trustees that on one hand the community is informed that since 2016 BPP is facing a cash crunch but now the Trustees are ready to spend around Rs.40 Lakhs to Rs.50 Lakhs for election of the two seats, it does not make sense at all, hence it was a request that the Elections for the total five seats be held in October 2022 only.

Dr. Zuleika Homavazir, a prospective candidate for the forthcoming election was very categorical to reduce the term to five years before holding elections.

Rummy Zarir inquired why is the Scheme not amended as yet though promised in October 2015 to which Noshir Dadrawala pleaded guilty that though they were in majority for the first five years, amendment of the Scheme was not seriously considered nor discussed nor implemented. Noshir Dadrawala now wanted all Trustees to resign and have elections for seven Trustees. This would be unfair to those whose term of seven years is still pending and only five Trustees elections whose term would be expiring in October 2022 should be held in October 2022.



Dr. Zuleika Homavazir

Even Kersi Randeria agreed for a five year term along with a Code of Conduct. But he was also for having elections for all seven Trustees to which Zuleika was categorical that it is for each Trustee to decide for themselves and nobody can force others before their term expires.

Phiroze Amroliwalla appreciated that half the Trustees had pleaded guilty for not amending when they were in power for five years. Only one amendment of term of office if moved unanimously by all the five present Trustees then Court would urgently allow it. He further inquired why they were advocating the cause of the prospective candidates – Hoshi Jal an Anahita Desai for getting a seven year term for them. This was an obvious clash of interest.

Viraf Mehta pointed out that they were in majority for five years but the amendment was not considered at that time except for just lip sympathy from time to time. He further informed that Noshir Dadrawala's earlier proposed consensus candidate Berjis Desai has opined that it would take around 3 to 4 months for amending just the term of Trusteeship. After the amendment the time would be very less and hence to save Rs. 40 lakhs of charity funds it would be advisable to postpone the elections for two seats till October 2022 whereby all five vacancies can be filled by just holding one election.

Noshir Dadrawala was against postponing the election and wanted elections to be held irrespective of the cost. Ultimately it was agreed by all for amendment of reduction of term as well as Code of Conduct.



The Group then left and the other Group led by Hoshi Jal and Anahita Desai in favor of holding immediate elections were called in and the whole scenario changed leading to resignation of Noshir Dadrawala. But with the pendulum one can never be sure as Kersi Randeria took away the resignation letter from the hand of the Chairman Armaity Tirandaz and now refuses to return it back to her on some lame excuse for giving a window to Dadrawala from which to escape.

THE DRAMA WILL UNFOLD NEXT WEEK.

Dr. Zuleika Homavazir
13/10 Rustom Baug,
Sant Savta Marg, Byculla.
Mumbai 400027.

11.10.2021

To,
The Trustees & CEO,
THE PARSI PUNCHAYET FUNDS & PROPERTIES
209, Dr. Dadabhai Naoroji Road,
Fort, Mumbai 400 001.

Dear Trustees,
There has been an ongoing debate on the reduction of term of BPP Trusteeship from seven years to five years.

As a prospective contender to the Elections, I believe it to be my responsibility to bring before the Board The Voice of Our Community. An Online Community Poll was undertaken through Google by sending a google form to over 3,000 Community members on the morning of Sunday, 10th October 2021. In appx. a day, 261 members of the Community have provided their inputs and the published analytics of the same has been produced below for your understanding and action.

It is clear that :

- 73.2% do not want elections to take place for only two seats.
- 67.4% want elections to take place for all five seats.
- 73.2% want the Scheme of Elections to be amended for reduction of Tenure of Trustees to 5 years before elections.

P.S: This is an automated system and can be verified anytime online.
(Analytics- Annexure 1)

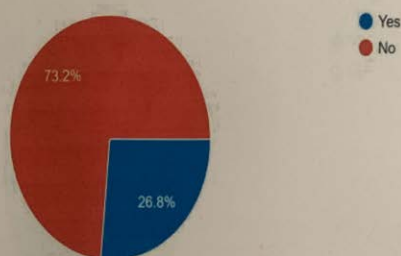
You are requested to forthwith take all necessary steps required under the provisions of the said Scheme for the amendment and modification of Rule 25 thereof for the reduction of the term of office of the Trustees of BPP as per the said scheme on urgent priority basis before the holding of any further elections of the Trustees.

Zuleika Homavazir
11/10/2021

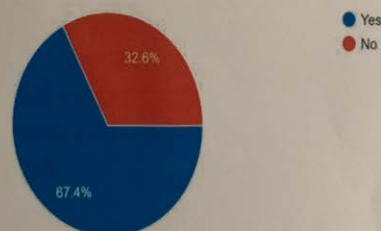
Dr. Zuleika Homavazir
Mobile: 9821033786.

Page 1 of Page 3

Do we hold elections for TWO seats which if the election schedule is declared may take place in January - February 2022 wherein the Community will spend Appx 40 lakhs per election?
261 responses

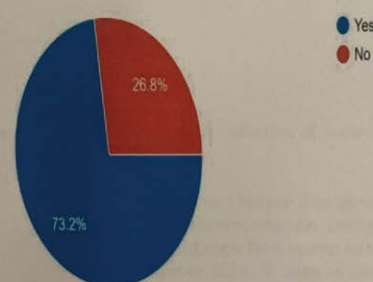


Do we hold elections for a total of FIVE seats in October 2022 saving an expenditure of Appx. 40 lakhs to be spent twice in one year?
261 responses



Page 2 of Page 3

Should the Scheme of Elections be amended for reduction of Tenure of Trustees to 5 years before elections?
261 responses



Page 3 of Page 3



PAID COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS STRIKE AGAIN

In last week's edition we exposed some of the Paid Community Activists. Unfortunately last week on Tuesday, October 2021, at the BPP Board Meeting a few of these Paid Activists once again showed their true colours. Their aggressive behavior and brandish pacing in the Board room filled with insulting and slanderous statements towards the Chairman Mrs. Armaity Rustom Tirandaz was nothing short of blasphemous.

Their offensive diatribe, sadly supported by Kersi Randeria got out of hand to such an extent that Mrs. Tirandaz had to adjourn the meeting prematurely and leave the Board Room for her own safety along with Trustee Viraf Mehta.

