

Young Collegians' Zoroastrian Association
(YCZA)

A benevolent organisation of our community

By DR. B.H.ANTIA

TO THE YOUTH

How beautiful is youth
How beautiful it gleams
With its illusions, aspiration, dreams!
Book of Beginnings, Story without End.
Each maid a heroine, and each man a friend!
All possibilities are in its hands,
No danger daunts it, and no foe withstands;
In its sublime audacity of faith
With ambitious feet, secure and proud,
Ascends the ladder leaning on the cloud

H.W.LONGFELLOW

It was my pleasure to be associated with YCZA from the year 1962 after passing my Solicitor's Examination.

Mr. Nadir Modi, his wife Late Mrs. Homai Modi and his entire team were working as one joint family to uplift the youth of our community in every possible way. The activities of the Association were wide and varied, not only academic but also extra-curricular like elocution contests, debates, reading, classical music, and outdoor events in the form of picnics. I distinctly remember my first meeting with the members of the Association, at Tardeo which was at the residence of Mr. Nadir Modi where about 30 students - both girls and boys - used to meet every weekend and were moulded and looked after by Mr. & Mrs. Nadir Modi and their team to make them perfect persons.

I remember Mr. Nadir Modi used to interact personally with each and every member of the Association and would tell them: "You have a good personality and you should strive hard so as to shine out in your life.". He used to motivate all the girls and boys by taking personal interest in their career and impress upon them, from time to time, to study, study and study. Mr. Nadir Modi would always emphasise upon the members that youth is too precious to be wasted. He also used to say that young age is an extraordinary period of life and can never be regained when once lost. He also used to say that youth is a golden opportunity to do something in life and to become something in life so that you can become somebody in life. He used to arrange tours to Udvada and Daman and we had stayed in a bungalow at Daman belonging to one of our members and we have really enjoyed the said trip. Mr. Nadir Modi also arranged a hike to Chanderi Fort and boys and girls enjoyed climbing up to the top of the hill.

He was an authority in English literature and every now and then quoted Shakespeare & Milton and other poems in his conversation with members.

Mr. Nadir Modi used to recite stories from Shahnameh, with his melodious voice. He also encouraged the members of the Association to take interest in Western classical music. Being the grandson of Dr. Sir Jivanji Jamshedji Modi, religious principles are flowing in his brain and he always used to admonish the youth members to remain faithful to the religion and to our community.

I may add that several boys and girls met and came closer under the auspices of the Association and settled happily in their respective lives. In short I would say that my association with YCZA was a golden period of my life as I have learnt several good things from Mr. Nadir Modi and his team.

Another important activity of the Association was book-funding and for almost 40 years the Association distributed college books at a very nominal charge to all members. The Association also gives scholarships to College students and with the passage of time the doors of the Association are now open to members of all communities, irrespective of caste and creed.

At the end I pray to Almighty God that may this Association survive as long as the sun and moon exist in the universe.

Amin! Amin! Amin!