

Dr. B.S. Bhesania

20th January 2020

My friend, Nadar Modi, has proved himself to be an invaluable asset to the community. He was born on 22nd February 1930. From his childhood he has been a leader, and since the age of 14 he has proved himself to be a wizard and a treasure house of diverse subjects in the category of literature, law, classical music and last but not the least, quotations from famous authors on any subject.

In 1950/1951 after having qualified in law, he took up teaching English as a professor in Jai Hind College in 1951-1952 and I had the greatest fortune of joining Jai Hind College in the Science Division in 1951, as his most mischievous student. He qualified as a Solicitor from the firm of M/s. Mulla & Mulla & Craigie Blunt & Came, one of the oldest firms of Solicitors, in the mid-fifties.

Our acquaintance from 1951 turned into an everlasting friendship. In 1952 when the Young Collegians' Zoroastrian Association (YCZA) was formed with Professor Mr. K. C. Sheriyar and Professor Mr. Nadar Modi as Trustees, I was the first person to join the Association as a member, and paid an annual fee of Rs.2/-. Since then we have been friends and partners in almost all of the activities of YCZA. Besides being an Astute Lawyer he is a voracious reader which helped him to become a leader in all activities in which he participated with distinction.

As an old friend of almost 70 years standing, I think it is my duty to refer to his passion, if I may say so, to come out on top in whatever he undertook,

be it literature or sports he had to be the best and the point is that every time he succeeded. In arguments often his views were opposed to the majority but almost always his views turned out to be correct. He was fond of giving advice to the students/ members of YCZA and more often he took the job of a teacher very seriously. I remember clearly that on one occasion, on an out of Bombay trip of YCZA, in Matheran, he took it on himself, to give a serious lecture to the boys on the necessity of hard work in their chosen field and ended up giving advice that the boys should concentrate more on their studies and stay away from girlfriends. He said that girls are like "Fire" and they could bum the boys if they were not careful and became close with girls. It was at this stage that I punctured his very serious advice by saying that if girls are like fire then we Parsee boys being devout followers of our religion should worship the Fire. This statement annoyed him as everybody laughed and for the rest of the day that was the only time, my friend Nadar Modi remained annoyed with me for being frivolous. In over 68 years of close friendship, I can recount more than 68 anecdotes involving Nadirsha, for example, having an Ice Gola dipped in Rum (in spite of his dislike for alcohol) on top of the Rohtang Pass on our way to Leh, because he could not bear the cold. To wind up, I would like to quote a saying from a famous author, after making changes therein, to describe my friend Nadir Adeshir Modi as under:-

"That he is a man, take him for all in all, you will not find another of his kind".

Bucky Bhesania