

## PARSI TOMBSTONES FROM BURMA

*Between the early 1940s and 1995, the Parsi cemetery of Yangon (formerly Rangoon) was home to Zoroastrian Parsi graves from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The Parsi community of Rangoon was too small to support the construction and maintenance of Towers of Silence (dakhma). Under such circumstances, the Zoroastrian purity laws permitted bodies to be buried instead of being exposed to vultures in the Towers. Parsi cemeteries developed across Eurasia where there were some, but not many, Parsis. I describe a few of these graveyards here: <http://www.cambridgeblog.org/2014/05/death-and-legal-history-on-sunday-afternoons/>*

*The old Rangoon Parsi burial site was located at Bo Min Yaung Street in Mingalar Taung Nyunt Township, Myanmar (formerly Burma). In 1995, the cemetery was moved on short notice to the Yay Way Parsi Burial Ground in North Okkapala, outside of Yangon. Parsi community members saved and moved some of the tombstones listed below but were unable to preserve or transfer any human remains. They created the list that follows. I am grateful to them for sharing it with me.*

*Square brackets indicate illegible text or probable spelling errors in the original list. My editorial notes appear in italics and in footnotes. An asterisk (\*) indicates that a photo exists of the entry's tombstone.*

*I thank Eileen Dorfman for her help in preparing this list. I would also like to acknowledge Donald M. Stadtner for his interest in preserving what remains of these Parsi tombstones.*

### Untitled List of Rangoon Parsi Tombstones

1. Fran Roeznavrojwnvala.
2. Marckji<sup>1</sup> Palanji Daruvala.  
Born 5.8.1919.  
Died 29.11.1288 Jejdejerdy<sup>2</sup>.
3. Dr. D.N. Dantra M. Rom .  
Born 22.8.1866.  
Died 22.10.1920. R.G.N.
4. [Reraja] Jansaed<sup>3</sup> Bharda.  
Died 8.1.1920. (1.5.1290)  
Aged 33.
5. .....

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<sup>1</sup> This name should probably be Maneckji (=Maneckji Palanji Daruvala).

<sup>2</sup> This word should be Yezdezardi (=1288 Yezdezardi).

<sup>3</sup> The second name should be spelled Jamshed (=Reraja Jamshed Bharda).

6. Pirozsha – F – Mama.
7. ....
8. Well ..... [     ]
9. Rustomje.  
Died 16.8.1921.  
Aged 66.
10. Cooverbai Hormasjee Postwalle<sup>4</sup>  
Died 20.12.1921.
11. ....
12. Aimai Dorabji Tambali  
Born 26.4.1922  
Died 27.12.1922. (19.4.1292)
13. Sapoorjee Cowasjee Captain.  
Born 6.8.1850.  
Died 4.7.1923.
14. Meherbai Darabje<sup>5</sup> Tambali.  
Born 12.3.1892.  
Died 6.8.1924.
15. Sorabji Eursetji Eukhia<sup>6</sup>.  
Died 22.6.1926. (17.10.1295 A.Y)
16. ....
17. Dr. Janshed Ji<sup>7</sup> Hormasji.  
Born 17.5.1873.  
Died 24.7.1939. Rangoon.
18. Russie  
Born 1913  
Died 1927.
19. Saruije<sup>8</sup> Manckji Gadaly.  
Died 17.2.1931. A.D.  
(Died Roj 13.6.1300)
20. Sam. B. Nariman.  
Born 21.11.1890.  
Died 14.12.1962.
21. ....
22. Sarab<sup>9</sup> Burjorjee Unwala.  
Died 7.12.1929.  
Age 17 (Died Roj 1.4.1299 Y.D)

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<sup>4</sup> In India and elsewhere, this name would probably be spelled Postwalla (=Cooverbai Hormasjee Postwalla).

<sup>5</sup> This name should probably be Dorabjee or Dorabji (=Meherbai Dorabjee Tambali).

<sup>6</sup> These last two names should be Cursetji Sukhia (=Sorabji Cursetji Sukhia).

<sup>7</sup> This name should be Jamshedjee or Jamshedji (=Jamshedji Hormasji).

<sup>8</sup> This name is probably Sapoorjee or Sapurji. The second name is usually Maneckji, and the surname is typically Ghadiali. (=Sapurji Maneckji Ghadiali)

<sup>9</sup> This name would normally be spelled Sohrab or Sorab (=Sohrab Burjorjee Unwala).