It is believed that even after Chairman Armaity Tirandaz and Trustee Viraf Mehta left the Boardroom, this gathering continued to pass unparliamentarily remarks against them for quite some time along with Kersi Randeria and Noshir Dadrawala.

It is unfortunate that instead of talking out our problems in a civil manner, some politically motivated individuals stoop to such a disgraceful level in order to vilify our Chairman Armaity Tirandaz. What is more shameful is that Kersi Randeria and Noshir Dadrawala did nothing to stop these individuals from disrespecting a lady and the Chairman of the BPP. In fact Kersi Randeria was heard yelling in the background as well. Only Trustee

Viraf Mehta stepped in to keep these individuals in check.

Here's a recap of a few of our Paid Community Activists on the payroll of Kersi Randeria who showed no respect to the Chairman of the BPP.

1) Arzan Ghadially – Resident of Godrej Baug. He is a member of a sub committee of the Godrej Baug Residents Welfare Association. Allegations have been made against him for indulging in tax evasion and financial impropriety. It's been over three years and Mr. Ghadially has still not been able to prove his case. But Kersi Randeria will always defend him and use him as Arzan has very vocally turned against Dinshaw Mehta and his family. It has now come to light that Arzan is on the payroll of Kersi Randeria (of course Arzan will shamelessly deny it).

2) Shahrukh Billimoria—Another resident of Godrej Baug and a committee member of the Godrej Baug Welfare Association. He has constructed an illegal balcony in his house and has blatantly told the Trustees he will not remove it despite several notices being sent. He has falsely added his name to his aunt's tenancy and now claiming rights in two flats.

3) Karyesh Patel—is a paid employee of Anahita and Yazdi Desai. He is also indebted to Kersi Randeria who

came to Court and fought for his case. Kersi Randeria convinced the majority Trustees to allot Karyesh a large flat in Dadar Parsi Colony even though he has the possession of his father's flat in Godrej Baug worth over Rs. 1 crore which has been kept locked and vacant for years on end. Karyesh's brother is married to an American citizen and lives in the US. Karyesh is also still in possession of a flat in Bhabha Sanatorium which was supposed to have been surrendered to the BPP when he was allotted a flat in DPC. With the blessings of Kersi Randeria he is able to hold on to three flats.

4) Kaikhushru Irani—lied to the BPP Board of Trustees that he was going to be homeless as he had lost the case with Petit Trust but in reality he had actually won. He was able to get away with this with the help and support of Kersi Randeria who convinced the Board to allot a large flat, out of turn, to Mr. Irani and his non-parsi wife. Kersi Randeria promised the Board he would reimburse the Rs. 40 lakhs which the BPP paid the outgoing tenant to get control of this flat but three years later and the BPP has not seen a single rupee in this regard. At present Mr. Irani is not only in possession of the NC Baug flat in Palmlands but also a second charity flat in the Petit Trust blocks in Balaram Street.



NOSHIR DADRAWALA RESIGNS FROM BPP

The BPP meeting on Tuesday, October 12, ended on a sour note. Chairman Armaity Tirandaz had to end the meeting prematurely as a few individuals accompanying Hoshi Jal and Anahita Desai began to get unruly and pass derogatory statements towards the Chairman.

However, before matters took a turn for the worse, Trustee Noshir Dadrawala hand wrote and signed his resignation letter addressed to the Chairman. He read out his resignation letter before the gathering and then handed it over to the Chairman Armaity Tirandaz. We are informed that in front of the gathering Kersi Randeria reached across the table and snatched the letter from the Chairman and kept it with him and refuses to return it back.

In the last 48 hours, Noshir Dadrawala has taken to social media to confirm his resignation and has sent out the below message:

"I read out my resignation and handed over my signed copy to the Chairman in everyone's presence. It was written by hand and I have no copy. It has yesterday's date, it is duly signed and properly addressed to the Chairman. The meeting ended soon thereafter. Noshir"

We thank Mr. Dadrawala for his years of service and wish him all the success in his private ventures.
- Team Parsi Junction

Number 5 in Zoroastrian religion

How is number five important in Zoroastrian religion?

1. The word for number five in Avesta is pancha. This number has great significance in Zoroastrian religion, especially and most importantly because it is the number connected with Sarosh Yazad.
2. Sarosh Yazad presides over obedience and hence he looks after the 5 sense organs and their perceptions, on account of which, man either becomes virtuous or sinner.
3. Number five is also connected with the 5 gehs which are the five divisions of the day in Zoroastrianism. They are Havan, Rapithwin, Uziran, Aiwisruthrem and Ushahin.
4. Five are also the division into which the society is divided. In an ascending order, they are: Nm na "house", visa "village", zantu "town", dakhyu "country" and zarthushtrotem "world authority"
5. Five is also the number of the Gathas – the divine songs of Zarathushtra. They are – Ahunavad, Ushtavad, Spentomad, Vohu-khshathra and Vahishtoisht.
6. The ten days of the Mktad are divided into two periods of five days each. The first five days from roj ashtad to aneran are referred to as panj-i-keh "the lesser five days" and the later 5 days, which are named after the 5 gathas are referred to as paj-i-meh.
7. Five is also the number of thin metallic rods in the ritual implement of barsom when it is used to perform most baj-dharna rituals. Even in the ancient times a barsom with 5 sticks was used.
8. The five main virtues according to the Yasna are good thoughts, good words, good deeds, obedience and righteousness. The five main vices are bad thoughts, bad words, bad deeds, disobedience and wickedness.
9. Five are also the geographical divisions among which the priests distributed themselves in the 12th century for professional reasons. They are: Sanjānā (from the river Dantorā to the river Pār), Bhagariā (from the river Pār to the river Tāpi), Godāvrā (from the river Tāpi to the river Narmadā), Bharuchā (from the river Narmadā to the river Māhi) and Khambātā (from the river Māhi to the river Sābarmati).
10. As to Yatha ahu vairyo and ashem vohus there is a tradition of saying 5 Yatha ahu vairyo in our prayers and rituals whenever Sarosh Yazad is to be invoked. We never recite 5 Ashem vohus.

