

**Address of the R. W. DGM Bro. Kersi Limathwalla
at the Funeral Lodge Service of
Late Bro. Bomi Mehta, Past DGM
On Saturday, 16th September, 2023**

1. Family members of Late Bro. Bomi Mehta, Ladies, Gentlemen and Brethren. We have assembled today at this solemn ceremony to pay respect to the memory of our beloved Bro. Bomi. You will agree with me that it would be superfluous to speak on the subject of death after going through such a heart touching ceremony so profoundly worded. It would be like carrying coal to Newcastle.

2. If I may share with those of you who are not Freemasons and also remind the Masons present here that Freemasonry prepares us for our enduring fate. It removes the fear, anxiety and sting of death so that we can embrace death after having lived a meaningful and fulfilling life.

3. As mentioned in one Ritual, "While the Brother who has thus far discharged his duty as a Freeman can patiently await the arrival of that solemn moment when the soul will take wings to the realms above."

4. For Bro. Bomi we can say he lived a full life. He had a good family heritage, technically qualified, rose in the ranks in his career with the House of Tatas, an enthusiastic car rally driver and was economically well placed. As a mason he rose to the highest rank in the District and was respected and admired by all. He frequently visited Scotland and was the face of Scottish Freemasonry in India. He was a good ritualist and a strict disciplinarian.

5. Friends, this world is imperfect, that is why we are here, we all have our shortcomings as the purpose in life is to overcome them, that is why it is said in our Ritual "what you have seen praiseworthy in others you will carefully initiate, and what in them may have appeared defective you will in yourself amend."

6. Another thing which I admired in him was that he was a perfect family man. He devotedly took care of his ailing wife Tehmi for several years till she passed away. I remember he was elated like a child at the Initiation Ceremony of his grandson Rian into Freemasonry which he very enthusiastically performed and has been very protective of his daughter Diana. When I invited him for my daughter's wedding he asked me whether he could get his two young grandsons along with him, and all three of them came.

7. Let us also view things this evening in the context of Indian philosophy and practices as Freemasonry has Western roots.

Presently there is Paryushan going on in the Jain community from 12th to 19th September and on the last day and a few days following they say "Micchami Dukkadam" which means asking for forgiveness if one has knowingly or unknowingly offended during the year. Similar practices are there in other communities where we have Lent amongst the Christians, Ramzan in Muslims, Shraavan and other periods among Hindus, Yom Kippur among Jews and Gathas and Bahman month amongst Parsees. The whole idea and purpose is atonement, self-introspection, repentance and abstinence because they have to lighten ourselves, renew our spirit, settle our Karmic account and move on in life.

8. Osho has said something very relevant in this context, "when I pass away, you will come to meet my relatives, but I will not be there, why don't you come and meet me today. When I pass away you will forgive me for everything, why don't you forgive me today. When I pass away you will say all good things about me which I will not hear why don't you say all those things today. Don't delay it because life will pass away and we will regret it".

Thank you.