

# THE PARSEE VOICE

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For Private Circulation

**Editorial**

**“But, He has helped us...” *The theme Song of some voters... They forget that they are electing a BPP Trustee !***

## **OUR FINAL WAKE-UP CALL TO THE VOTERS**

Yes, Mr. Tamboly has helped you, no doubt. But, as a trustee of the WZO, **not** as a BPP trustee! He had helped you even before end-1996, as a WZO trustee and he can continue to do so even after the forthcoming elections, via the WZO. **For that, there is absolutely no need for him to continue as a BPP trustee! He cannot, should not be allowed to ride two horses at the same time!**

Consider these hard, naked facts:

(1) Mr. Tamboly had 7 long years in the BPP to do his bit for the Parsee community. In his 1996 manifesto, among other things, he had stated, “It is the duty of the trustees of the BPP not only to provide leadership, but also to be transparent in their dealings and remain accountable to the community at large. I remain **fully committed** to these decisive principles, which form the very essence of public service”.

How far Mr. Tamboly has been **transparent** as a BPP trustee is now well known. If anything, he revels in doing things behind the community's back, particularly at the meetings of the Federation of the Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India, and when he is abroad in England (WZO) and in North America (FEZANA etc.) In our forthcoming issues, we shall show how some of the BPP trustees, including Mr. Tamboly, who is not even translucent in his dealings with the community, vis-a-vis the Bombay Parsi Punchayet, are already cooking the Parsee community's goose!

Coming back to the 1996 manifesto, in which the coloured photo shows a rather sombre Tamboly, as against the beaming-from-ear-to-ear Tamboly in his 2003 “election statement”, he wrote, that the “activities conducted on behalf of the WZO, as well as my professional background, which have inculcated into (sic) me the discipline to think rationally, analyse objectively and execute decisively”. [Same words are repeated in the latest manifesto!]

Further “I, however, do know from experience that there is no issue, howsoever vexed it may be, that does not have a solution, if approached with an open mind, commitment and dedication.”

Note the words, ‘rational thinking’, ‘open mind’, etc. This earlier manifesto was a smaller version of 8 pages, when Mr. Tamboly was still in Jeejeebhoy Towers. Today, after graduating to “Shanti” from where he has spread *a-shanti* in the community, his manifesto is of 12 pages, with a beaming Tamboly.

Otherwise, by and large, it's the same sickening, rigmarole about “leadership”, “rational thinking”, “open mind”, etc. As a wag said about both his manifestos, it's all gas.

(2) In his latest ‘Election Statement’, if you notice carefully, he has filled up pages talking about his achievement as a BPP trustee. In reality, most of what he claims credit for, is the handiwork of either

(a) the 7 BPP trustees as a team, or (b) the activities of the WZO.

(3) **We assert, with all the emphasis at our command that solely as a BPP trustee, Mr. Tamboly has nothing of substance to show.** On the contrary, we repeat our charge, that he was **the** one mischief-maker during the Doongerwadi controversy. He wilfully messed up the Doongerwadi issue (see “Doongerwadi Drama” on other pages). Yet, he uses all his characteristic guile and diplomacy to hoodwink the readers in his “Election Statement”.

He states that “a small handful of community members, who hold very traditional views (for him, traditionalism is always opposed to his brand of ‘pragmatism’ and ‘rationalism’!)... perceive me to be an individual holding views that... are to the detriment of our religion”.

Further, as regards the WZO's “assumed anti-religious stance” and his role therein, he says that, “this vituperative criticism is based on imagination, generalities and hearsay”. Again, “it is obvious that such criticism is without base or substance”.