By Ervad Dr. Ramiyar Parvez Karanjia

REPLY TO KERSI RANDERIA FOR
INSULTING MRS. MAHARUKH NOBLE

Well,Well, Well,
Mr. KERSI Randeria is this how LOW
YOU can stoop ?? just because she
donated Rs. 10 lakhs for a Clinic.

The community is well aware of all the
good work Mrs. Maharukh Noble has
been doing over the years irrespective
whether she is a friend of Pansy
Dinshaw Mehta or not .

Looks like your feathers have been
ruffled after seeing the insert in last
Sunday's paper 'Parsi junction '.

The writeup informing the community
of Mrs.Noble willing to sponsor the
expense of renovating the premises of
a medical centre at Khareghat colony
...& all this bad mouthing her of
being a Dinshaw Mehta loyalist , just
because the news was not printed in
your 'Parsi Times ' or is it that you
feel there r chances of this lady may be
a threat in the future to YOUR scum
candidates in the BPP elections , like
that Irani a very well known goonda
cum extortionist & a few others.

Your modus operandi is clear.
How does one spoil a name?
Very Simple.
Keep on spreading falsehoods until it
is literally taken as correct.
But believe me in this case your tactics
will not work.

This is one lady who comes from good
stock with impeccable character.
...& she is known to be scrupulously
honest, righteous, stands by her views
in any opposition, & has a Major Soft
corner for the Community.

Your trying to circulate this nonsense
about her being a Mehta loyalist is not
in good taste nor is it going to cut ice
with the community.
Request you to refrain from spreading
such nonsense about good people just
to get even with your sworn enemy
THE DINSHAW MEHTA.

Please learn to fight your own battles
without involving good people, the
likes of Maharukh Noble.
Hope wiser sense Prevails.

ASPI BILLIMORIA
IN PRAISE
OF DR. ZULEIKA
HOMAVAZIR

Hats off to you, Dr. Homavazir, for
putting up such a spirited fight against
the two biased Trustees - time & again.
The community needs a Trustee like
you who has guts to take bulls by its
horns and call spade-a-spade. You
have already proved that you c

As I said, I am a big fan of your articles
in PJ, I have now got full faith in you
(after our brief meeting today at BPP)
that you are the one person on whom
the community at large can have faith
and can give full responsibility of the
community & of the Apex trust as a
Trustee.

My vote goes to you. May you continue
to play leading role in bringing rascals
of the Apex trust on their feet. God
bless you & your family.

Regards, Aspi Billimoria, Khan Estate,
Mahim

Words

Does: "See No Evil Do No Evil Speak No Evil Does it ring a bell?	They cannot be stopped Once the words are Rolled out onto The "assembly line" The damage is done There is no going back	Before it starts to ignite and burn Pause chill think Before we mince Or write words Let the thought Process be ignited Before it takes A turn for the worse	Which can easily Be avoided If only one can Use little restraint In the past Poems were penned Not to hurt Harm anyone but Bring awareness of Treatment of humanity Especially towards non Zoroastrians Choicest Happiness Farida
Words can soothe or heal They can be nasty or mean As they can slice one Like a cogwheel machine Words are extension Of our thoughts Once spewed out	We are not "Fire spewing Dragons" Spewing fire at Every turn We have been endowed With the power of reasoning Which douses the fire	There's enough mess In this world Which are ignited through Conscious thoughts Words Deeds	



ASPI BILLIMORIA COMMENTS ON MEETING WITH TRUSTEES

Date: 15/10/2021 12:41 am

[10/12, 20:52] Aspi Billimoria: Once again hats off to you Phiroze uncle for having conducted today's meeting so very successfully with Dr. Zuleika Homavazir, her Father & Rumi Zarir at BPP's office today when the Trustees had to accept what you all put forth to them for & against holding BPP Election now.

All your points were accepted by them and there was general consensus in the meeting room with all present virtually agreeing to all the points discussed by you all. It was a meeting worth it's time & cause as you all presented your points wonderfully & exceptionally well and they had to accept it as they had no other way but to accept points laid down from our side.

I also really appreciate the way Viraf Mehta countered Kersi Randeria repeatedly & superbly to what nonsensical arguments Kersi was uttering.

Kersi actually made mockery of himself today, so to say, with the way he presented himself today. He actually made laughing stock of himself in today's meeting in front of so many people who were present in support against holding Election - by trying to be a joker of the pack. Whereas Noshir tried to act too smart by trying to play balancing act and as we all know his nickname is "pendulum", he acted as good as his nickname.

It was a meeting worth its cause and I am sure the present minority Trustees will remain in minority only becoze their thought process itself is malicious and full of motives only. Though they know in their hearts, that they will not succeed against our majority defense, they still try their best to have upper hand on the community at large, which I feel is a vicious & malicious thinking on their part. May wise counsel prevail upon them and may they think and do good for the community at large rather than playing dirty politics all the time in the community matters.

I also thank Cyrus uncle & Jangu Doctor for having attended today's Meeting to support Phiroze uncle and to support the worthy cause. God bless.

The following is another message from Mr. Aspi Billimoria after reading the message from Parsiana on Wednesday morning:

[10/13, 09:18] Aspi Billimoria: After agreeing with the proposal made by Mr. Amroliwalla, Ms. Zuleika and Mr. Rumi Zarir to move the hon'ble judge in chamber to only amend the tenure of the trustees term from the present 7 years to 5 years before the next election in the presence of all including Mr. Patel from Parsiana, one is surprised at the flip flop, more of a political gimmick by the pendulum. I welcome his move but as always done by him in the past, he will take

back his resignation in few days only if not in few months. Both KR & ND have become jokers of BPP. They do things as per their whims & fancies. Without bothering for the BPP & even without bothering for the community at large. ND resignation after our meeting with BPP yesterday night, is nothing but a joke. He shud have resigned in front of us only. It proves once again that ND & KR wants community to dance to their tunes as always. They both want election now only - hook or by crook and giving resignation is the best way to gain sympathy from the community and have his way. It is like "my way or the highway". Majority Trustees in all fairness should accept the resignation with immediate effect and teach him a lesson once & for all and he shud never be voted for in any election in future becoz he keeps resigning every time giving some excuse or the other which is not acceptable to the community. He has made a joke to the seat of Trusteeship. Always resigns and than comes back again - is nothing but a political gimmick & a joke. I would say KR should follow ND and resign too and let other 3 Trustees continue to work in peace and that is the best way to bring BPP out of the current turmoil.

