

THE BOMBAY THEOSOPHICAL BULLETIN

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE BOMBAY THEOSOPHICAL FEDERATION

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Carved Sofas & the Two Chairs at Blavatsky Lodge -Green Room used by the Founders at the Crow's Nest (Above picture)





(Please see Bro. Arni Narendran's article)

MISSION OF TS

To serve humanity by cultivating an ever deepening understanding and realization of the Ageless Wisdom, spiritual self-transformation and the unity of all life

CONTENTS

Crow's Nest Bombay	Cover
127th Indian Section Convention Varanasi Notice	2
Nominations invited for BTF Council for 202-24	3
Meeting for Asho Nar Jamshed Mehta	4 - 6
Bro. Arni's talk at Ukraine TS Meeting for HPB	7 - 13
Dani Competition & BTF / Lodge Programmes	14-16

THE 127TH INDIAN SECTION TS CONVENTION VARANASI

Venue: Indian Section Campus, Guru Bagh Road, Varanasi

It will be held physically at Varanasi on 28 - 30 October 2022. Registration will start from 15th July 2022 by e-mail (theosophyvns@gmail.com). Kindly mention Name, Diploma No., Mob. No., Lodge Name, and scanned copy of the Bank receipt of Rs 100.00, being the Registration fee and send it to the Indian Section, the Theosophical Society Varanasi.

The bank details are given below:

Name of Bank: Bank of Baroda

Account Name: The India Section, The Theosophical Society

Bank A/c No: S.B.A/c No. 28600100018425

IFSC Code: BARBOLUXABS (5th Digit is zero).

There will be no charge for lodging and boarding. The last date for registration is 15th September 2022.

Pradip Mahapatra, Convention Officer Mob: 9437697429

Acting Editor — Sis. Mahazaver Rustom R. Dalal Cover Page by: Sis. Kashmira Khambatta Editorial Committee —Sis.Mahazaver Dalal (Reporter & in charge of Mailing List), Sis. Kashmira Khambatta, Sis. Aban Patel and Ex-Officio: President Bro. Vinayak Pandya. Note: News, Notes and Programs to be printed in the Bulletin be forwarded by mail to kashmira.khambatta@gmail.com

latest by 16th each month. Readers' Views are invited.

BOMBAY THEOSOPHICAL FEDERATION INVITES NOMINATUINS FOR ELECTION FOR TWO YEAR TERM 2022-2024

At the 91st Annual Session of BTF to be held in October / November 2022 election of Office Bearers and Council Members for the Term 2022-2024 will be held. Nominations are invited as under:

- (1) President (2) Vice-President (3) Treasurer
- (4) Council Members Four

The Nomination Slip duly filled in requires signatures of Proposer & Seconder and Nominated person for acceptance of his nomination. All the signatories have to be TS Members in Good Standing.

Please Note, now to be in Good Standing, Membership Revival Request should have been sent to Indian Section TS before 30th September 2022 and Lodge Fees any to be already paid for 2022-2023. (the reason is the election will be in TS Year October 2022-September 2023)

The Nomination Forms are available with President Bro. Vinayak Pandya (M):7021778977 and Secretary Sis. Mahazaver Dalal (M):9833131216

Duly filled in and signed Nomination Slip should be given to BTF Secretary Sis. Mahazaver Dalal latest by 30th September 2022.

Lodge Representatives also have to be elected by the Lodges for Two Year Term of 2022-2024. According to Membership number, Blavatsky Lodge has two Representatives, and all other Lodges have One Representative to BTF Council. Lodges are requested to give names of their Representatives with their Mobile Number and E-mail ID to BTF Secretary before the Annual Session.

70TH COMMEMORATION MEETING TO PAY TRIBUTES TO

NAR ASHO JAMSHED NUSSERWANJI MEHTA

Theosophical Order of Service, Mumbai Region Jointly with Blavatsky Lodge TS had a Hybrid Meeting from Besant Hall of Blavatsky Lodge on 1st August 2022





Blavatsky Lodge President Sis. Kashmira Khambatta, host of Hybrid Meting in her welcome speech said that 'It is significant that we have gathered in Besant Hall to pay our fond tributes to a Great Humanitarian Jamshed Mehta, as he had heard Dr. Annie Besant's lecture in this very Besant Hall and was inspired to live Theosophy'.