23. Jenshedji Burjoiji<sup>10</sup> Sutaria.  
Died 12.9.1933.  
Age 63. (Died Roj. 6.1.1303 Y.D)
24. Nowrajee<sup>11</sup> Rustomjee Burjorjee.  
Born 28.12.1908.  
Died 11.5.1986.
25. Bai Butchoobai Cowasjee Captain.  
Died 21.4.1906.  
Age 72.
26. Meruanjee<sup>12</sup> Cowasjee Captain.  
Born 24.5.1844  
Died 4.12.1917.
27. \*In Loving Memory of  
Bai Soonabai Dhunjibhoy Divecha.  
[.....]  
Daughter of  
[-----] Merwanjee Cowasjee Captain  
Died 28.10.1935.  
[.....]
28. Kalkha S.R.O. Burjonjee<sup>13</sup>.  
Died 16.6.1939.
29. Balehunbai Dunshow Burjarjee<sup>14</sup>  
Born 13.3.1859.  
Died 25.4.1935.
30. ....
31. Gol-Mariel.  
Born 20.1.1924.  
Died 17.2.1924.
32. Peroze Dunshaw Burjarjee. <sup>15</sup>  
Died 18.11.1916. Aged 33.
33. Rustomjee Nowrojee Burjarjee.  
Died 24.10.1918.  
Aged 42.
34. Perrin Rustomjee Burjorjee  
Died 13.2.1942.  
Aged 63.
35. Golnar D. Metha.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> This name should be Jamshedji Burjorji (=Jamsjedji Burjorji Sutaria).

<sup>11</sup> This name would normally be spelled Nowrojee, Nowroji or Naoroji (=Nowrojee Rustomjee Burjorjee).

<sup>12</sup> This name should be spelled Merwanjee (=Merwanjee Cowasjee Captain).

<sup>13</sup> This family name should be spelled Burjorjee or possibly Burjarjee (=Kalkha S. R. O. Burjorjee).

<sup>14</sup> This name should be spelled Dinshaw, Dinshah or Dinsha, and the family name was usually Burjorjee (=Bulehunbai Dinshaw Burjorjee).

<sup>15</sup> This name would usually be spelled Dinshaw, and the family name would usually be Burjorjee (=Peroze Dinshaw Burjorjee).

- Born 14.1.1880.  
Died 16.8.1937.
36. [Mcbace] Borjarjee<sup>17</sup> Dhikhajee  
Unwala
37. Banoomani Daceba Mehta.  
Born 18.12.1912.  
Died 19.6.1930.
38. Kharshed Bai Curset Jee Limjee<sup>18</sup>.  
Died 28.10.1929.  
Aged 53.
39. Curshed Ulcculji Limje<sup>19</sup>.
40. Mehruol-Limje.  
Died 16.9.1967.
41. Mrs. Banoobai Nurojee Burjarjee.  
Died 12.2.1910.  
Aged 57.  
Or [full text from image of tombstone]:  
\*In Memory  
of my  
Everloving self-sacrificing  
pious noble  
and well-advising  
Mother Mrs. Banoobai  
Nowrojee Burjorjee  
Died on [12] February 1910
42. .... .
43. Virbarjee Burjoijee<sup>20</sup>.  
Died 10.8.1921.
44. Perozebai Pallunjee.  
Died 4.9.1914.  
Aged 58.
45. Avanbai Nusserwanjee  
Died 20.9.1940.  
Aged 78.
46. .... .
47. Bajonjee Cowasjee Khun Bate.  
Died 25.10.1876.  
Aged 62.
48. .... .
49. Noorojee Burjorjee.

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<sup>16</sup> This surname would normally be spelled Mehta (=Golnar D. Mehta).

<sup>17</sup> This name should probably be Burjorjee (= [Mcbace] Burjorjee Dhikhajee Unwala).

<sup>18</sup> In India and elsewhere, this name would be spelled Kharshedbai Cursetjee Limjee.

<sup>19</sup> This surname should probably be Limjee (=Curshed Ulcculji Limjee).

<sup>20</sup> This surname should be Burjorjee (=Virbarjee Burjorjee).