[10/13, 09:53] Cyrus Bharu K E: Yes, his resignation should b accepted without any cajoling n take him by surprise. All the same, the election should not b held before the scheme is ammended.

Unknown Facts of JRD Tata

Shri J.R.D. Tata was conferred the honorary rank of Group Captain by the Indian Air Force in 1948. Later, he was promoted to the Air Commodore rank (equivalent to Brigadier in the Army) on 4 October 1966, on the eve of 34th IAF Foundation Day (which is observed every year on the 08th of Oct, this year, 2021's being the 89th) and was further promoted on 01 April 1974 to the Air Vice Marshal rank.

This picture is from the 1966 Investiture ceremony, when JRD became a Hony Air Cmde. Seen with him in the pic is then Air Chief Marshall Arjan Singh.



URAN AGIARY

Umrigar Agiary, Uran

The Umrigar Agiary in Uran was built in 1904, a 'Nhallo Aatash' (small fire temple) was built as a private initiative by Sheth Kuverji Adelji Umrigar and Sheth Khurshedji Adelji Umrigar. In the beginning of the 20th century there was a sizeable presence of Parsi community (around 800) in Uran. These families were mainly in the business of distilleries. Presently, only a handful remain. However there are regular Zoroastrian families visiting all year long, coz a special faith lives for this Agiary and its fire having fulfilled many wishes of its pilgrims.

This Agiary is located at Mora Bunder in Uran, a small fishing village across the harbour from Bombay. The agiary isn't far from the jetty, and one can walk towards this holy place with the landmark of a couple of houses on the way which are made to Parsi style.

Kersi Sooi is today the only recognised Parsi left in Uran. He looks after the agiary, though he is not a priest. He is now used to this job and has taken care of this holy place as his very own. His parents had come to Uran from Navsari to manage the sanatorium in the agiary complex.

The agiary fire is a dadgah, and therefore a normal religious Parsi could tend it too. So whenever the priest had to go to his home-town, he entrusted

the fire in the care of the Sooi family. The trustees didn't have enough funds, and neither the Sooi's nor the priest drew much of a salary. When the last priest quit, no one was ready to work for the pittance offered. Rather than let the holy fire die out, Kersi began to look after it. It was quite a struggle then for him and even today he is just about managing to pull it off.

The original trustees couldn't spare the time to manage the agiary and had handed over the trust to the trustee of the Bhiwandiwalla trust. Kersi had gone to meet him to discuss the future of the agiary, he was told categorically by Mr Bhiwandiwalla that the original trustees had not left enough funds to look after the upkeep of the whole premises. But, at very least they would make sure of a regular supply of wood for the holy fire. After his death though, even that dried up, and Kersi had to put out constant appeals for funds to the Parsi public.

More than anything, Kersi bemoaned the loss of Parsi properties through carelessness. None of the legal heirs to the Parsi properties here had papers to the houses. He claimed the navy was ready to hand over the dokhma, if we Parsis could prove ownership. But no one knew where the original title deeds were. The agiary lands would have been encroached too if Kersi wouldn't have stayed around and taken care of this holy place. He

has sacrificed his entire life for the service of this holy place which was initially started by his parents. He is married, but his family doesn't want to stay in Uran. They stay at Vashi, with his wife's parents."

With all these efforts around and a lot of sacrifice gone into the service of this holy place, including a lot of financial support extended by his ownself towards the upkeep of this holy place, which should rightly be called the URAN PARSI AGIARY with no trustees name attached to it; as in all these years there hasn't been any welcome trustee who has come forward to take the real responsibility of the upkeep of this Agiary. Therefore Kersi Behramshaw Sooi now appeals to all genuine religious minded Parsis and Iranis [Zorastrians] around the world to kindly come forward and donate generously towards the maintenance and upkeep of this Agiary as with passing age, Kersi is finding it extremely difficult to continue meeting ends towards the regular supply of wood for the holy fire as well as the much needed maintenance of the Agiary and its premises.

But now that Kersi is no more, the upkeep and maintenance of the Agiary falls to the care of Dosu Bhiwandiwalla as the sole surviving Trustee and we are sure Dosu will not fail the community but carry out his duty as a Trustee faithfully.



SUPREME COURT ON BATLIWALLA AGIARY AT TARDEO

Below is the last paragraph of the Judgment rendered by the Indian Supreme Court in the fraudulent sale of _aapri Paevitra Paak Makaan Batlivala Agiary_ in Mumbai.

One of the main conspirators and sly fox who worked behind the scenes was none other than the same *Maneck Engineer former honcho of GODREJ INDUSTRIES* who has been publicly identified as BPP Trustee Kersi Randeria's "GOD FATHER" for decades.

Maneck Engineer formerly of GODREJ Industries served as a Trustee and in concert with other Trustees attempted to sell Aapru Paak Makan Batlivala Agiary to one *Suresh Mehta of Astral Enterprises.*

...Suffice it to say that such a frivolous prayer could not have been entertained, and the order of the Joint Charity Commissioner is absolutely illegal. Learned counsel for the trust stated that it would be difficult to repay the money. When trust has obtained money, obviously it has to repay. Let trust repay the amount of Rs.2,95,00,000/- to the developer. Considering the value of the property and *the arguments made on behalf of the trustees, we are of the view that the trustees were not up to the task of protecting the interest of the trust, and clearly colluded with the developer while entering into such an agreement for development-cum-sale.*

35. The order passed by the *Charity Commissioner as well as by the High Court is hereby set aside.*

The appeal is allowed with the costs of Rs.1,00,000/- to be deposited by the developer with the Supreme Court Advocates Bar Association Welfare Fund within six weeks from today.

J.(ARUN MISHRA)

J.

(MOHAN M. SHANTANAGOUDAR) NEW DELHI

SEPTEMBER 21, 2017

HOME COMING

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AIR INDIA

On this day, on 15th October in 1932 Jeh flew down with his cute baby to Bombay

After success great and celebrations many, where there was lots of funfare n play ;

Teething problem baby had, like any other child would, after all it was a part of the growing up way.