TOS< Mumbai Region Secretary Sis. Parinaz Gandhi conducted the meeting and introduced the speakers.

Sis. Mani Mullan inspired dedication to Nar Asho Jamshed Mehta with singing Bhajan 'Jhankho Jhankho Divo Maro joje bujay na'.

Blavatsky Lodge Vice-President Bro. Navin Kumar said that Jamshed Mehta regarded 'Work as his Tonic'. Bro. Navin read out a note Jamshed Mehta had written to his friend saying Zoroastrianism does not permit Non-Vegetarian food. Jamshed Mehta, ten times elected as Mayor of Karachi was 'The Builder of Modern Karachi' and so the second prominent road in Karachi after Jinnah is in name of Jamshed Mehta. Mahatma Gandhi had invited him to join Indian Liberation Movement Gandhi had invited him to join Indian Liberation Movement and had said, 'Jamshed Mehta is accepted as the truest man of Karachi and one of the best representatives of Theosophy'. Jamshed Mehta was Member of Legislative Council of Theosophical Society and was open in giving his views politely when he differed. Sharing Tributes of other personalities, Bro. Navin said that 'Real tributes to Jamshed Mehta will be learning from his life to imbibe Theosophical values'.

Guest Speaker Ms. Shernaaz Engineer, Editor Jame-e-Jamshed Weekly said: Jamshed Mehta embodied enlightened leadership. He put service before self. He felt that politics would not be suitable for the kind of life he lead. He was a visionary. He lived a Righteous Life and stood up for Truth. He put his anguish aside and was always there for who needed his help. His love, care & sacrifice for his Family were remarkable. He spoke the truth and stood up for truth at all times. One should learn from his life, which was to serve a higher purpose.

Chief Guest Ms. Dilnavaz Variava has family connections with Bro. Jamshed and his family. She was 8 years old when he passed away, but he has been part of her everyday life and considers it as Blessings from Divine. He had an illustrious career. *He was epitome of Karma, Bhakti and Gyan Yogi.* He transcended his own ego to be an instrument of the Divine. He transformed the lives of so many people. Municipality was his temple to discharge his work. Very humble. When people wanted to have his statue as the Builder of Modern Karachi, he pursued people to have the Statue of the First Mayor of Karachi. With life of Spirituality, Service & Sacrifice, he declined to be a part of any Political party. He was devastated by the Partition. Last two years of his life was without being a public face.

The fact that he is being remembered 70 years after his demise is that he was righteous, courageous, loving and compassionate and able to influence so many persons and used to be there for family & people for solution to their problems.

Jamshed Mehta believed that India needed not only political but also economic independence. Hence, he persuaded and helped Dilnavaz' father to start a business in Karachi in 1922 which employed many people and even provided medical facilities and midday meals to the workers at a time when labor laws were non-eminent.

Like Lord Buddha's teachings he practiced Right Livelihood. He also embodied the teachings of 3 important Zoroastrian Prayers - Ashem Vohu, Yatha Ahur Vairo & Yanghe hatam.

Pursuit of hard work and excellence was part of their family 's ethos. Giving back to Society instead of pursuing wealth for its own sake was an integral part of their upbringing. Courage in adversity was also put into practice. This happens when one works for a higher goal without complaining. Jamshed Mehta was like a 'Lotus', i.e. he lived in world but was not attached to world.

Sis. Parinaz Gandhi proposed the Vote of Thanks. The Commemoration Meeting ended with song written by Ketayun Patel with music by Navroz Mehta and sung by Jamshed Kotwal: "Satya Nishtha, Satya Premi Tu,

Avo Nar Tu Jamshed Mehta!"

VIMADALAL BILIA LODGE starts Physical Meetings

Members of Vimadalal Bilia Lodge, Dadar have started meeting in person on the first and third Thursdays of every month. On 7th July Sis. Meher Contractor spoke on 'Bahman Yasht'. Bahman (Av. Vohuman, Good Mind) is the 2nd of the 7 Ameshaspentas (Holy Immortals, Planetary Logoi as per CWL). On 21st July, there was a Group Discussion led by Bro. Rustom Chothia on 'Karma' based on the readings from the book The Living Wisdom by. P. Pavri. The discussion was continued on 4th August. Five members — excluding the speaker - were present in all the 3 meetings.