- Died 10.10.1900.  
Aged 59.
50. Pessie Dorad Sacklat<sup>21</sup>.  
Born 24.10.1899.  
Died 15.1.1908.
51. Burjanjee Nowrojee Burjarjee.  
Died 22.10.1933.  
Aged 61.
52. Almai Burjorjee Burjorjee.  
Died 7.4.1939.  
Aged 57.
53. Roston Dorab Sacklat.<sup>22</sup>  
Born 23.10.1892.  
Died 8.1.1967  
Aged 74.
54. Dorabjee Rustomjee Sacklat.<sup>23</sup>  
Died 7.10.1931.  
Aged 71.
55. Tehmina Dorabjee Sacklat.<sup>24</sup>  
Died 12.12.1928.  
Aged 55.
56. .... .
57. Nusserwanji Merwanje.  
Motivendhera,<sup>25</sup>  
Died 18.12.1900.  
Aged 40.
58. Cowasjee Muncherjee Ghandry.<sup>26</sup>  
Died 24.12.1877.  
Aged 16.
59. Cowasjee Munoharjee<sup>27</sup> Ghandy.  
Died 3.11.1913.  
Aged 75.
60. Bachubai Kaikhasin<sup>28</sup> [Merhmwala]  
Died 28.5.1928.
61. .... .

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<sup>21</sup> This name should probably be Pesi Dorab Saklat.

<sup>22</sup> This name should probably read Rustom Dorab Saklat.

<sup>23</sup> This surname was probably Saklat (=Dorabjee Rustomjee Saklat).

<sup>24</sup> This surname was probably Saklat (=Tehmina Dorabjee Saklat).

<sup>25</sup> This second name was probably Merwanjee. On other tombstones in this collection, the surname appears as Motivindhara (=Nusserwanji Merwanjee Motivindhara).

<sup>26</sup> This surname was probably Ghandy (=Cowasjee Muncherjee Ghandy).

<sup>27</sup> This second name should be Muncherjee (=Cowasjee Muncherjee Ghandy). This entry thus appears to have the same name as the previous one, although the dates are different.

<sup>28</sup> This second name should probably be Kaikasru or Kaikhusroo (=Bachubai Kaikhasru [Merhmwala]).

62. .... .
63. Aroeshir<sup>29</sup> Byramji Mehta  
Died 15.1.1932.  
Aged 57.
64. Nanabhay Nawrojee Burjorjee.  
Born 8.11.1870.  
Died 18.5.1937.
65. Mrs. Peroja Nanabhoy Burjarjee.<sup>30</sup>  
Born 17.12.1881.  
Died 12.4.1958.
66. Behram Nanabhoy Burjarjee.<sup>31</sup>  
Born 9.7.1899.  
Died 22.3.
67. .... .
68. Fram Nanbhoy<sup>32</sup> Burjorjee.  
Born 27.3.1898.  
Died 1.8.1948.
69. Pestonji Bur Jarji Chenoy  
Born 17.4.1885.  
Died 25.11.1940.
70. Dr. Bhumar N. Burjorjee.  
Died 26.7.1962.  
Aged 75.
71. Pastonjee.
72. Vakil.
73. Rustom Sorah<sup>33</sup> [Danlra].  
Born 17.6.1872.  
Died 10.12.1930.
74. Avabai-Dr. N.N. Parkh<sup>34</sup>.  
Died 25.6.1917.
75. .... .
76. Jemshed Jee<sup>35</sup> Hirjee Hirjee.  
Born 5.3.1896.  
Died 21.10.1956.
77. .... .
78. Mrs. Manckbai-Munchersa  
Dorabjiwalia<sup>36</sup> (Mandalay)

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<sup>29</sup> This first name should be Ardeshir (=Ardeshir Byramji Mehta).

<sup>30</sup> This surname was probably spelled Burjorjee (=Mrs. Peroja Nanabhoy Burjorjee).

<sup>31</sup> This surname was probably spelled Burjorjee (=Behram Nanabhoy Burjorjee).

<sup>32</sup> This name was usually spelled Nanabhoy (=Fram Nanabhoy Burjorjee).

<sup>33</sup> This name should be Sorab or Sohrab (=Rustom Sorab [Danlra]).

<sup>34</sup> This surname should be Parekh (=Avabai-Dr. N. N. Parekh).

