UNPUTDOWNABLE

TOWERS OF SILENCE

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As we all know by now, the burning issue at hand is the long overdue BPP Elections. A few Community members, including me, approached BPP Chairperson Armaity Tirandaz on Oct 5, 2021 to discuss the reasons for the delay in holding Elections. A letter was submitted to the Chairperson and Trustees asking for answers regarding this delay. At this meeting, whenever a question was asked to the Chairperson, she would look at Trustee Viraf Mehta - her teleprompter - to ball her out with an answer. Teleprompter Trustee conveniently sits beside Chairperson Tirandaz. (This is clearly evident in the video recording which is with BPP & even the staff joke about it). The only answer we got from the Chairperson Armaity Tirandaz in the over-one-hour meeting to all queries addressed to her, was 'I need time to PONDER over it.'

Since the past 9 months, the trio (Armaity Tirandaz, Viraf Mehta and Xerxes Dastur) have been PONDERING and PLOTTING on how to delay the Elections to keep the strong Candidates out who pose a threat to their majority and still the Chairperson wanted time to PONDER. We were asked to meet the Board again on Oct 12, 2021 when we would be given a response to our queries. So scared was Chairperson Tirandaz that she refused to reply to our letter and kept looking at her Teleprompter Co-Trustee Viraf Mehta to ball her out of the embarrassment.

Now they had 7 days to respond to the queries posed by us and for her to PONDER. On 12th October, 2021, when we had been given an appointment with the Board, very cleverly, a group consisting of 2 prospective contenders and supporters sprung up and submitted a letter and a notice to the Chairperson before we met the Board!! Perfectly ok, not an issue as everyone has a right.

Finally, we were called in. We walked in along with the 4 probable Candidates (Hoshi Jal, Anahita Desai, Tehmaran Dumasia & Kakhshur Irani) who were in favor of Elections. The Chairperson along with her teleprompter Trustee sitting beside her were quite pleased and relaxed that they finally had an excuse and a Tool to delay the Elections even further. The first excuse they cited was of going in for amendment to the Election Scheme on only one point - reducing the term of office from 7 years to 5 years before Elections; and the second excuse cited by the Board was that BPP had no funds for Elections and hence they have now voted 2:2 in favor of postponement till October 2022.

Two Trustees - Armaity Tirandaz and Viraf Mehta voted to postpone the Elections till October 2022, while Noshir Dadrawalla and Kersi Randeria voted to have the Elections as soon as possible as they wanted a fully functional Board of 7 Trustees. Armaity Tirandaz then finally and loyally put her casting vote in favor of delaying Elections to October 22, thus driving the final nail into the coffin.

Fact is Xerxes, Kersi and Noshir are in a majority to hold Elections when Govt allows. Only Viraf and Armaity are for postponing the Elections as per the Minutes of Meeting, dated Sept 21, 2021 and I quote from the minutes of meeting:

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. As a community, we have a right to choose our leaders. The BPP leadership, nay ‘majority’, is doing all it can to deny us just that! Why? Today’s issue explores just that in detail, in the hope that we will, as a community, rise to protect what is ours - as both, an individual right and a collective responsibility.

It’s time to wake up and smell the conspiracy. And then do what it takes to make things right.

Have a good weekend!

- Anahita
anahita@parsi-times.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PERFORM OR PERISH

Quote: ‘Mr. Randeria further asked Mr. Dastur whether he wanted to postpone the election scheduled to be held in October or November for any reason. Mr. Dastur replied that he doesn’t want to postpone the election but wants to do what is to be done simultaneously and close the Chapter.’

Quote: ‘Further, KR inquired with Mr. Dastur that I am not sure as to what you said. Did you say that if the Government allows us to hold the election, we should hold the election and move on? Mr. Dastur agreed and said at the earliest.’

As can be evidenced above prima facie even Mr. Xerxes Dastur is in favor of holding elections as soon as the Govt allows.

As we all know since months the Chairperson and her prompter Trustee have been misleading the Community and to the Courts that the reason for not holding the Election was Covid and protecting our senior citizens. Now when Covid restrictions are finally relaxed and things are returning to normalcy, they have run out of excuses to delay and thus cleverly manipulated the situation and created another excuse by using a letter received by a group of people to delay. Amendment to Rule 25 of the Scheme of Elections could have been carried out after the 2 vacant seats are filled. There was no urgency on this matter but holding Elections was a matter of urgency as per the Scheme of Elections as we needed to collectively pull BPP out of the mess.

It surprises me that a few months back all 5 Trustees ganged up and decided to unanimously throw a probable candidate and Partner in progress out of the list of probable candidates on flimsy grounds to accommodate a common candidate - Bergis Desai. The Board played every dirty game in the book to keep the Partner in progress candidate out but the probable Candidate took the BPP Chairperson and Trustees to Court and Chairperson Rustom Tirandaz had to take a rotten egg on her face when the Court ruled in favor of the Probable Candidate. Such is leadership of our chairperson that BPP is shamed even by the Courts. This happens when we hibernate our brains and take decisions based on borrowed brains and dance to the tune of a charge sheeted alleged Criminal. It is ironical that today the very same probable candidate partner in progress has joined hands with the very same people who unity scared ganged up and wanted the partner in progress to withdraw her candidature.

Some people will go to any extent and compromise their self-respect to desperately occupy the chair. Think of the motive behind the step. Think wisely about this before you cast your vote for such candidates.

It is important to note that the Chairperson also cited that they also had no funds and to save 40 lakhs they had to postpone the elections to Oct 22. I totally agreed with her concern but suggested she was thinking short term while I was planning of saving
Destroying The BPP Legacy
...One Tuesday At A Time...

Kersi Randeria

Even as it goes against my grain to speak up at variance with my fellow trustees, especially Chairperson Armaity Tirandaz, my greater loyalty lies in being transparent with the community and hence, I am putting this forth in the public domain...

This Tuesday, 11th October, 2021, was the final nail in the coffin. Ten days ago, 13 beneficiaries came to the Trust requesting us Trustees to hold elections as per the Scheme of Elections, In line with the Court orders.

What was apparent to everyone in the room was that Chairperson Armaity Tirandaz was not allowed to answer any question or give any justification to the queries, because before she could say anything, Viraf Mehta would brazenly whisper in her ear, which was embarrassing for not just her, but everyone in the room. It seemed she was unable to independently speak her mind, constantly barraged with Viraf’s unsolicited prompts. Given the flow of the discussion, sometimes, to not antagonize Viraf, she was forced to write notes on her pad and show it to him, and he would reply in her ears. In front of all!!!