In this regard, ‘THE PARSEE VOICE’ has plenty of evidence to show that Mr. Tamboly deliberately distorts facts and utters untruths to fool the gullible. For the moment, however, a paragraph from Mrs. Pervin J. Mistry's write-up sent to us very recently, will show the readers where the truth lies :

“Both Mr. Rumi Sethna and Mr. Dinshaw Tamboly were asked, when they attended the World Body Meeting held at New York in 2001, to define the word “Zarthushti” as accepted and approved by the WZO. Prof. K.D. Irani, on behalf of the WZO officials authoritatively defined a Zarthushti as “**one who professes the faith**”, meaning **all and any converts**

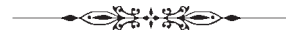
such as the Mexicans, Brazilians, Venezuelans, Ugandan Africans and others **who call themselves “Zarthushtis”** and whose navjotes are performed by renegade priests and by converts themselves who are neither priests nor “Zarthushtis”, such as Ali Akbar Jafarey, Ron Delavega and others. **And, I hasten to add that neither Mr. Rumi Sethna nor Mr. Tamboly refuted this definition! I challenge all those who attended this Meeting to refute this fact!** If these juddins are accepted as “Zarthushtis **who profess the faith**” does this **not** transgress the doctrines of our faith and give such juddins religious sanctions?”

(4) It has been mentioned above that many are the topics discussed and implemented behind our backs, which are detrimental to our religion and community, at the meetings of the FPZAI. We give here just one example of the subject taken up at the last meeting held in June 2003. Such meetings are attended by at least two-three BPP trustees, Mr. Tamboly being the highest common factor. The one issue that was discussed and will continue in the next meeting at Bardoli on 29th and 30th November, 2003 : (Mr. B.T. Dastur, the CEO of the BPP, in his note prepared for all Anjumans, states:) “The Community has to decide about the fate of the inter-married Zoroastrians”.

“What happens to the children of mixed marriages?”

“It is high time that the Community decided in a **rational** (note the words carefully) and **legal manner** the fate of such off-springs.”

Await more details in our future issues. If, after all this, you still wish to vote for Mr. Tamboly, it's your wish. **All we can say is, please consult your conscience. You take your pick and you pay the price!**



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## **We Salute The Courage And Conviction of Mr. Yazdi H. Desai**

After Noshir Dadrawala withdrew, Yazdi had just a month left to take on the “larger-than-life”. image of Mr. D.K. Tamboly, the supposed “blue-blooded messiah” and “the guardian angel” (through the weeks Jame just went berserk raving about the man, as if he had fallen from the Seventh Heaven!)

Both Yazdi and his wife Anahita have worked tirelessly in the last few weeks and showed their sincerity and utmost dedication to the issues at stake. We compliment both of them and hope that they will continue to pick up cudgels for the cause of truth and justice.

# THE DOONGERWADI DRAMA – Tamboly Shines In A Double Role

**Dramatis Personae: BPP Trustees, DDD-AG, SDAC Foundation, Doctors, Lawyers, Jam-e-Jamshed & D.K. Tamboly (WZO)**

Readers will recall how conveniently Mr. Tamboly undergoes a lapse of memory... As he wishes to portray himself as the man who saved Mumbai's Doongerwadi recently, we began in our issue of 16-31 August, 2003 by showing how in his own words, he has severely contradicted himself by saying one thing in his articles in Jame Weekly of 6th and 13th January 2002 ("It was in the overall interest of the community to allow the construction of a prayer hall [at Ambawadi]...") and totally another in his so-called "in-depth" interview in the same paper of 3rd August, 2003 ("My contribution in promoting and encouraging the introduction of solar concentrators at Doongerwadi... was pivotal to ensuring that the Doongerwadi estate was not lost to the community...")

The sordid Doongerwadi drama began way back in mid-1998, when some of us were regularly called by BPP trustees to discuss the problem of the absence of birds at Doongerwadi.

Since this could be a lengthy review, we'll take up the details from now on, in the form of bullets :

**1998-1999:** "Spenta" residents complain about the stench emanating from the Anjuman Dakhma. At the Board meetings, besides almost all the trustees, some knowledgeable students of the religion and, at times, one or two High Priests are present. Trustees are requested to use more *pavis* in the other two *Dakhmas*, to reduce the load on the Anjuman *Dakhma*. Also, clothes like Sudreh, lehnga, etc. on the corpses are to be removed. Some

trustees object that even bare female bodies are visible from adjoining high rises.