BRO. ARNI NARENDRAN GUEST SPEAKER At Madam Blavatsky's 191st Birthday Virtual Celebration Of TS in Ukraine on 12th August 2022

The Dedicated Theosophists Brothers and Sisters ofThe Theosophical Society in Ukraine celebrated the 191st Birth Anniversary on the 12th August 2022. Amidst missiles and bombing of the war torn country the Theosophists gathered in great numbers on zoom. Attended and watched by around seventy Theosophists from Ukraine, Hungary, England, America and India. The programme started with a musical overture on piano by Ms. Olena Scherbyna and introductory lecture by Secretary Sr. followed by Gavrylenko. She introduced the Speakers Brother Arni Narendran and Sr. Julia Shabanova of Helena Blavatsky Lodge, Dnipro. The programme ended with "A candle in a circle" Tribute to Madam Blavatsky. The impeccable English translation was done by Br. Leonid Kedenko, Vice Chairman of the TS in Ukraine.

MEDITATION FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE

Bro. Arni conveyed to them that where was dedicated Healing Meditation for Peace in Ukraine - conducted by Singapore Lodge of the TS under Bro. Kow Choon Tang and Facilitator Bro. Brandon Soo with Sr. Des Abella of Philippines for PEACE IN UKRAINE Also Sr. Esther Zigane group holds Peace Meditation on Mondays in Australia. Theosophists all around the world pray for our Brothers in Ukraine and Russia to live in Peace and Safety. The Bombay Theosophical Federation also joins the prayers for Peace.

DANI INTER-SCHOOL ELOCUTION COMPETITION

Senior Group (8th to 10th Std) held jointly by BTF and Junior Red Cross Maharashtra on 27th August 2022 afternoon will be covered in Bulletin of October 2022.

THE LUMINOUS LIFE OF MADAM BLAVATSKY – THE BOMBAY SAGA

Bro. Arni Narendran

Hon. Treasurer Blavatsky Lodge TS, Mumbai At Madam Blavatsky's 191st Birthday Virtual Celebration of TS in Ukraine on 12th August 2022 with archival photos by Sis. Kashmira Khambatta

Dobryi den / Namaste

Brothers and Sisters of Ukraine and attendees from other Nations, I bring Warm Greetings of Peace, Brotherhood and Love from the Blavatsky Lodge, Mumbai, a Lodge established by Madame HPB and Col Olcott in 1880. I consider it a Divine call to participate in the celebration of HPB's in the country of her Birth. May, today's celebration obfuscate the Dark Clouds of War and bring Peace and Togetherness amongst Humanity and all Nations. On Each occasion when I hear or read and even more, when I speak on this iconic Universal harbinger of Peace and Wisdom, I am elevated to another State of Consciousness. Through Theosophy HPB was able to synthesize and converge thousands of years of Universal Wisdom and project it for the future of Humanity. It has hence been described as "Ageless Wisdom". It is therefore apparent that Madame Blavatsky's relevance to the world is also Ageless. Year after year, we are seeing the Scientific community, validate the Wisdom and Knowledge expounded by HPB through her collected writings, many of them masterpieces emanating from a meta human intuitive mind.

For every Theosophist, a study of her Life and sacrifice and the ordeals she had invited upon herself, for the sake of Humanity, would be a source of awe and Inspiration. The Spiritual Path she said "is no Bed of Roses'. It is an arduous thorny path to be sustained with Selflessness, Compassion and Altruism. In an interview, when asked the three traits for an aspirant, she said: Common sense, a sense of Humour and more Common sense. She was alluding to the necessity to contemplate (Dharana) in order to move forward with conviction

on the Theosophical Path. Theosophy is becoming more relevant in the modern-day world and in years to come it will become the bulwark of Human Consciousness. For Theosophy to be diffused to the world, it was necessary to build a platform and vehicle to attract likeminded people and it is for this reason that the Theosophical Society was established. On this mission she found a devout companion the Path in Col. Henry Steel Olcott. Together they have bequeathed to this world this great Institution of the Theosophical Society. It is probably the longest serving Spiritual Institution in the contemporary world. An inclusive Institution which sans discrimination of any form or kind. It is an open-minded springboard for the study and practice of Esotericism and Spirituality.