<sup>35</sup> This name would normally be spelled Jamshedjee or Jamshedji (=Jamshedjee Hirjee Hirjee).

<sup>36</sup> A more standard spelling for this name would be Maneckbai Munchersha Dorabjiwala.

79. Jemshed N. Burjarjee<sup>37</sup>.  
Born 11.2.1913.  
Died 17.9.1949.
80. Baigoolhai<sup>38</sup> [Areeshis] Ginwalla  
Age 98.  
Died 12.7.194-
81. Narjis  
Born 29.3.1910.  
Died 5.5.1932.
82. Kaikhusroo Nowrojee.  
Born 16.10.1864.  
Died 13.4.1940.
83. Khorshed Darosha Daruvala.  
Died 12.8.1944.
84. Dr. N.N. Paral<sup>39</sup>.  
Born 2.11.1853.  
Died 26.6.1935.
85. Bai Meherbai Sapoorjee Cowas jee<sup>40</sup>.  
Born 6.11.1857  
Died 2.11.1933.
86. Eruchsha Soraije<sup>41</sup> Surty.  
Died 15.7.1925.
87. .... .
88. .... .
89. Ardeshir Manickji Fitter  
Died 24.3.1310. Y.Z.
90. Darush – N. Daruvala.  
Born 11.5.1899.  
Died 13.4.1947.
91. Jemshed Nonroje<sup>42</sup> Batliwala.  
Born 12.3.1885.  
Died 26.4.1947.
92. Jehavgr<sup>43</sup>.  
Born 20.10.1888.  
Died 30.6.1959.
93. Burjor Hormasji Dastor<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> This first name was also spelled Jamshed. The surname was also spelled Burjorjee (=Jamshed N. Burjorjee).

<sup>38</sup> This name was probably Bai Goolbai. The second name may have been Ardeshir (=Bai Goolbai Ardeshir Ginwalla).

<sup>39</sup> This surname may have been Patel (=Dr. N. N. Patel).

<sup>40</sup> In India and elsewhere, this surname would have been spelled Cowasjee (=Bai Meherbai Sapoorjee Cowasjee).

<sup>41</sup> This name should be Sorabjee or Sorabji (=Eruchsha Sorabjee Surty).

<sup>42</sup> This name should probably be Jamshed Nowrojee (=Jamshed Nowrojee Batliwala).

<sup>43</sup> This name should be Jehangir.

- Born 25.3.1895.  
Died 15.3.1962.
94. Ketik Vesuna.  
Born 22.12.1915.  
Died 2.6.1953.
95. Hormasji Burjorji Rustomji Cooper.  
Born 6.1.1900.  
Died 30.6.1941.
96. Khurshed M. Setna  
Died 29.8.1936.  
Aged 42.
97. [Baileachoochai] Cowasjee Mistry  
Died Roj 28.4.1299 Y.D.  
Date 3.1.1930 A.D.
98. Pirojban Pallanjo<sup>45</sup> Mistry  
Died Roj 7.12.1299  
D.T 11.8.1924
99. Feroz J. Hormasji.  
Died 4.8.1915.  
Aged 16.
100. .... .
101. .... .
102. Aimai and Jivanji Harmasji<sup>46</sup>  
Died 4.3.1905.  
Aged 6 months 15 days.
103. Jalsorabjee<sup>47</sup> Kapadia.  
Died 7.1.1960.  
Aged 70.
104. Maneck Dinswaw Borjarjee<sup>48</sup>.  
Born 23.7.1893.  
Died 23.6.1971.
105. Cowasjee Merwanjee Cowasjee  
Born 24.7.1873.  
Died 5.3.1935.
106. Kaikhusnoo<sup>49</sup> Jiwajee Parter  
Born 24.12.1895.  
Died 13.8.1971.

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<sup>44</sup> This surname would normally be spelled Dastur or Dastoor (=Burjor Hormasji Dastur).

<sup>45</sup> This first name should be Pirojbai. The second name would normally be Pallonji or Pallonjee (=Pirojbai Pallonji Mistry).

<sup>46</sup> This name would normally be spelled Hormasji or Hormusji (=Aimai and Jivanji Hormasji).

<sup>47</sup> This name should be Jal Sorabjee (=Jal Sorabjee Kapadia).