Finally, towards the end of the meeting, when she was cornered and specifically asked to give her independent view, she had to say, “I want to ponder”. In the week that followed, Dinshaw Mehta went all out to create pandemonium, as he is wont to do. He got his usually lackeys together in desperation and put together a group, headed by his puppets! The group, obviously under the instruction of the Mohtas, kept incessantly hammering that the elections be postponed, so that the new incoming trustees (and here they mentioned Hoshang Jal and Anahita Desai) should not be allowed to have a 7-year term. This appeared to be the single-minded, limited agenda of the group.

Any discussion of issues other than this one-point agenda - like reducing the number of terms to 2 instead of 3, Code of conduct, etc - were unceremoniously brushed aside by the spokespeople of the group, since obviously, their very purpose was to ensure that no other discussions take place other than this limited, one-point-agenda!

The arguments put forth by Tirandaz is exactly what Viraf Mehta, and his father, Dinshaw Mehta, have been saying, this far. She is not allowed to express her independent thinking - but accept and promote (as if it were her suggestion) the ridiculous argument being that we now postpone the elections till the tenure of the trustees is reduced from 7 to 5 years!!!

I clearly remember Berjis Desai telling me a short while ago, that Dinshaw Mehta’s reason for postponing the elections - as told to him by Dinshaw Mehta himself, was: “give me a year and I will destroy Anahita Desai’s reputation.” Sadly, the entire disharmony in the community is focused on this perverse and limited agenda of one person - Dinshaw Mehta.

After this sham was over, the original group of beneficiaries came in and Tirandaz just couldn’t answer their basic and very valid queries - and so the group was asked to go out. What shocked me was, as soon as the community members were asked to step out, there was an insistence on putting this issue to vote.

When I pointed out, that on an issue as important and critical as this one, we would do well to defer this item so that we could discuss it when Xerxes Desai was also present. Fearing or knowing that Xerxes would (hideous but true)

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have, in all probability, not voted with them, they pushed for casting votes without his presence.

Now, why did they think that?

The answer lies in the BPP minutes of the meeting held on 21st September, 2021, which was the last meeting that Xerxes was able to attend, in keeping with his professional commitments and the health concerns of his father and son. The following is an excerpt is quoted from the BPP’s official minutes of the meeting, proving that Trustee Xerxes would have voted for the elections:

“Further KR inquired with Mr. Dastur that I am not sure as to what you said. Did you say that if the government allows us to hold the election, we should hold the election and move on. Mr. Dastur agreed and said at the earliest.”

It was effectively clear Xerxes wouldn’t have voted with Viraf and Tirandaz. Viraf, being aware of this pushed for casting the vote, which was tied at 2:2 (Viraf and Armaila opposing Noshir and I). Then, they put it to vote despite my insistence that we wait for Trustee Xerxes Dastur to come before the voting is done. But Tirandaz refused to wait, and used (or maybe it would be more appropriate to say ‘abused’) her casting vote to take this forward, and once again they got away with abusing their power of majority, to the unfortunate loss of the community. Then she announced that elections would be postponed to October 2022, after Viraf had yet again whispered in her ear.

Her weak explanation quoting excuses like finances, etc., without reference to any law or fact, were indigestible and embarrassing for all. It is as outrageous as it is shameful that a major community issue, as curial as this, is being decided by just two Trustees!!! It is akin to two people snatching the democratic rights of the entire community, and neither allowing them to vote for its leaders, nor allowing the Board to gain its rightful and full strength of 7 trustees!

Also, the fact that this deadly fiasco is stage-managed and manipulated, is obvious from the fact that Viraf, out of the blue, for the second time, suggested the legal firm called ‘DSK Legal’ - an organisation which has never appeared for the BPP before. By doing this, he has ignored the respected solicitor Yazdi Dandiwala from the old and prestigious firm of Mulla & Mulla.

Earlier, they had tried to bring in J Sagar Associates, where Berjis Desai was a partner and where Hormuz Mehta (brother of Viraf and son of Dinshaw Mehta) works. Since I had questioned the legality of their appearing for the BPP, they were forced to go to another firm, which has no record of ever having represented the BPP or even being vaguely aware of our Trust!

I’m informed of the close proximity of some of the lawyers in this firm to the Mehta family and Berjis Desai, personally. To appoint a legal firm, only to facilitate the manipulation of the system, is shocking and unacceptable.

What saddens me most, is having to place on record the fact that Mrs. Tirandaz, who has never been allowed to participate at all or ever voice her views on this very major issue of elections, was, I believe, compelled to say just the one sentence - “I think we should postpone the elections to October, 2022.”

Neither the records nor the minutes, nor the discussions, will be able to shed any kind of light on this convoluted and perverse decision, and as to why it was taken.

Immediately thereafter, Viraf jumped in, seconded her proposal and dictated the already prepared resolution. After this internal discussion between the trustees and this ridiculous resolution passed by just 2 trustees, the first group of original protesting beneficiaries were called in. To say that they were shocked, would be putting it mildly!

This exceedingly embarrassing position led to Trustee Noshir Dadrawala who has from day 1 been committed to and a staunch ally in working towards the welfare of the community - getting very emotionally upset, visibly. He wrote out his resignation and handed it to Tirandaz. In his resignation, Noshir mentioned he didn’t want to be guilty even by association with people who didn’t respect the law and had no interest in the welfare of the community, apart from their own personal agendas.

Armaila Tirandaz did not touch it.

Thereafter, Noshir’s resignation went from hand to hand - and Tirandaz said she doesn’t have it anymore! Noshir was so visibly upset that he read out the entire resignation in front of the assembled community members.

However, despite all the name calling that Noshir Dadrawala has undergone, let it never be doubted for a moment that he is one of the few trustees who truly and selflessly has the best of the community at heart. He is not into dirty politicking and he would rather walk away from this outrageously unethical situation, than be a part of it.

We have been requesting him not to hand BPP on a platter to people with questionable credentials.

LET IT BE CLEAR TO THE COMMUNITY THAT NOSHIR DADRWAALA’S RESIGNATION HAS YET TO BE DISCUSSED BY THE BOARD AND REJECTED OR ACCEPTED, AND TILL SUCH TIME, HE WILL CONTINUE TO BE A TRUSTEE AND WELL WITHIN HIS RIGHTS TO DEMAND AND SEEK LEGAL REDRESS AND/OR HOLD BACK DISCUSSING HIS RESIGNATION, TILL SUCH TIME AS THE LEGAL VALIDITY OF THIS ILLEGAL RESOLUTION AND ITS IMPICLATION ON THE COMMUNITY IS DISCUSSED AND RESOLVED.