The founders arrived from Liverpool on a ship named SS Speke Hall at the Bombay pier, on February 16th, 1879. They had spent a few weeks in England on their way from New York. They were received on board by Moolji Thackersey, Shyamji Varma (both of whom were acquainted with HPB at New York) and a local Bombay resident Balaji Sitaram. The Founders kissed the Indian Soil on arrival, and it was as though a - Home coming. On 17th February a public reception was organized with almost three hundred attendees. This reflects upon the groundwork they had laid much before their arrival. It was a well-prepared strategy and a Mission that was planned as early as six months before their departure from New York. They took residence initially amidst the Indian natives and not in the English part of the town. After changing two residences they moved to a spacious seaside Bungalow at Breach Candy at a place called 'Crow's Nest'. The residence became a magnet to the elite spiritual seekers and allayed all fears of their Mission. Here were two Westerners speaking the praise of Oriental Religion in great detail instead of evangelization and conversion. They had to face the wrath of the Christian Missionaries who felt threatened as they saw the educated and Business community of the city embracing the two

Theosophists. Writing to the "Bombay Gazette" HPB writes: 'The Methodist Organs are very fond of me, so foolishly fond. Rarely a month passes without my Scytho-Sarmatian name appearing on their columns, like a fly in the Communion Cup'. The ruling British Government had misgivings initially on Blavatsky as to whether she was a spy. Col Olcott cleared the cloud of doubt, and she could travel across the sub-Continent. The Lodge began to grow in size and patronage that they had to shift locations frequently. Initially the Lodge was registered as 'The Theosophical Society of the Arya Samai' -Arva Samai, a modernist Hindu revival movement. Eventually the Society formed an independent Theosophical Society which was chartered and signed by the two founders on 20th February 1880 with Damodar Mavalankar's father Keshav Narsingh Mavalankar was the First President. Damodar was one of the most loyal associates of HPB and stood by her during thick and was the recording Secretary at the thin. International Headquarters. Kawasji .Meherwanji Shroff became the first member of the Theosophical Society. His wife, Ms Avabai Pherozeshah Shroff was the first Lady member. Tukaram Tatva volunteered and started a Dispensary through which the message of service became apparent to the public. By then they had got the acquaintance of A.P. Sinnett - Editor of the English newspaper-'The pioneer' published from Allahabad. He visited Bombay twice during Blavatsky's stay in the city. Later on he went on to publish the historic work "The Mahatmas Letters to A.P.Sinnet". The speaker (Bro. Arni) happened to read the original letters at the British Museum Library in 2018.

Bombay became the base for the founders to travel all over the subcontinent extensively popularizing Theosophy and the Society. As a result, many Lodges were established all over the country. It was during the visit to Ceylon that the founders were initiated to Buddhism . They took an Oath of Panchashilla. Col Olcott was

instrumental in consolidating the Buddhist Religion and instilling a place of pride to the Ceylonese. Anagarika Dharmapala became a member of the Society and popularized it in the West. The Founders visited Allahabad to meet - Swami Dayanand Saraswati Founder of the Arya Samaj. Also traveled to Simla to meet both A. P. Sinnet and Alan Octavian Hume, Founder of the Indian National Congress. it was at a party hosted by Mrs. Hume that HPB materialized a pearl studded Brooch for the hostess in her garden. The miracle was published in the local newspaper. It was on their way to Ceylon that the Founders gave public lectures in Madras and attracted an elite group of learned scholars. It was at their suggestion that they visited Huddleston Gardens situated on the confluence of the ocean and river. This later became the Headquarters of the Theosophical society. While they were in Bombay Master KH and Master Hilarion materialized at the 'Crow's Nest' residence.