<sup>48</sup> This second name should be Dinshaw. The surname was also spelled Burjorjee (=Maneck Dinshaw Burjorjee).

<sup>49</sup> This name should be Kaikhusroo (=Kaikhusroo Jiwajee Parter).



107. Hommabai and Ji Ji Bhoy.<sup>50</sup> N. Sorty  
Born 23.11.1937.  
Died 3.3.1939.
108. Parling Peroza and Ji ji Bhoy  
Nowrojee Surty.  
Born 18.8.1906.  
Died 11.10.1906.
109. [Seronebaj] and Nana Bhoy Morwanjee  
Died 5.4.1916  
Aged 10 months.
110. Coomerbai Coorset Jee Bhar Rucha<sup>51</sup>  
Born 23.1.1861.  
Died 9.1.1938.
111. Mr. P.D. Patel.  
Born 14.10.1874.  
Died 26.11.1961.
112. P.K. Bomanjee.  
Died 15.3.1936.
113. ....
114. ....
115. K.B.J. Hagani  
Died 11.9.1963.
116. Bhicajee Behrmjee<sup>52</sup> Bharda  
Born 4.11.1237.  
Died 17.5.1305.
117. Ruttonshaw A. Si Ganporia<sup>53</sup>  
Born 12.2.1875.  
Died 18.8.1935.
118. Mr. Edulji Bomanji  
Born 7.11.1908.  
Died 22.12.1934.
119. ....
120. \*Darrabhai Menwanji<sup>54</sup> Driver  
Died 10.11.1903.  
Aged 76.
121. ....
122. Cowas Masani.  
Born 3.7.1902.

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<sup>50</sup> In India and elsewhere, Ji Ji Bhoy would be spelled as a single word: Jeejeebhoy or Jijibhai (=Jijibhoy Nowrojee Surty)

<sup>51</sup> In India and elsewhere, this name would be written Coorsetjee (or Cursetjee) Bharucha. It is also possible that Coomerbai should be Cooverbai (=Cooverbai Cursetjee Bharucha).

<sup>52</sup> This name should be Behramjee (=Bhicajee Behramjee Bharda).

<sup>53</sup> This surname would normally be written Sigaporita (=Ruttonshaw A. Sigaporita).

<sup>54</sup> This name should be Merwanji (=Darrabhai Merwanji Driver).

- Died 12.12.1963.  
123. .... .  
124. Pestonji.  
Died 23.4.1903.  
10 Months 15 Days.  
125. .... .  
126. .... .  
127. .... .  
128. Mrs. A.B. Masani  
Born 12.7.  
Died 13.10.  
129. Shireenbai Ardshir<sup>55</sup> Masani  
Died 16.12.1936.  
Aged 65.  
130. Burjarjee Pestonjee Mekta<sup>56</sup>  
Died 23.2.1905.  
Aged 36.  
131. .... .  
132. Nowroji-Jamasj<sup>57</sup> Patel  
Died 18.8.1908.  
Aged 60.  
133. Shireen  
Died 4.8.1907.  
Aged 21.  
134. Bhikhaji Burjoiji Randaria<sup>58</sup>  
135. .... .  
136. Babvsoonoo Padam.  
Born 16.4.  
Died 5.6.  
137. Baby Minu.  
Born 8.11.1917.  
Died 13.6.1919.  
138. .... .  
139. Parviz R. Driver  
Died 19.6.1935.  
140. Parviz. R. Driver<sup>59</sup>  
Died 8.7.1936.  
141. Rostom Bamonjee  
Born 19.12.1903.

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<sup>55</sup> This name should be Ardeshir (=Shireenbai Ardeshir Masani).

<sup>56</sup> This surname was probably Mehta (=Burjarjee Pestonjee Mehta).

<sup>57</sup> Jamasj should be Jamaspji (=Nowroji Jamaspji Patel).

<sup>58</sup> This name should read Bhikhaji Burjorji Randeria.

<sup>59</sup> This entry appears to share the same name as the previous one, although the death dates differ by a year.