For some years everything was going good, till some jealous eyes wouldn't let her with Jeh stay

Stay with the person who made her, nurtured her so very painstakingly; Jeh was kept at bay.

Years dragged, she became feeble, unfit, unworthy, every buerocrat managed to her slay.

Then something happened, Ratan brought her home with love, a huge amount he had to pay.

But now at last the baby is in her uncle's or cousin's loving arms, forever to stay.

Regain her health soon she will, rejoycing are we, all who love her. Wishing you, dear lady, a very happy Birthday.

NB: how I wish I could work again with Ratan's Air India.

Armin Dutia Motashaw

FROM: MEHER AMALSAD, WESTMINSTER, CALIFORNIA, USA

**PLEASE JOIN US WITH THE ESSENCE OF YOUR PRESENCE
COUPLED WITH THE VIBRANCE OF A ZARTHUSHTI**



Zoroastrian Voices at the Parliament of World's Religions 2021

Dear Friends,

Please join us October 16-18 at the [The Parliament of the World's Religions 2021 Global Virtual Conference](#).

This year's theme is **Opening Our Heart's to the World: Compassion in Action**. The Parliament of the World's Religions was established in 1893 at the World's Fair in Chicago when the first Hindu monk to visit America, Swami Vivekananda from the Ramakrishna Order in India, mesmerized five thousand people in attendance from all over the world. His spirit is alive and well today in the continuing work of the modern Parliament.

Our Zoroastrian community also is participating in the Parliament and several Zoroastrians from around the world are presenting in over 30 programs at the Parliament under the umbrella of FEZANA (Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America). You can view our Schedule of Programs presented by Zoroastrians [HERE](#). We especially invite you to attend a program sponsored by FEZANA on Intrafaith, [“Interfaith Organizations to be Incubators for Intrafaith Dialogue: Tweaking the Interfaith Model”](#), Part 1 at 7pm EDT, and Part 2 at 9pm EDT.

Please join this global celebration of our magnificent religious and cultural diversity! Please [REGISTER](#) <https://parliamentofreligions.org/2021-parliament-worlds-religions-registration> for the Parliament so you can attend.

With Warm Regards,

Homi D. Gandhi and Bakhtavar Desai

Co-Chairs, Interfaith Activities Committee

FEZANA (Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America)



FEZANA

FEDERATION OF ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF NORTH AMERICA

This weekend the 2021 Parliament of World's Religions will be held completely virtually. Over 48 hours, there will be hundreds of presentations viewed by thousands of attendees who have registered and signed up.

As in past PoWR, FEZANA has taken the lead in organizing representation of Zoroastrian voices at the Parliament.

You can view a complete list of all presentations/talks/seminars/workshops and plenaries by Zoroastrians on the FEZANA website.

Note the date and time per your interest and log in to watch.

You do need to register to be a participant. Registration is still open.

Details and Full Schedule here: <https://fezana.org/powr-2021/>

ZOROASTRIANISM

Faith • Dialogue • Education • Community



October 16 - 18
2021
PARLIAMENT
OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS
VIRTUAL

Opening Our Hearts to the World:
Compassion in Action

Join Zoroastrian Voices at the World's Premier Interfaith Convening



Lord Karan Bilimoria CBE

Vada Dasturji
Khurshed Dastoor

Zerbanoo Gifford

48 Hours Live, At Your Convenience for 30 Days

Zoroastrian Event Schedule at
PoWR 2021

<https://fezana.org/powr-2021/>

ZARATHUSHTI YOUTH ACROSS BORDERS (ZYAB): YOUTH INITIATIVE FOR 12 WZC 2022

OCTOBER 15, 2021: ZYAB APPLICATION DEADLINE



**12th World
Zoroastrian Congress
2022 NYC**

July 1 - 4, 2022

LAUNCHING: ZARATHUSHTI YOUTH ACROSS BORDERS (ZYAB)

The 12th World Zoroastrian Congress 2022 is excited to launch a wonderful opportunity for Zarathushti youth.

Zarathushti Youth Across Borders (ZYAB) will bring youth from our community to attend the 12th World Zoroastrian Congress in New York City. The goal of the program is to increase active participation among Zarathushti youth from outside North America and to empower them to represent their religion and develop their aspirations for the future.

The attached brochure spells out in detail the vision and implementation strategy for this program. The outreach to local communities will be organized by the ZYAB team through the Global Working Group representatives.

ZYAB is seeking:

Applications from youth who are excited to attend the Congress but do not have the financial resources to do so.

Support from local Zoroastrian Associations and worldwide Zarathushtis to support this ZYAB Program.

Prospective youth can apply on the 12 WZC 2022 NYC website

For further questions and clarifications, please write to the ZYAB team, zyab@wzc2022.nyc

Nerina Rustomji & Behroze Clubwala, ZYAB Co-Chairs
Katayun Kapadia, Congress Administrator, 12 WZC 2022.



Prospective youth can apply on the 12 WZC 2022 NYC website

For further questions and clarifications, please write to the ZYAB team, zyab@wzc2022.nyc

Nerina Rustomji & Behroze Clubwala, ZYAB Co-Chairs
Katayun Kapadia, Congress Administrator, 12 WZC 2022.

[Download ZYAB Brochure](#)

[Program Website To Apply](#)



ADEN FIRE SAFE AT LONAVLA AGIARY

The Flames of Faith

'Lhotse', Air India's Boeing 707 began taxiing on the tarmac and as the big aeroplane lost touch with the ground and became airborne, chants of Yatha Ahu Vairyo rent the aircraft. For, this was a very special journey, on a very special mission. Flying on board the chartered plane was a very, very special and important entity - Atash-e-Adaran.