I personally believe, that for the sake of the community, Noshir must complete his term and not allow people like Dinshaw Mehta, and his son, Viraf Mehta, to completely ruin the BPP and its legacy. Noshir Dadrawala and I will pursue the legal process, as we are legally bound to, in the interests of the community, as its elected leaders sworn to its welfare.

When the community members asked all the trustees step down for fresh elections – Noshir and I immediately agreed. But it was sad to see Armaila Tirandaz refusing to step down, not just now but also in October 2022 – a mere 6 months before end of her term!! She simply refused to answer!! And someone said, let’s cross the bridge when we get there. Such is the duplicity of standards of the majority Trustees.

I say this for the first time on record and with great disappointment, that Armaila Tirandaz has failed as a Trustee, leave alone a Chairperson. She seems to have no will of her own. All she does is say yes. This extremely embarrassing situation has further ruined the glory of our 350-year old Trust.

I request the community members to participate and insist that ALL TRUSTEES STEP DOWN IMMEDIATELY, AND HOLD FRESH ELECTIONS ONCE AND FOR ALL – FOR ALL SEVEN TRUSTEES. If Armaila Tirandaz, Xerxes Dastur and Viraf Mehta step down, we can have the new elections in 2 months and spend just Rs. 40 lakhs (instead of crores) we will have a whole new board of 7 Trustees in place.

This so-called modification excuse of getting the Trustees’ tenure down from 7 to 5 years, to postpone elections is nothing but a farce. They want to go to court with only one point. For the record, I have requested, on numerous occasions, in writing, that we discuss the amendment of the Scheme of Elections. But while they were pretending to be concerned, they ignored not one, but two drafts I had put forward for the Trustees to be discussed.

A Scheme can’t be amended on just one clause! In total, there are many issues that need to be amended - like Co-terminus elections reducing the number of terms to 2; having a legally binding Code of Conduct; addressing the issue of specifying or limiting the amount of money per candidate in elections, especially given the fact that 2 of 5 trustees have spent 25-50 lakhs during elections, despite the stated limit of Rs. 3 lakhs.

I am well aware that Dinshaw Mehta’s propaganda tool - Parsi Junction – will be used to attack Noshir, me and the activists, in its usual vicious manner, filled with falsehoods and lies. However, it’s a challenge I will overcome and I say this for the record, because I owe it to the community and its welfare and to the faith instilled in me as your Trustee.
Submitting My Resignation As Trustee Of BPP was The Only Honorable Option!

NOSHIR H. DADRAWALA

At the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Bombay Parsi Panchayet (BPP) held on Tuesday 12th October 2021, the Chairman Mrs. Armita R Tirandaz declared that elections to fill the two vacancies on the Board due to the passing away of Zarir Bhatnana and later the resignation of Yazdi Desai shall now be held in October 2022.

This decision of the Chairman was supported by trustee Mr. Viraf Dinshaw Mehta. Trustees Noshir H. Dadrawala and Kersi Randera opposed the decision and recorded their dissent. Trustee Xerxes V Dastur was absent. The tie of two votes in favour and two not in favour was broken with Madam Chairperson applying her casting or additional vote to break the tie.

This announcement came as a rude shock to many including myself. Under the High Court framed Scheme of Elections, the BPP should have seven elected trustees on the Board. Any vacancy on account of death or resignation must be filled with a period of ninety days.

TWO VACANCIES: Trustee Zarir M Bhatena passed away on 24th June 2020. His vacancy could not be filled due to the pandemic and lockdown and the BPP Board moved the Mumbai High Court as required under the Scheme, for extension of the time limit. Later, Chairman and Trustee Yazdi H Desai suffered a massive stroke and tendered his resignation on 23rd December 2020.

ELECTIONS PROPOSED FOR 14TH MARCH, 2021: Earlier this year, the Board of trustees unanimously and officially declared the date of elections to fill the two seats as 14th March 2021. Efforts began in January 2021 to bring in two ‘consensus candidates’ viz. Berjirs M Desai and Ms. Anahita Y Desai with the full knowledge and approval of the BPP Board as also the former Chairman of the BPP, Mr. Dinshaw R Mehta.

All was going well and as one who was spearheading the now infamous ‘consensus candidate’ plan, I was looking forward to see balance and stability on the BPP Board after the proverbial ‘Year of March’!

But as the Sovereign warned Julius Caesar, “Beware the Ides of March”!

ELECTIONS SUDDENLY POSTPONED!! At the meeting of the BPP Board held on Tuesday, 9th March 2021, three trustees of the BPP (Mrs. Armita R Tirandaz, Viraf D Mehta and Xerxes V Dastur) decided by majority to postpone the elections. The reason (excuse) was “safety of senior citizens” during the pandemic.

IN TRUTH IT WAS AN EXCUSE TO ENSURE “SAFETY OF THE MAJORITY” ON THE BPP BOARD.

One must remember that around 14th March 2021 the number of covid cases were low and there was no lockdown. In fact, on 20th and 21st March 2021 (a week after the election date of 14th March) members of the community and particularly senior citizens with walkers and walking sticks came out in large numbers to celebrate Jamshedhi Navroze and were seen from morning till late evening praying at the various fire temples which were open and feasting with family and friends at various clubs and restaurants till midnight.

So much for the alleged “safety of senior citizens”! But, yes, safety of the majority on the BPP Board was secured with unbelievable speed, stealth, finesse and dexterity.

A LOST OPPORTUNITY: In my opinion and that of many others, the elections could have been easily conducted on 14th March 2021 in a safe and secure manner.

All arrangements were in place at polling booths with demarcated areas for social distancing, temperature checks and checking oxygen levels at entry points, periodic sanitization etc. etc. In short more preoccupation was in place at BPP polling centers than what one witnessed at any place of worship or club or restaurant a week later.

In any case, to cut a long story short, by making “safety of senior citizens” a convenient excuse, the elections scheduled to be held on 14th March 2021 was postponed by vote of three trustees in majority. The Trio tasted its first triumph in terms of might is right!

NEW EXCUSES: Later when things started to improve around June 2021 the next excuse was ensuring that every Parsi should be vaccinated. Well, that too ‘came to pass’ and now there is no longer a lockdown or strict restrictions. So now what can be a new excuse to continue staying comfortable in the cozy nest for the three in majority at BPP?

The response was “we will cross the bridge when we come to it”. I am not sure if it meant the proverbial English bridge or the Zoroastrian Chinvat Bridge?

I also asked “what after trustee Xerxes Dastur whose term ends after Mrs. Tirandaz”? Once again, no logical answer was given.

One assumes the Soothsayer has predicted that the BPP will be flushed with funds by 2023 – perhaps with auctioning all (not just premium) charity flats.