Milestone events while at Mumbai

The seeds of writing "The secret doctrine" were sown in Mumbai as recorded in the diary of Col Olcott. The First issue of "The Theosophist" was published in October1879, in Mumbai- a monthly journal devoted to Oriental Philosophy, Art, Literature and Occultism. The publication later shifted to Chennai, until this day, except for a brief period was published in America. While in America, it was under joint editorship of Dr. Annie Besant and the famous American Theosophist and Opera Singer Marie Russak Hotchener. The first issue explains the concept of Theosophy and the Theosophical Society and had an extensive sales arrangement in India, Ceylon America and United Kingdom, giving an indication of its reach. The journal gave the contributors sufficient freedom to express their opinion. A note in the journal reads "Individual members of our Society have their own private opinions upon all matters of

Religion and others of the Nature, however, to refrain from vilification and hurting the sentiments of others".

Weekly classes were held in Bombay on Saturdays, which became a popular study centre. The core tenets of Hinduism, Buddhism and Zoroastrianism were explained. The Classes were conducted by Col Olcott and an English Architect Mr. Wimbridge. The Lech-dem sessions were on occult sciences in general, Mesmerism, Psychometry, Crystallomancy and Spiritualism. The Indians were made aware of the rich Wisdom tradition of the sub-continent.

Mahatma Gandhi writes in his book "My Experience with Truth" that Theosophy opened up his perception on Hinduism and influenced his thinking greatly.

'The Old Diary Leaves' and "From the Caves and Jungles of Hindustan" were chronicled in Bombay. The public lectures of the founders especially on "The Spirit of Zoroastrianism" and the seventh Annual Convention in Mumbai were a huge draw with the local residents.

Blavatsky lodge may be considered the 'Mother Branch' of the Theosophical Society as it has an uninterrupted association with Adyar Theosophical Society for 142 years. The Lodge has in its possession the Rosewood couch and two ornate chairs used by the Founders. We also hold on record minutes of the meetings from 1880 onwards, the handwritten letters are obviously slowly fading away. Our Lodge is a Treasure house of Theosophical antiquity and is a Heritage Building in South Mumbai.

The Lodge became a centre of Zoroastrian learning and publications. The Parsi community of Bombay had a prominent role to play in its nurturing. There were a group of Baghdadi Jews who patronized the Lodge. Mr. Ganapathi Iyer, first employee and Lodge Accountant, gave classes in Sanskrit and Vedas. It became a quintessential platform of many faiths.

The Lodge played a great role in attracting many educated women and supported feminist causes. (see article in 'The Pioneer, Allahabad, India, December 1880 - A French view of Women's Rights) Gopalrao Vinayak Joshee (clairvoyant and Sanskrit scholar) the husband of India's first lady Medical student in the United States, Dr. Anandibai Joshee, was associated with the Lodge. He was having psychic qualities of Mind reading and Aura cleansing.

Blavatsky had forewarned about global warming as she saw forests being denuded during her travels in the sub-continent. It was the all-round success and social acceptance of the Bombay citizen that triggered the growth of the Society making Blavatsky Lodge the springboard of the Society's growth.

The seeds of the Theosophical society were planted in New York on 17th November 1875, the roots emerged in Bombay on 20th February 1880, the Trunks of this Universal tree stand evergreen and vibrant at Adyar, Chennai in India since 1882. The Branches having spread far and wide from Hobart to Reykjavik and Tokyo to Lima This is the symbolic Universal Tree of the Theosophical Society.

On HPB's Birthday today I would like to end with a note of Gratitude to this Selfless World Citizen and a proud Daughter of Ukraine, one such reflection of her Selfless trait is well conveyed in this letter by Madame HPB to Ms Francesca Arundale:

"I have resigned from the post of Secretary of the Theosophical Society to avoid the Society to be targeted (a reference to the Madras Christian College Journal, unfounded letter authored by the Coulombs) I have to sacrifice myself for the Good of the Society. The Cause is uppermost more than the person or personality" May we continue to work for the CAUSE...