This, then, is the story of a very important and almost miraculous chapter in the history of the Zarathustris. An event which took place in the life time of most of us. Join us as we 'fly' down to the Red Sea port of Aden, situated on the Arabian peninsula. Welcome aboard the 'Lhotse':

Parsees have always been adventurous and enterprising and many have gone to distant shores to seek their fortunes and, wealth and in a number of cases, settled abroad. In a few places they even build Fire Temples to cater to the religious and spiritual needs of the Parsee community settled on these foreign shores. One such Agiary was built at Zanzibar which, unfortunately, had to be closed down when Parsees left that place and the Atash Padsha there just 'died out'. Shanghai in China, too, had a fire temple, which also unfortunately had to be closed down when the communists took over China. Another Agiary in a foreign land was the one at Aden in the country of Yemen.

Aden, in those days, was a thriving trading post, a free port like Singapore. Located at a strategic point on the Arabian peninsula, it was the port ships passed through on their East to West - West to East journeys, via the Suez Canal. Aden had a large number of Parsees - around 1300 - and in the year 1883 they built an aglary there where the consecrated Atash was of Adaren grade. This aglary was built by the Cowasji Dinshaw family who

were in the business of shipping. This family also built a mosque for the local Mohamedan population which is known as the Cowasji Masjid and is still in use in Aden. There also used to be a Dokhma in Aden for the use of the Parsees.

In 1967, the British left Yemen and South Yemen turned into a communist country. Aden soon lost its prime position as an important trading post on both sides of the Suez. Business declined and a number of foreigners working there and contributing to its economy started leaving, too. So did the Parsees, many of them who had almost settled there moved back to India or to other places like UK, Canada, etc. Only a few Parsee families were left by the mid-seventies and they, too, were all set to leave.

With the advent of communism, the agiary, dokhma and their funds, etc. all became state property. With all the Parsees set to leave Aden, who would take care of the Atash? That's when Cowasjee Dinshaw, the great grandson of Cowasjee Dinshaw who had built the aglary and dokhma in Aden in the last century, decided that he would not let the Holy Atash, which had sustained and nurtured the community in this land away from home, just die away as the one at Zanzibar had. Most of the Parsees in Aden had prospered and done very well for themselves, and they strongly believed it was due to the blessings of the Atash Padsha. The Atash had provided them with spiritual sustenance and was an important focal point of keeping the community united, alive and energetic.

Cowasjee Dinshaw firmly believed that this Atash had miraculous powers. During the fight for ousting the British from Yemen, in spite of all the

bombings and destruction all around, the Agiary was never touched even by a splinter, leave alone the various bombs that were exploding all around it. Ultimately, in 1967, the British left Yemen and the communists came to power. Soon, changes began even in the business community and one by one the foreigners started moving out of Aden. Now with the impending withdrawal of the Parsees from this ancient Islamic and new communist state, what was to happen to our Holy Fire?

The first decision was that the Atash had to be moved out of Aden. Alternate places where it could be enthroned were considered. The first was in a Daremeher in Iran. When Cowasjee Dinshaw approached the head of the Zarthusti Anjumans in Iran, they expressed their willingness to receive the Atash. But they had two conditions. One, they would follow the Fasli calendar for all religious ceremonies and, secondly, they would not be able to keep the Varsiaji in the Daremeher. Both these conditions were unacceptable to Mr. Dinshaw. So the next alternative was explored. This was a House of Worship in London. But the London-based Parsees were concerned that since some smoke would emanate from the Fire, it would be difficult for them to enthrone the Holy Fire in London!

That's when Cowasjee felt that the best place for the Holy Fire to be would be in India where it would be safe, glowing and 'alive'. The next step was to obtain permission from the government of South Yemen to move the Atash out of that country. Being a newly formed communist regime, they were not exactly very understanding of religious sentiments. Cowasjee Dinshaw appealed to the government for permission to move the Holy Atash



to India. This was refused. He then appealed to Queen Elizabeth as the head of the Commonwealth, the World Bank as well as the Government of India.

There were no encouraging or helpful responses from Elizabeth or the World Bank. It was the Indian government that really worked hard in this matter. India, in those days was ruled by the late Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi and the foreign Minister was Mr. Y.B. Chavan, the strongman from Maharashtra. A petition was sent to the Prime Minister and not surprisingly was favourably received by her. The Prime Minister asked Y. B. Chavan to take all measures possible to persuade the South Yemeni government to release the 'Holy Atash'. This was not as easy as it sounded. The South Yemeni government was not very keen to let the Atash be moved out of Aden, being communists and thus having little sympathy towards religious spiritual sentiments.

It took a lot of persuasion from the Indian Foreign Ministry, Y.B. Chavan and even Mrs. Gandhi personally, to make the South Yemeni government finally agree to let the Parsees move the Holy Atash to India. In a meeting of the Non Aligned Nations held in Colombo, Y.B. Chavan personally met the Head of the South Yemeni government who was also present there and once again pressed the case for the release of the Holy Atash to India. At last, the South Yemeni Government agreed and, indeed, it was a moment of joy and relief for the Parsees of Aden. The condition was that it would have to be moved out at midnight. This was agreed to by Mr. Dinshaw. But much more of trials and tribulations had to be passed through almost like a test through fire itself. Further permission had to be taken that the Holy Atash would not be viewed by any non-Zarthustis which, too, was granted very reluctantly by the then South Yemeni government, after a lot of persuasion on the part of our Foreign Ministry.

No sooner was this news known, then a fresh controversy broke out in the community, back home in India. There was a lot of debate on how the Holy Atash could be transported. Cowasjee Dinshaw approached Field Marshall Sam Manecksha to chalk out the best land route to transport the Holy Fire. Manecksha drew up a route, but that meant passing through Mecca and Medina, holiest cities of Islam. Now, this would not have been possible since no non-Muslims are allowed to even enter these two cities.

Also, from the Zarthusti theological and religious point of view, transport through land routes was ruled out as there is an injunction in the Denkard on carrying the Holy Fire over wide expanse of waters, and since one would have to cross a number of rivers, this would create a major difficulty. Also, from the practical point of view, even on a different route drawn up by Manecksha, this was not a very good idea. One, it would have involved taking permission from a number of different countries (all Islamic states) to move the Atash through their land. Even the best route would have taken at least two thousand kilometers be covered. How was the Atash to be tended to five times a day, every day on a journey that would have taken months to complete by road? Also, how safe would our Holy Atash be from the prying eyes of curious, suspicious and even hostile locals? Plus, the logistics of the whole exercise would have been too cumbersome to carry out. One would need a set of very hardy Parsi-Zarthusti drivers and mechanics to drive and maintain the vehicle. Again, the route would be over very rough and dry terrain, most of it desert. All this seemed like a very improbable venture to carry out. Thus, moving over a land route had to be ruled out.