Thus, after Covid, Vaccinations, Term of office to five years, etc. etc. it is now about saving BPP funds.

I agree with saving funds.

Suggested Solution: Let ALL TRUSTEES RESIGN (and I have taken the lead).

Let there be fresh elections for seven seats now or in October 2022. Is the Board ready?

THE REAL REASON FOR NOT CONDUCTING ELECTIONS: Three trustees have become too comfortable with their majority. They want to enjoy that comfort for yet another year and perpetrate more wrongs starting with not holding elections.

First the excuse was Covid and protecting senior citizens. Then it was getting everyone vaccinated. Now it is reducing term of office to five years and saving election cost.

By all means reduce term of office to five years or make it three or all four, but stop finding new excuses to postpone elections.

Suggested Solution: Let ALL TRUSTEES RESIGN (and I have taken the lead).

Apply to the court for reducing term of office.

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Any person or persons having any claim, demand, share, right, title and/or interest of any nature whatever in the under mentioned properties or any part thereof by way of any agreement, sale, transfer, mortgage, charge, lien, encumbrance, gift, bequest, release, exchange, assignment, sale, lease and license, partnership deed, loans, use, possession, partition, trust, inheritance, outstanding taxes and levies, outgoings & maintenance, attachment, injunction, decree, order, award, judgment and/or in any other document title being in their possession/ tenure/ or otherwise in any manner however and whenever are required to make the same known in writing, along with certified true copies of documentary proof to the undersigned, having their office at 2nd floor, Bhakti Shree Building, 5% Nargis Master Road, Fort, Mumbai - 400 023 and also by email at mark@markandgandi.co.in within fourteen (14) days from the date hereof, otherwise the investigation shall be completed within 20 days from the date hereof without any reference to such claim/s, if any, and the same shall be considered as waived.

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 Yours truly
FOR M/S. MARK AND GANDHI & CO.

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Dadar Parsee Colony Gymkhana Vaccination Centre:

A Boon To The Community

Senior Parsis had been worried about their vaccination dose at Dadar Parsi Colony, the largest conglomorate of Parsi / Irani Zoroastrians, globally. The ageing community needed a helping hand. The Dadar Parsi Gymkhana rose to the occasion as Trustees Zenobia Lakhia and Mahiyar Dastoor alongside Managing Committee Members - Khushru Daboo, Armaaz Irani and Daraus Zaiwala worked with the helpful MCGM Corporator - Amey Ghode and the F/N MCGM Ward Office team led by Asst. Commissioner - Gajanand Beilale. The basic set up with Fire safety equipment, electrical systems, wheel chairs, emergency beds and logistics were well planned.

Physician and DPCG Trustee - Dr. Beheram Bunshah joined the team as Doctor on Call while nearby Nursing Homes were documented in case of emergencies. Decorator and resident Amin Pawar sponsored the monsoon shed pandals, cabins, tables, chairs and air coolers. The center was inaugurated by Hon. Mayor - Kishori Pednekar in the presence of MP - Rahul Shewale; MLA - Kalidas Kolambkar; Deputy Mun. Comm - Balamvar; ACP - Indalkar; and other dignitaries.

The F/N Health Dept team, under Dept Head - Dr. Palve, co-ordinated whole vaccination process. The DPCG Vaccine Centre in collaboration with MCGM is providing the service of Free of Cost Vaccines to all communities. The DPCG Vaccination Team of Trustees, managing committee and members co-ordinated the daily affairs at the centre, which was run for four and a half months and vaccinated 12,675 beneficiaries, including seniors and residents across various Baungs and Colonies of Mumbai. Dadarvadi staff and others from surrounding areas of Dadar, Matunga, Wadala and Sion. Various Govt. Staff also benefited from the Centre.

DPCG deserves kudos for allowing use of its premises for this humanitarian initiative, as do the DPCG Manager Mehernosh Bamji and staff for the smooth operations and great service given to all - the young and old, the wheelchair bound, beneficiaries who came from all corners of Greater Mumbai from Colaba to Virar, Nalasopara, Diva, Thivala and Mumbar! Some even queued up from 4:00 am in the morning to collect their tokens! The families of the home-vaccinated were thankful, as were those who arrived in ambulances from across Mumbai.

The Dadar Parsee Colony did yeoman service, bringing smiles to 12,675 faces, with much thanks to MCGM for its support in terms of vaccines, logistics and staff. The Centre was featured in the media and applauded for its arrangements and discipline in conducting this crucial procedure with great success.

Good Samaritan Of Doongerwadi

In addition to our munificent Parsi donors, who, every so often loosen their purse strings for the upkeep, renovation and make-overs of our precious community properties, like Agiaries, Hostels and the Doongerwadi, we are also blessed to have a few good Samaritans who do their bit and deserve our praise and gratitude.

Over the past few months, Contractor Khushru Sukhadia had been coming to the Doongerwadi every day to supervise the renovation of the Bennett Bungli. While at Doongerwadi Khushru noticed that the Announcement/ Information Board just outside the main pavilion on which are written the names of the deceased and details regarding the Bungli in which the prayers are being held, was in a dilapidated state. He also noticed the unpainted Statue of Angels at the centre of the driveway. The big Farohar in the parking area also wore a neglected look.

Khushru decided to spruce up all these three himself. He got the Farohar painted in three antique finish metallic paint and had LED lights installed, which illuminate the painted Farohar at night, giving it a surreal effect. The Statue of Angels was painted and a brand new sleek Information Board was made and installed.

“The Doongerwadi is the final destination for all Parsis. It is where all families bid adieu to their dear ones. I wished to beautify the Farohar, the Statue of Angels in the centre and the Information Board to generate calm and serenity and soothe the mourning families. The rising sun on the Information Board heralds the dawn of a new era,” shares the good Samaritan. Kudos to Khushru Sukhadia for doing all this on his own initiative and his personal funds, in the pious memory of his loving mother, Coomi Hoshang Sukhadia.
Why I took the extreme step?

To come back to the issue of why I had no option left but to resign, my answer is simple and straightforward (I know no other way) – as trustee I could not even remotely nor morally see myself responsible for this serious breach of Trust and I have done what I felt was the Right, Honourable and Candid thing to do.

No doubt I have taken an extreme step but the choice I had before myself was clear - resign and not be part of this Breach of Democracy, Breach of Scheme and Breach of Commitment made to the court or stay on as an impotent trustee to simply disent and silently watch the rape of democracy, the court scheme and commitment made to the court!

To me Good Governance is not a mere subject that I teach at B-schools. It is something I believe in. Transparency and Accountability are not election slogans for me but a way of life. I did not and do not wish to be part of a team that has no respect for the law or commitment made to the court and community.