- Died 8.4.1953.
142. Minnie Harmusjee<sup>60</sup>.  
Born 11.8.1891.  
Died 12.2.1973.
143. Doctor Gool.  
Died 2.8.1948.  
Aged 55.
144. Dadabhoy Harmusjee<sup>61</sup>  
Died 3.9.1943  
Aged 73.
145. Munchishaw Maneekjee<sup>62</sup>.  
Died 2.6.1957.  
Aged 81.
146. Maneakjee<sup>63</sup> Chika Ghadiali  
Died 29.2.1936.  
Aged 71.
147. Janshed<sup>64</sup>.  
Died 25.3.1925.  
Aged 36.
148. Dinshaw Hormusjee.  
Born 25.9.1866.  
Aged 67.
149. Bomanji Nowroji Patel.  
Born 19.8.1878.  
Died 13.9.1925.
150. .... .
151. Dinabai<sup>65</sup>.  
Died 19.6.1913.  
Aged 19.
152. Shiribbai Fakirji S.  
Sumarivala  
Died 22.3.1913.  
Aged 22.
153. Hormusjee Furdoonjee.  
Died 26.1.1909.  
Aged 82.
154. Kaikhasru Scrabji Master.  
Died 13.8.1912.  
Aged 39.

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<sup>60</sup> This second name could also be spelled Hormusjee (=Minni Hormusjee).

<sup>61</sup> This second name could also be spelled Hormusjee (=Dadabhoy Hormusjee).

<sup>62</sup> This second name should be Maneckjee (=Munchishaw Maneckjee).

<sup>63</sup> This first name should be Maneckjee (=Maneckjee Chika Ghadiali).

<sup>64</sup> Janshed should be Jamshed.

<sup>65</sup> Dinabai should be Dinbai.

155. Dr. Ardeshir Byramji Masani.  
Born 21.6.1862.  
Died 29.10.1912.
156. Piroja  
Died 3.3.1913.  
Aged 21.
157. Mrs. Pirojbai Jardomji Patel  
Died 25.7.1913.  
Aged 16.
158. Mecherbai Farduonj<sup>66</sup> Vaid  
Born 18.7.1874.  
Died 22.11.1913.
159. Ruttonba<sup>67</sup>  
Died 3.7.1915.  
Aged 48.
160. Savaksha Sorabji Dhondi  
Died 15.6.1924.

Additions from photographs taken by Mitra Sharafi (2007):

161. \*[In Loving] Memory of Our Beloved  
Hormusjee [D]adabhoy Hormusjee  
[--] [Septenver] 1891  
[--] February 1978  
[--] 82 years
162. \*In loving memory of  
Manekji Palanji  
Daruvala  
(Wakemavala)  
Died [Roj] 29-11-1288 Yezdezerdy  
Date 5th August 1919
162. \*In memory of  
Pestonji Burjorji Chinoy  
Born 17<sup>th</sup> April 1885  
Died [5<sup>th</sup>] November 1940
163. \*Sacred to the memory of  
Nusserwanji Merwanji Motivindhara  
Died 18<sup>th</sup> December 1900  
Aged 40 Years

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<sup>66</sup> The first two names here should be Meherbai Fardoonji (=Meherbai Fardoonji Vaid).

<sup>67</sup> Ruttonba should probably be Ruttonbai.

[Note: image includes extensive Gujarati text]

164. \*In Memory of  
Goolnar D. Metha<sup>68</sup>  
Born 14-1-1880  
Died on 16-8-37
165. \*To the Sacred Memory of  
Sorabji Cursetji Sukhia  
Died Roj 17-10-1295 A. Y.  
Dt 22-6-1926 A.D.
166. \*In Sacred and Loving Memory of [Our]  
Doctor Gool  
Daughter of Dadabhoy Horm[---]  
Who departed her most noble [---]  
On 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1948  
Aged 55 Years
167. \*In Loving Memory of  
Framroze  
Jee Jee Bhoy<sup>69</sup>  
Age [48] years  
Born on [3] January 1948  
Died on 31 August 1996  
R. I. P.  
[The body of F. Jee Jee Bhoy is buried in the new Parsi cemetery in North Okkapala.]

*(version updated on 8 December 2014)*

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<sup>68</sup> In India and elsewhere, this surname would be spelled Mehta (=Goolnar D. Mehta).

<sup>69</sup> In India and elsewhere, Jee Jee Bhoy would be spelled Jeejeebhoy. It was probably separated in Myanmar (or Burma) to conform to three-part Burmese naming conventions.