For the same reason (injunction in the Denkard), the sea route was discounted. Moving by sea would have involved carrying the Holy Fire on a ship

and travelling from Aden to Bombay. But on this point the eiders, scholars and those learned in our scriptural matters expressed their strong disapproval. From the Zarathusti point of view, according to them the Holy Fire is not to be carried over the waters. This is because the sea unfortunately contains within its waters a lot of pollutants, like discharge from the ships and freighters. Transporting the Holy Fire over such impurities would be nothing short of sacrilege, amounting to defiling the Atash Padsha.

So, what other avenue was left but to fly the Holy Fire over to India. Have you heard Of carrying fire in an aircraft? From the point of security that was a highly dangerous thing to do. It could result in the loss of not only the aircraft but also the people escorting the fire. Yet as the concerned people thought about and debated on these issues, the more it became clear that this was the only way to transport the Atash. Thus the decision was taken to fly it to Bombay.

Thus Air India was contacted. Air India agreed to provide an aircraft on a charter basis. This was a Boeing 707. Air India by then had begun inducting 747s, the giant Jumbos into its fleet.

Now even an airline started by a Parsee does not routinely fly Fire - that, too, consecrated and of the Adaran grade. To transport this very special 'passenger' it was essential that purity and some religious injunctions be observed. One of the first one amongst these was that only Parsee Zarthustis be on board the aircraft. Thus Air India began the exercise of identifying only Parsi crew who would escort the Holy Fire. Capt. Sam Pedder was contacted and nominated for this religious adventure. For this, he was required to fly a few 707s of Indian Airlines to clock-in some more hours for flying a Boeing 707 as he had by now graduated onto the 747 Jumbo Jets, giants of the skies.

The Engineering department of Air India, under the supervision of their then Deputy Director of Engineering, Mr. N.S. Mistry, prepared a special urn to



carry the Holy Fire in. They also made a big box which would hold the urn. These were made of aluminium and other metals.

The configuration of the First Class section in the special Aircraft - Lhotse - had to be changed to accommodate the box containing the urn which would be carrying the fire.

Soon it was time for the Holy Fire to leave the shores of Aden where it had provided its light and protection, its blessings and goodwill to the faithful.

Just on the eve of the departure an unexpected problem arose. The police commissioner of Aden, who was a Muslim-turned communist, informed the remaining few Parsees who were looking after the Fire that he would be coming over the next day to personally inspect the Fire and the urn and the box that would be carrying it. No amount of entreaties that the Holy Fire could not be subjected to the gaze of a non-Zarthusti seemed to have any effect on him. The fact that permission was obtained that the Fire would not be viewed by any non-Zarthusti did not cut much ice with this person, who insisted on his demand on the grounds that the big box could be used for purposes of smuggling!

He announced that he would be there when the Fire was being moved out and the Fire be kept ready for his inspection or else he would not give any permission to move it out of the agiary premises. Imagine the state of mind of the four-five Parsees left behind. Here they were trying their best to protect the Fire to ensure its survival and journey to India and here was a thunderbolt from a man who seemed unsympathetic and stubborn. Would the sanctity of the Atash be preserved after it was 'inspected' by a non-Zarthusti? After all, there are esoteric reasons why this is forbidden.

The Parsees prayed to Ahura Mazda, to the Prophet Zarathustra. They prayed to the Holy Fire itself and asked to be delivered from this impending catastrophe. At midnight there was a knock on the door of the agiary. The Parsees looked at each other with dismay and anguish. So the commissioner had come to defile our cherished Atash Padsha, they cried.

The door was opened with a heavy heart. Out on the steps stood a person and he had brought some news. The commissioner had just died, most unexpectedly! The Holy Atash was now safe from the eyes of those who need not gaze at it.

Soon afterwards, in a convoy the Atash was taken to the airport. The aircraft had just arrived from Bombay and the engines were not even switched off. No non-Zarthusti touched the aircraft. The aircraft had been sanctified with well-water and taro. Cowasjee Dinshaw was aboard the same with the Head Priest of Udwada, Dastoorjee Kekobad Phirozjee, who had provided a lot of religious advice on the whole exercise and, of course, his moral support. There were five other priests on board, too. As soon as 'Lhotse' landed, two mobeds holding British citizenship rushed to the Agiary. By then Dasturjee Minocher Manecksha who had tended the Fire for many years at the Aden Agiary had offered Boi to the Fire in the Ushahin Geh, for the last time in Aden. From there the Atash was brought in its new container in a convoy to the airport. A pavi was built to ensure the sanctity of the Atash Padsha. The Yemeni government had provided motorcycle escort to the entourage. The Holy Fire was carried onto the aircraft. In a few minutes the aircraft, the engines of which were never switched off even after its long journey from Bombay, was taxiing and was soon airborne. History was made as live fire was carried in an aircraft which otherwise was a very dangerous thing to do. As the aircraft took off, the Yemeni officials gave it a

21-gun salute, the sounds of which were heard all over Aden. This truly signified an end of an era for Aden, The all-Parsee crew as well as the other Parsee escorts kept on chanting our prayers.

The mobeds who were accompanying the Holy Fire did the Padyab Kushti, Atash Niyaesh and other prayers. They often opened the box to offer sandalwood to ensure that the fire was still glowing and had not died out. They did this with regard to all due ceremonies and by reciting the necessary prayers. Opening the container and feeding sandalwood to the fire at the height of 30,000 feet was, indeed, a very dangerous thing to do, as any flames escaping out could lead to a major explosion in mid-air due to the highly pressurized cabin conditions. Yet, every time, they opened the box to look at the Fire, they found it resting quietly, just glowing softly and serenely, the flames dancing gently, almost as if enjoying the unique journey.