I do not wish to spend another year

as Differing or Dissenting Trustee.

A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE AND CHOICE: Lord Carrington was the Foreign Secretary when Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands and he resigned as a consequence. He later explained in his memoirs: “The nation feels that there has been a disgrace. Someone must have been to blame. The disgrace must be purged. The person to purge it should be the minister in charge.”

Since March 2021 I have felt the same way as Lord Carrington did: The community feels that BPP and the community has been disgraced. Someone must take the blame. The disgrace must be purged. The person to purge it should be the Trustee in charge of ensuring fairness, balance and Good Governance on the Board.

NOT HOLDING THE ELECTIONS IS:

a) VIOLATION OF THE HIGH COURT FRAMED SCHEME OF ELECTION

b) VIOLATION OF THE COMMITMENT MADE BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO THE COURT.

Merely recording my dissent does not absolve me from Breach of Trust.

If as per the Scheme, the wrong decision of the Majority binds me to the wrong, I have decided to free myself completely from that wrong.

If I continue as trustee all I can do is record my dissent and accept the wrongs perpetrated against the BPP Trust and the community.

Therefore, after deep consideration, I felt it would be more Honourable to resign in dignity than to subject myself to suffering the indignity of binding myself to the wrong decisions of the majority.

I have not resigned on impulse: In the Board Room, I first read out my resignation and which is officially recorded. I have written my resignation by hand, signed it, put a date and addressed it to the Chairman and handed it over to her.

Colleague trustee Kersi Randera repeatedly requested me to reconsider my decision and so did a few beneficiaries who were seated in the Board Room. I told them, “Let elections be declared and I will reconsider my decision”.

Ten days after Gandhi Jayanti, this was my peaceful, non-violent manner of protest to right the wrong at BPP.

Differences of opinion exist on several Boards and Committees. To an extent it is even healthy. But at BPP it is no longer about difference of opinion. It is about Fundamentally wrong and illegal policy decisions.

I have decided to do what I think was the right thing to do. Let the community decide now!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Contd. from Pg 02

the BPP from long term losses.

Oct 2021 Election to fill in 2 seats (Zarin and Yazdi) expenditure 40 lakhs
Oct 2022 Election to fill in 3 seats (Viral, Noshir, Kercy) expenditure another 40 lakhs.
Jun 2023 Elections to fill 1 seat (Armita Tiranadaz) expenditure another 40 lakhs.
July 2025 Elections to fill 1 seat (Xerxes) expenditure another 40 lakhs.

A TOTAL OF ONE CRORE SIXTY LAKHS THE BPP WILL SPEND ON ACCOUNT OF THE SPLINTER TERM OF DIFFERENT TRUSTEES. THIS IN TURN WILL HAVE A CASCADING EFFECT OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS AND THE BPP WILL CONTINUE SPENDING ONE CRORE SIXTY LAKHS EVERY FEW YEARS (INFLATION FIGURE NOT INCLUDED).

I SUGGESTED TO THE BOARD THAT ALL 5 TRUSTEES RESIGN NOW AND HOLD ONE ELECTION FOR A TOTAL SUM OF 40 LAKHS. THIS WOULD SAVE THE BPP ONE CRORE TWENTY LAKHS WHICH IS A HUGE SUM.

THE CHAIRPERSON WENT INTO SILENT MODE UNDER HER MASK AND FRACTANICELY LOOKING AT HER CO TRUSTEE AND TELEPROMPTER WHO TOO WAS AT LOSS OF WORDS. TRUSTEES NOSHIR AND KERSI IMEEDILY AGREED THAT THEY WOULD STEP DOWN IF ALL ARE READY. THIS CLEARLY SHOWS HOW THE OTHER TRUSTEES WANT TO HOLD ON TO THEIR POWER AND POSITION AND LET THE TRUST SUFER BUT THEY WILL NOT LEAVE THEIR CHAIR. SO CONFIDENT ARE THEY OF LOSING THAT THEY DONT WANT TO TAKE THE RISK.

In the History of BPP we have never witnessed a chairperson in hibernation at even a Board meeting during her tenure. A total misfit for the Chair, she hijacked on grounds of seniority. Simple questions on Trust matters draws a blank from her. She has no clue on any Trust matters and I can prove it if anyone thinks otherwise.

She won Elections on sympathy votes and now is Chairperson only on seniority and not on merits. All you can manage out of her is the word ‘PONDER’ to every concern raised. I pity the Chairperson as she is merely occupying the Chair with no contribution or inputs which voters have now realized that they were taken for a royal ride.

I have no intentions as on date to stand for Elections nor have I taken any favors from any Trustee past or present. I have lived in sanatoriums for 11 years and I know the pain of the people who queue outside the BPP to meet Trustees only to be told there are no flats available while those having Crones just walk in and pay/ Auction security deposits in Crones and occupy flats and the same Crones do not go in building flats for the poor. The security deposits are used for BPP expenses. The Community should know how funds are spent at BPP and stop them. This is my way of giving back to BPP for providing me a roof over my head. If each and every beneficiary starts thinking on these lines, I can assure you we can bring back BPP to stand on its own 2 feet and not go to Wadia’s with a begging bowl for a loan.

Finally, now let’s look at the candidates who have used crutches to win elections. Viral, Armita, Xerxes. They won because they were provided support / Crutches by a person who is criminally charged and out on bail. Their Performance is - 0.

The BPP is in huge losses today because the Community trusted the words of Viral, Armita and Xerxes while back door they were actually speaking a scripted speech of a criminally charge sheeter out on bail person. I have said this before and I say it again that candidates who are weak and insecure and not confident of winning elections have to rely on support to make them win. Keep them out by all means. How can the Community vote for a Candidate who is not confident enough to walk on his/her own two feet and have to take the support of crutches to walk for support? What support can he/she give the community when they themselves need support.

The joke is the man offering crutches to such candidates himself walks on crutches. That my dear readers is the bitter truth. Delivering food packets in the pandemic is not a qualification required for a Trustee. This time please do not vote for weak candidates with no self-confidence. Please vote for performance driven confident candidates and who are independent with self-confidence and has knowledge on Trust matters. Don’t depend on Criminal Charge sheeted and out on bail people to tell you whom to vote.

By Arzan J Ghadiali (arzanj@gmail.com)
There are times when one receives news so overwhelmingly unacceptable that it is impossible to process or digest its reality. It leaves you numb and in a state of utter despondency just trying to come to terms with it. And that is how it has been for most who learnt of Kaizzzad Capadia passing away on Wednesday, 13th October, 2021, due to Covid, at the age of 49.