**31st October, 2000:** A big meeting at the Khareghat hall, where around a table, the problem of the undisposed corpses was discussed at length, among BPP trustees, High Priests, priests, lay scholars and 2-3 specialists on the methods to camouflage the stench. Herbal powder, ozone, aviary, etc. discussed at length. The first two methods approved in spite of protest by the undersigned.

**6th November, 2000:** Trustees pass a shocking resolution that a **bungli** may be given for ceremonies to those Parsees who opt for cremation. Rustom Tirandaz dissents. Furore in the community. Dinner meeting (at Bombay Gymkhana?) between BPP trustees, well-known doctors, lawyers and special invitees. Dr. Farokh Udvardia mentions the case of a *Nassesalar*, who complained to him about nausea, etc. The rift between two groups of trustees – one led by Tamboly, and the other by Mehta-Tirandaz widens.

**15th December 2000:** A Samast Anjuman meeting held at Rustom Baug. Dadi Engineer presents the problem. Khojeste Mistree waxes eloquent on the aviary project. Homi Dhalla praises his solar panels. D.K. Tamboly, very shrewdly vetoes the aviary project. Questions from the vast gathering are asked and answered. **No mention at all about the dinner meeting at Bombay Gym and the birth of a pro-crematorium group to be called the DDD-AG!**

**December 2000:** A senior member of the Gutta family dies at Dadar. He is cremated. Rustom Framna Agiary declines to perform his

obsequies. A group of vested interests (the Crematorium Crazies), calling themselves, "Disposal of Dead with Dignity-Action Group" (DDD-AG) comes up.

**January 2001:** A battery of eminent doctors (the "Health Hazard" exponents) and some top lawyers join the Group. **Enter D.K. Tamboly (WZO) in the dual role. A letter sent by your Editor only to the trustees of the BPP against an aviary at Doongerwadi, based on the report of Jemima Parry-Jones, overnight finds its way in "Jam-e-Tamboly"!!** How did it get there? The "sitting trustee" of the BPP was rendering a superb subtle performance in his dual role!

**February 2001:** A highly successful public meeting was held at the Patkar Hall, resolving that in no circumstances should any part of Doongerwadi lands be given out for ceremonies of dead Zoroastrians who were cremated or buried.

**April 2001:** A meeting of all the High Priests of India also passed a unanimous resolution that no part of the Doongerwadi complex should be given to any one who wishes to perform obsequies for those departed Parsees who were not to be consigned to the *Dakhmas*.

**July 2001:** A historic meeting in the Board

Room of the BPP, where representatives from both sides (DDD-AG) and the newly formed Save Doongerwadi Action Committee (SDAC) were present. Khojeste Mistree and Noshir Dadrawala, from the latter group, successfully demolished the arguments of the learned doctors and lawyers.

Yet, "Jam-e-Tamboly" continued to publish scurrilous articles from the DDD-AG!

**December 2001:** Yet another public meeting was held at the Patkar Hall by the SDAC Foundation, where trustees Dadi Engineer, Rustom Tirandaz and Dinshaw Mehta were present. **That meeting ultimately broke the back of the DDD-AG movement, with which D.K. Tamboly sided all along!** At the meeting, among other things, a memo circulated to the trustees by the CEO, B.T. Dastur, stating that, the pall-bearers system should, in the next ten years or so, be gradually done away with, against which D.K. Tamboly made a marginal remark, "it's an excellent idea!" was read out.

The rest is recent history! Mr. Tamboly, in his dual role, did give a remarkable performance. **The drama, however, is not yet over! Watch out for new details in our next issue.**

A.F. Doctor, Editor.

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## **A Special Request To All Our Readers Particularly The Anjuman Committee Voters :**

If you wish to receive future issues of THE PARSEE VOICE, please send us your name and address at the Post Bag or Email address given below immediately.

THE PARSEE VOICE will shortly start a section in Gujarati. All readers and well-wishers, particularly in Gujarat, are requested to send us their letters, articles, etc. for publication therein.

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Correspondence regarding **administrative matters** may please be sent to :  
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