JAMUBHAI & SURYABEN DANI INTER-SCHOOL ELOCUTION COMPETITION 2022 JUNIOR GROUP



Junior Group Winners (Second Row) and Participants (Third Row) with Judges and BTF & Junior Red Cross Officers

On Saturday 27th August 2022 by 9.30 am Besant Hall was full of **Junior Group (5th to 7th Std)** students and their Parents / Teachers for Dani Inter-School Competition 2022 organized jointly by Bombay Theosophical Federation and Junior Red Cross Maharashtra. Sis. Meherangiz Baria, Master of Ceremony welcomed all. The opening of the Competition was with recitation of The Universal Prayer and address by BTF President Bro. Vinayak Pandya. He spoke about *Guru Dampati Jamubhai & Suryaben Dani*, inspiring Teachers and ardent Gandhians & Theosophists. JRC Chairman Rtn Godrej Dotivala said that Annie Besant was a great Educationist, and we are happy that competition is held in Besant Hall. JRC Committee Member Principal Erick Elavia introduced the Judges – Mr. Ajeet Bhide, Dr. Rajam Pillai and Vice-Principal Edward Mascarenhas.

The options for topic were:

- 1. Wipe out Pollution before it wipes you out
- 2. Pros and Cons of Technology
- 3. Values & Ethics Real treasure in our lives
- 4. If I had a Superpower







Many spoke on 'If I had a Superpower' and their superpowers like 'Love', 'Smile', 'Universal Brother hood'. The Judges impressed with presentations of all participants. While Judges selected the Winners BTF Treasurer Bro. Taral Munshi interacted with participants and explained to them the Seal of Theosophical Society. Sis. Mahazaver Dalal proposing vote of thanks said that it was the initiative of Bhavesh Sao, JRC Maharashtra State Coordinator who said not to worry about Pandemic and to hold the Competition. He with Secretary Ms Joyce Pinto and the Team took care of organizing the competition. The students were given Theosophical Books - Short Biography of AB by C. Jinarajadasa and At the Feet of the Master, Participation Certificate, and snacks. Books – Education as Service by JK and Education, Science, Spirituality by P. Krishna were given to Judges and JRC Officers. The Results were announced. Prizes & merit Certificates will be given at BTF Annual Session. The First Prize Winner will also speak on the Second Day of the Annual Session.

BTF & LODGE PROGRAMMES SEPTEMBER 2022 BTF & BLAVATSKY LODGE - ANNIE BESANT'S BIRTHDAY

DAY	TIME	VENUE	DETAILS
Saturday	6.00	Besant	Toronto Theosophical Society Vice-President
1st	pm	Hall	Bro. Cyrus Ryan will give talk on "Theosophy
October	_	Blavatsky	going ForwardFuture Possibilities". He will
		Lodge	also speak on Past Memories and Experiences in
			India.

BLAVATSKY LODGE: 7 - French Bridge, Mumbai 400007

Tel:23685026 (M):9821459504 (M):9819334333

DAY	TIME	DETAILS
Tuesday	6.00 pm	Study of 'Theosophy Explained with Questions &
6th,13th, 20th,		Answers by P. Pavri' conducted by Bro. Arni
27th		Narendran
Friday 2nd, 9th,	6.00 pm	Study of 'Inner LifeSeries II' by C. W. Leadbeater
16th, 23rd,	Hybrid	conducted by Sis. Aban Patel
30th	Meeting	
Sunday	11.00	AGM of Blavatsky Lodge followed by Lunch
25th	am	

JYOTI LODGE: c/o Bro. Taral Munshi, Goregaon, Mumbai 400065

DAY	TIME	DETAILS
Tuesday	6.30 to	TRIVENI Meet virtual on Zoom with Three Languages,
6h, 13th,	8.00 pm	Three Speakers, Three Lodges / Federations on
20th, 27th	_	Theosophy / Spirituality Hosted by Bro. Taral & Sis.
		Archana Munshi

VASANTA / GANESH LODGES: c/o Bro. Vinayak Pandya, Santa Cruz (E), Mumbai 400055

DAY	TIME	DETAILS	
Thursday	6.00	GURUDEV GOSHTHI virtual on Zoom to study	
1st, 8h, 15th,	pm	Gujarati books on Theosophy & Spirituality hosted by	
22nd, 29th		Bro. Vinayak Pandya and Sis. Archana Munshi	

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