We were heart-broken to share the shocking news of the sudden demise of our dear friend, Kaizzzad Capadia - loved and cherished as the Founder, Managing Director of K11 Education Pvt Ltd, who headed the K11 Fitness Empire. He did the community and the nation very proud with his various achievements in fitness, globally. The entire fitness community is mourning. Parsi Times was privileged to have him as our cherished fitness columnist and a genuine well-wisher.

Kaizzzad passed away during the early morning hours in Pune, where he was conducting his classes. In the wee hours of the morning on the fateful day, he felt a little discomfort, but according to Pune's Sassoon General Hospital authorities, by the time Kaizzzad was brought to the hospital, he had passed away. As per Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) guidelines, a rapid antigen test was done, which showed positive for Covid-19. The last rites were held at Kailash Smashan Bhoomi, in Pune and a prayer meeting was held on the 15th of October, 2021, at Lalbaugh Agiari (Hilla Towers) in Mumbai.

India's unparalleled Fitness Guru and Health Expert, and in every sense, the Nations Strength Coach, Kaizzzad Capadia established the extremely reputed K11 School of Fitness Sciences - India's foremost academic institution in the space of vocational education, which has built careers for a record 60,000 aspiring Personal Trainers; Sports Nutritionists and Fitness Professionals, over the last two and a half decades in India. Under his visionary leadership, K11 School of Fitness Sciences became India's FIRST globally recognised Fitness Education provider in 2018, enabling K11 Diploma holders to practice professionally in numerous countries apart from India, without having to give any additional competency exams.

Revered as India’s first ever Professional Personal Trainer, Kaizzzad has been the pride of our nation and our Community, having been a nationally ranked competitive Body Builder himself. He was the biggest proponent of Strength performance training with correct nutrition as mankind's ONLY Anti-Ageing solution.

There was disbelief and shock among his students and friends, several of whom travelled from Mumbai to attend the cremation in Pune. Kaizzzad had transformed the lives of many. Several Bollywood celebrities mourned his demise on social media. Fitness icon, Dr. Mickey Mehta shared, “He was one of the finest human beings ever - humble, simple, grounded – a perfectionist in his own right, and absolutely meticulous. A thorough gentleman and master of his craft, the leading Bodybuilding Grand-Master. A world class educator with empathy and compassion. Strong and tough, yet soft at heart and pure of soul. May he rest in peace!”

In addition to having achieved national and global acclaim as a Fitness Icon, Visionary and Educator, Kaizzzad Capadia, was, in heart, a teacher and in keeping with the challenges posed by the pandemic and the lockdown, he launched this tech-savvy, ‘ATTEND CLASS FROM HOME’ (ACFH) module as he did not want to “delay the education that we owe our students,” in his words. He was extremely passionate about his students. “We are proud to share that 59% of our students come from other cities and even relocate to Mumbai to benefit from our education, with the understanding that this inconvenience will reward them manifold, with stellar careers in the Fitness Industry. 75% of all our students hail from Middle to Lower-Middle Income group homes,” he had shared. This was why the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), under the Ministry Of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), had trusted and invested in K11 to provide meaningful jobs to the youth. And K11 had come through, as always, with shining colours.

Not surprisingly Kaizzzad was the recipient of innumerable awards, honours and recognitions - globally and nationally. These include the Rotary UHFF Fitness & Wellness Awards 2019, as ‘Fitness Icon’; by the Fitness Excellence Awards (FEA) 2018, for ‘Changing The Face Of Fitness Education’; by the Economic Times Champions of Fitness 2017-18’ as a leading Educationist in the field of Fitness Sciences; by CIMS Medica in 2017 as ‘Pioneer in Performance Nutrition’; ‘Pride of India-2016 Award’ by the World Consulting & Research Corporation (WCRC)… and many, many, many more!

But, in addition to all his overwhelming and comprehensive achievements, Kaizzzad, as a person had so much more to offer. He was one of the most compassionate people - with much love for animals; he actively helped the cause of community animals, taking them in when no one else would and passionately caring for them; an avid biker who was a leading proponent of biking with safety. He was a cherished husband to Kalyani, who he dearly loved and was his true and perfect partner in every sense of the word - through his multifaceted journey - in fitness, family, caring for animals, biking… et al. He would often express immense happiness at having found an equally amazing woman who filled his life with joy. And Kaizzzad was a loving son and brother; a mentor par excellence to all his students; and a amazing friend, always ready to help one and all.

His life journey, in his words, “from being a 15-year-old, 49 kg skinny kid, hell bent on proving that I was not as weak and puny as I looked...” to becoming the nation’s founder of the Fitness Movement, is inspiring and sets the precedent for one and all on battling all the odds and achieving greatness. When asked what he would consider his best achievement to date, he had said, “To see my K11 students doing well in life, their gratitude towards my school for putting their lives on track, is my greatest achievement and provides me great satisfaction. Another one of my greatest achievements is popularizing strength training and the correct nutrition lifestyle amongst fitness enthusiasts in India.”

And he loved the community - a true Parsi who lived by the ‘Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds’ philosophy always. Sharing his take on the essence of Parsipanu, he had said, “Parsipanu - apart from standing for honesty, integrity, strong morals, ethics and principles, cleanliness, tastefulness - also at one point in time exemplified the physically strong, athletic Aryan genes. Body building, weight lifting, martial arts, cycling and sailing were dominated by our strong, athletic, genetically gifted Parsis during the 1960’s. We were also the leading entrepreneurs and philanthropists. Now we seem to be more about being the recipients of philanthropy rather than being the philanthropists. Both professionally and physically, we have suddenly become a lazy bunch. Instead of constantly bickering about our dwindling quantum, let’s focus on the dwindling quality! We were always a minority, but we stood out hugely. We need to wake up.”

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife Kalyani and all his family members and loved ones. May God keep his soul in eternal peace and give his family the strength to cope and heal from this sad loss.
Dr. Keki Turel Bestowed Masters of Neurosurgery by WFNS

Recently, the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS), the apex body representing Neurosurgeons / Neurosurgical Societies across over 140 countries, bestowed the prestigious ‘Masters of Neurosurgery’ title on Prof. Dr. Keki E. Turel, a world-class neurosurgeon internationally recognized due to his vast experience in brain operations for top difficulty cases. He is also the Consultant Neurosurgeon, Chairman Emeritus, Dept of Neurosurgery - Bombay Hospital Institute of Medical Sciences.