After flying for almost four hours, the aircraft landed at the Santa Cruz airport, Bombay, at around 7.00 a.m. The airport was chock-a block with Parsees who had come to receive their Holy Atash from across the seas. With due respects, the box was slowly taken down the steps. A pavi was built around the container and Yatha Ahu Vairyo was chanted, ceremoniously. Dasturjee touched the ground of Mother Earth in thanksgiving for a safe journey and with a prayer on his lips opened the box. Lo and behold, the Fire that was resting silently by just glowing softly while in midair, now leaped a few feet, as if in sheer ecstasy. The Flames of Faith danced and swirled as they came in touch with the atmosphere of Mother India - the land that has been home to its devotees (the Zarathustris and the Hindus) since centuries. Here, in the land that has been home to the largest number of the world's great religions,



the Holy Atash Padsha from Aden at last felt at home - secure and safe.

The Atash Padsha was now taken to the Soonawalla Agiary at Mahim in a special luxury bus for being 'rested' for the new hours. This was taken under police escort. The Atash was offered Machi and Boi for the Havan Geh, and later in the Rapithwan geh, too. The Mahim agiary was packed with hundreds of ordinary Parsee-Zarthustis who had come to pay their respects to the Atash Padsha. Around 01.30 at noon, once again the Holy Fire was taken on board the special bus and this time the second Phase of this historical Journey commenced... to the Adenwala Agiary at Lonavala in the hills of the Western ghats. This is where the Atash would be enthroned.

A pavi had been created around the bus and a chain attached to it to maintain contact always with the earth. In an absolutely unprecedented move, the Bombay to Pune highway, one of the busiest land routes in the country on which Lonavala is situated, was closed to all traffic upto Lonavala from Bombay. A motorcycle escort was once again provided by the government of Maharashtra to the convoy. A number of Parsees followed the same in eight buses plus many went along in their own cars and vehicles (around 60-70 automobiles) and the route was lined with cheering Parsees, praying and expressing their gratitude to the Lord for the safe passage of the Holy Fire.

On 14th November, 1976, Roj Behram, Mah Khordad, YZ 1346, the Atash Padsha which was first consecrated in Aden in the year 1883 in the Adenwalla Agiary at Aden in Yemen, arrived at its new home, the Adenwalla Agiary at Lonawala, India.

With due ceremonies and prayers (Machi and Boi ceremonies in the Ujiren Geh) the Atash Padsha was installed in the specially created sanctum sanctorum next to that of the

original Atash Padsha of the Lonavala agiary (which is of the Dadgah grade). A jashan for thanksgiving was later conducted in the evening. Once again, the agiary was full Of devotees and the atmosphere was one of great joy and devotion.

The costs and expenses which ran into lakhs of rupees for the complete operation were borne by Mr. Cowasjee Dinshaw and his wife, personally. When this writer enquired with him what was the sum spent he very modestly declined to mention the figure. Such humility and modesty is so rare and thus praiseworthy especially in the times we live in today.

Today, both the Atash Padshas blaze forth in joyous glory. The Atash from Aden stands testimony to those brave souls who consecrated the Fire in a foreign land and had the foresight and courage to bring it to safety when times became difficult. The radiant flames of this Atash bear testimony to the miracles that the Lord keeps creating, strengthening the faith of the faithful and reinforcing the message of hope, courage, devotion, faith and perseverance.

There are some more messages in this story and one of these is that after the flight of the Zarthustis from Iran to India, India has been the only place where we, the Parsi-Zarathustis have been able to build and sustain our holy Fire Temples without any fear of these being destroyed, desecrated or defiled. Even in the much touted democracies of the West, we may not be able to build fire temples where only zarathustis are permitted entry. No matter whatever disadvantages and inconveniences one may face here in terms of systems, infrastructure, etc. (and these are felt by people of all races and religions here) we have lived here freely and prospered, too. Our places of worship are not in danger of being destroyed or closed down. Indeed, we need to think as to why our ancestors were guided (divine guidance, I firmly believe) to come to

India when they were seeking refuge and not go elsewhere.

Indeed, if there is talk of closing agiaries today, it is unfortunately within the community itself and stems from tragic issues like not having sufficient number of priests to tend to the holy fires in remote places like small villages and towns. But hold it just a moment here. The Adenwalla Agiary at Lonavala where the Atash of this story resides today is tended by just one priest, day in and day out. Dasturjee Marzban Gonda has to be heard reciting our prayers at this Fire temple to understand the devotion and love that Atash can inspire.

Also, if we use our minds and resources, the Lord will provide support and guidance. If a few determined individuals could fly down the Holy Atash under very trying circumstances, facing various odds, surely we, too, can look at the possibility of keeping the fires glowing in all our agiaries and daremehers.

The story of bringing over the Holy Atash from Aden to Lonavala is a true story, little known and heard but it has many lessons for us all. It all happened just twenty-two years ago! It is part of our history. The Iranians of old were not known for recording their history. This is, therefore, just a small and humble attempt to do so, so that this story of devotion and courage is not forgotten and also so that we keep learning from history and not become victims of being ignorant of our past.

May the various Atash Padshas in various Fire temples continue to blaze and glow with love and joy, power and radiance, showering their blessings not only on our numerically tiny community, but also on this land of Bharat which has protected and sustained us, socially, materially and spiritually.

Sauche buye ahmi nmane...
dareghemchit aipi zravanem
(May Thou (Holy Fire) blaze till eternity).



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Women

Listen ye wise men
Of the world
The Creator
Created women (girls)
To even out the power
They have been
Endowed with power of
Reasoning as well
The power as
Not to flinch or cower

He awarded the
Mantle of woman hood
Including giving them
The gift of procreation
Only to women
He thought:
They would be an asset
For creation

That's why:
"God could not
Be present everywhere
So He made Mothers"

Men are rash
Sometimes in capable
Of reasoning
They think they
Know it all
But fellas:
Hate to say:
But bat or by ball
We (women) have beaten
you all

Women (girls) are
Like silent waters

That run really deep
Men are full
Of ego Pride
As well testosterones
They are not willing
To hide

Even Ahura Mazda
Endowed our Lady
Dugdova with the
Power of Creation
Without the power
Of procreation
There would not
Have been no
Asho Zarathustra

What I have penned
Is absolutely true
So let's work together
In order to create
A happy peaceful
Place for me and you.

Say:" It isn't true?

Choicest Happiness
Farida