This is perhaps the first time an Indian Neurosurgeon is honoured thus. Our miniscule Zoroastrian Community, despite its microscopic size, has produced some of the most outstanding leaders in almost all fields of life. “I am humbled to be found befitting the title ‘Masters of Neurosurgery’ by this august body of the world,” said Dr. Keki Turel, who is also the Managing Trustee at Mumbai Institute of Neurosciences and Chairman - WFNS Committee: Complications in Neurosurgery. A multifaceted individual with a blend of art and science, Dr. Turel is also an environmentalist, a pro photographer and a Zoroastrian Priest. The advice and treatments he offers are holistic and practical, considering the socio-economic well-being, at the same time being scientific, utilizing the latest data and technology.

What’s his secret of success? “I try to keep improving every day, competing with myself, and searching for solutions to problem cases - be it finding a novel approach, or designing a new instrument. Learning does not occur only by observing or discussing with my peers but also by listening to everyone around. The secret lies in 3 Ds - Discipline, Determination and Dedication, by remaining young in mind and body, and open to change, and not allowing your ego to block your growth,” answers the wise Dr. Turel.

Founded in 1955, The World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS) is a professional, scientific, non-governmental organization comprising of 130 member societies, consisting of 5 Continental Associations, 119 National Neurosurgical Societies and 6 Affiliate Societies, representing over 30,000 neurosurgeons worldwide. The WFNS Foundation is dedicated to training and supporting the post-graduate education of young neurosurgeons in developing countries via an international network of Training Centers; providing travel scholarships to young neurosurgeons to attend educational courses and fellowships; and providing high-quality, low-cost instrument sets and equipment to neurosurgeons in developing countries.

The Mishing Parsi

The Mishing Parsi is an initiative of Lina, a Mishing girl and Hanoz, the Parsi boy. This free blog website is created for any food enthusiasts interested in sharing their food stories. We are happy to host your food stories on our weblog https://themishingparsi.com/ where you just have to register without any charges. Our aim is to promote food diversity and you can also follow us on our instapage, themishingparsi.
BPP Compromised, Community Victimized

The BPP today is at the mercy of these three trustees who are in majority and have blatantly gone against the High Court order. The court had ordered the board of trustees to hold elections for the 2 vacant seats but instead of upholding the court’s verdict, the majority trustees have already announced that no elections will take place before October 2022!!!

First, the reason was Covid, then they waited for majority of our community to get vaccinated; now the issue is they suddenly find themselves in a situation where they just cannot afford elections and they continue to rule according to their whims and fancies. The Chairperson is just a puppet and not able to take or make any decisions, whatsoever.

For the knowledge of all once a seat is vacant the board is bound to hold elections for the same within 3 months. Here the trustees have conveniently fooled the community by not holding elections when ideally by now the same should have taken place.

Mr Zarir Bhatena passed away in June 2020 and Mr Yazdi Desai due to his ill health had given his resignation in December 2020. Today after 10 months the two seats of candidature are still vacant. This is blatant misuse of power to safeguard the majority that these trio trustees enjoy. It is also depriving the beneficiaries of their right to vote for the right candidate as the trio fear that the vacancy getting filled will hamper them and the power that they enjoy now will be subdued by new candidates joining the board. They have gone against the election scheme and the court order which binds the board to hold elections.

The court had clearly stated even in case of a pandemic the elections should take place unless and until we are in total lockdown.

These are the people we have voted to power who today hold us at ransom, who have brought the BPP down to this level. Dear community members request you to please vote judiciously so that we don’t have to go through the same suffering for another several years. Hope better sense prevails and these trustees actually start behaving like trustees and not politicians. The Zoroastrian community is going through a new low and so is the BPP under this leadership. Hope we have a better board in the next elections and a chairperson who will lead by example and carry the community out of the major mess we are in.

- Shahrkar Z. Bilimoria


dar vach aalo shree uday, shree baskar, shree shankar...
## Death Announcements From Melbourne (Australia)

### Perviz Kaikhushroo Dubash
- **Date of Birth:** 90
- **Date of Death:** 09-03-2021
- **Age:** 90
- **Location:** Melbourne (Australia)

**Deceased:** Dr. Perviz Kaikhushroo Dubash

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## Death Announcements From Prayer Hall

### Rustom Jamshed Irani
- **Age:** 67
- **Date of Death:** 11-10-2021
- **Location:** E-202 Parsee Panchayat Complex, Sharmac Estate, Walcot Road, Goregaon East, Mumbai 63

**Deceased:** Rustom Jamshed Irani

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### Katy Kersi Gaidar
- **Age:** 86
- **Date of Death:** 09-10-2021
- **Location:** Laxia Hogg Flat No. 402, 4th Floor, St. John Baptist Road, Bombay (W)

**Deceased:** Katy Kersi Gaidar

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### Mayrose Hosi Mehta
- **Age:** 81
- **Date of Death:** 12-10-2021
- **Location:** Bakhthawar Apartments, Flat No. 12, Narayan Debboner Road, Malabar Hill, Mumbai 66

**Deceased:** Mayrose Hosi Mehta

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### Bakhthavar Noshir Wadia
- **Age:** 86
- **Date of Death:** 13-10-2021
- **Location:** 14/2, Panthiyath Bung. Off M V Road, Andheri (E), Mumbai 69

**Deceased:** Bakhthavar Noshir Wadia

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### Minu Rustom Mistry
- **Age:** 89
- **Date of Death:** 13-10-2021
- **Location:** B-31, Kelburne Society, Mankhurd-Worli, Breipai (W), Mumbai 103

**Deceased:** Minu Rustom Mistry

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## Death Announcements From Secunderabad

### SilloKeki Pochkanawalla
- **Age:** 94
- **Date of Death:** 24-09-2021
- **Location:** New Paris Temple Colony, Secunderabad.

**Deceased:** Sillo Keki Pochkanawalla

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**Notes:**
- The text is a transcription of a document containing death announcements. The content includes names, dates, ages, and locations of the deceased. The text is in English, with some names in the context of the document. The document appears to be a record of notices for a specific event or context, possibly a religious or cultural gathering. The text is formatted in a table and lists the deceased's names, ages, dates, and addresses. The language used is primarily English, with some names and addresses in various languages.
Aries - March 21 - April 19
Happy the month and see the signs of Venus in your daily routine. Be careful when driving or riding your vehicle. It might get difficult for you to cater to the wants of your family members. They could end up getting upset with your petty matters. Pray the Tir Yashth daily.

Cancer - June 22 - July 22
Your family will be the center of your attention. Be careful with your spending. You might not be able to save money. Pray the Meher Niyash daily.

Libra - September 23 - October 22
Venus’ influence will bring joy and happiness into your life. Your financial situation will gradually improve. You will be able to purchase your objects of desire without challenges. Those in love will receive good news from your partners. Pray to Behram Yazad daily.

Capricorn - December 22 - January 19
Focus on your family and friends. Do not be careless about any health issues. Your favourite person could get upset with you and stop speaking with you. There could be an increase in the number of your detractors at your workplace. You enemies will speak ill of you behind your back. Pray the Mah Bokhtar Niyash daily.

Taurus - April 20 - May 20
This is your last week under Mercury’s rule. Ensure to complete any legal works where signatures are required. You will be able to pay back a partial amount to your creditors. Your favourite person will be supportive. You might not be able to save money. Pray the Meher Niyash daily.

Scorpio - October 24 - November 22
Venus’ influence will bring joy and happiness into your life. Your financial situation will gradually improve. You will be able to purchase your objects of desire without challenges. Those in love will receive good news from your partners. Pray to Behram Yazad daily.

Aquarius - January 20 - February 18
Focus on your family and friends. Do not be careless about any health issues. Your favourite person could get upset with you and stop speaking with you. There could be an increase in the number of your detractors at your workplace. You enemies will speak ill of you behind your back. Pray the Mah Bokhtar Niyash daily.

Gemini - May 21 - June 20
Your family will be the center of your attention. Be careful with your spending. You might not be able to save money. Pray the Meher Niyash daily.

Virgo - August 23 - September 22
Venus’ influence will bring joy and happiness into your life. Your financial situation will gradually improve. You will be able to purchase your objects of desire without challenges. Those in love will receive good news from your partners. Pray to Behram Yazad daily.

Sagittarius - November 22 - December 21
Your family will be the center of your attention. Be careful with your spending. You might not be able to save money. Pray the Meher Niyash daily.

Pisces - February 19 - March 20
Focus on your family and friends. Do not be careless about any health issues. Your favourite person could get upset with you and stop speaking with you. There could be an increase in the number of your detractors at your workplace. You enemies will speak ill of you behind your back. Pray the Mah Bokhtar Niyash daily.
Like all things in life, there is a time and a place for everything. Death is an inevitable end to life as we know it and recognize it. No matter how many times you have lost someone to it, the hurt, grief and pain never desists from enveloping you in its midst. One is never prepared for death. Now the death of someone suddenly, someone way too young, way too vibrant, way too before their time, is not only shocking, but gut-wrenching and excruciatingly painful.

Initially it’s almost unbelievable, unacceptable. As it sinks in, your world shifts. How is it possible then, in the midst of such tragedy, to honour death? What is it you are supposed to feel? The grief, the loss, the pain or is it just that horrific bewilderment? When the surprise and shock wears off, you are left with a bitter aftertaste and silent frustration. Between the emotions of total despair and seething anger, between that line of gutless feelings and seething ire, the process of healing is a long time away.

Our bodies may go through the motion, but our spirit is torn. There are gaping wounds and torn pieces - it’s the quiet numbness sometimes that can become your dearest ally. How do you cope with a loss so tragic, so unnecessary, that every fiber of your soul feels despondent? Is there even a modicum of grace and some honour in such a death? You stand on the dying embers of hope and disillusionment, dreams scattered, and a future of dark walls of overwhelming grief closing in.

Losing a sibling, a child, a friend, too young to go, too alive to die - is against the order of natural things. How then does one process an exception and not a rule? Much of the time, when the departed is young or the death unexpected, you become emotionally volatile. The shock delays and prolongs the trauma. While planning and moving forward with necessary arrangements, the mind and body are separated till all that you’re left with, are fragments of bits that you hold on to. The bereaved try to keep it together on the outside, while all the time inside, they’re falling apart.

Caretakers and well-wishers know to tread with extreme caution and sensitivity here. They may need to construct and develop a support system that best serves the bereaved. It’s work in progress and a process that can help them express their emotions and grief.

It is only when the survivor of a dearly beloved leans into the grieving, can healing actually start. The realization that life will not be the same for them anymore can trigger deep emotions that finally initiate the process. Remembering that acceptance is not a task but a process, is imperative. Everyone heals in their own time. Especially when a relationship with a person who has died was a significant part of the survivor’s identity, placing them in a world bereft of them, can be overwhelming.

It may require considerable constructive restructuring and rehabilitation. It is intense emotional work for everyone around. The bereaved often go through unprocessed emotions of conflict and anger with the deceased, in terms of what could and should have been done to avoid this heart-wrenching end. Sometimes, angry grief and relentless pain, with and towards the deceased, and the world at large, cannot be avoided.

You never get over death, you only learn to live with it and despite it. Loss of a life is the most challenging and difficult rite of passage in our journeys. But when it visits the young, we are faced with rather complex and conflicting feelings of processing this trauma. The void left by the absence of the young is far too deep and dark a place for the human mind. It often makes you question the uncertainties of life, the unexpected, the meaning and the reason for our very existence. It makes you realize how intangible and strange the fabric of life is and its inevitable end. How note-worthy or valuable are you then? What is the place you have carved for yourself, for if there’s anything to be learnt from the death of one so young, it’s that your time on earth is exactly the minutes you have thus far survived. There are no sure fire guarantees on your expiration date. There are no assurances no matter how healthy in body, mind and spirit you may be. A freak accident, a car crash, a heart attack, a fire, a famine, a flood anything can wrench you away in a minute and that is perhaps the only surety life offers you. That life can end even when you least expect it. We don’t have the luxury of time - none of us do. How do we then live? Always fearful for the end? In fear for the loss of life at the next turn? How without meaning and worthless is life then? How insignificant are we in the greater scheme of things?

No matter how richly long or frugally short life is, the important thing to remember is how we may live on in the hearts of people you may have touched, on the tongues of people you may have encountered. Memories are the only things you leave behind. Your footprints in their lives may remain or fade. The measure of your life is the people and the relationships you leave behind. Bonds you’ve shared - some strong and deep, others fragile but memorable.

In the natural course of healing and over time, grievers may return to a state of homeostasis. That doesn’t mean they may never cry again over their loss. But as scabs on raw wounds, they give themselves permission to go through life, honoring their relationship with the deceased without overwhelming pain being the only way to remember them and their love. Along with time, you move down a rough path of acceptance and their memories colour tiny moments in your life.

The human senses are strange too - a small, a touch can bring their presence back in the room. A person’s walk across the street, even their sightings in similar forms are not unusual. Sometimes their voice may whisper to you. There will be flashes and moments, real belief and hope. You will live with their photographs and things, the clothes you can never throw and the shoes you will constantly pick. Their smiles will linger, their music will live on, and all the while the chords of the guitar once plucked will remain untouched in that corner. Months will turn to years, and we may all grow old but the one that left too soon, will always be remembered, as ‘Our Forever Young’.

In loving memory of our dearest friends - Kaizad Capadia and Naushad Buchia... and all who left too soon...

May the angels guide you home!.

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