

# *The Nightingale and the Lion*



*Noshir Nowroji Pundole  
1 March 1921 - 5 July 2016*

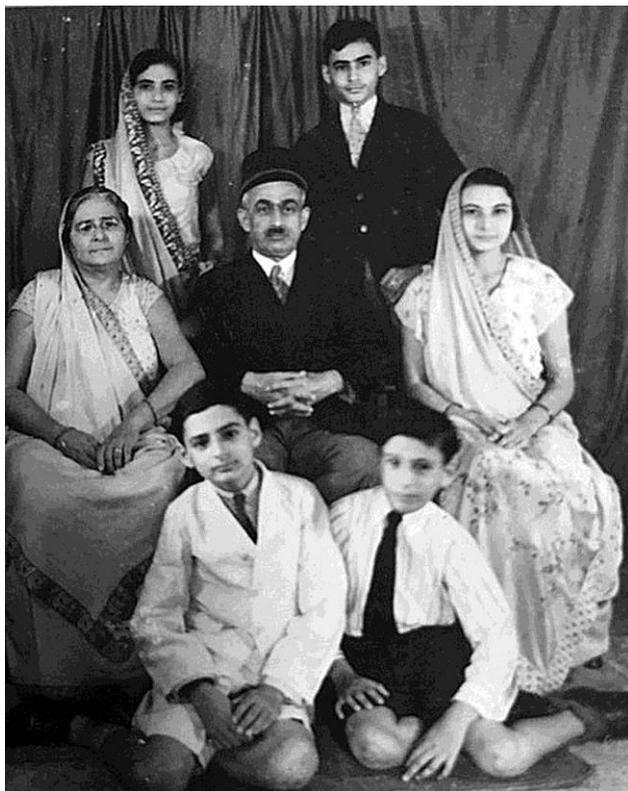
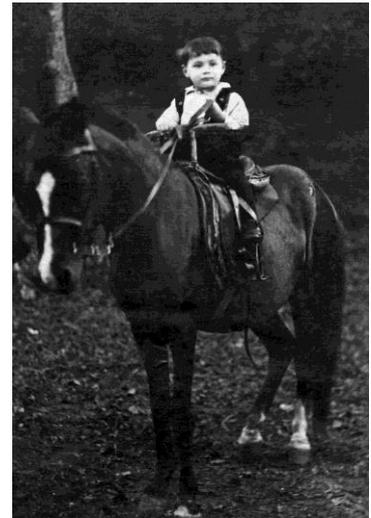


*Roshan Noshir Pundole  
12 June 1922 - 28 Sept. 2016*



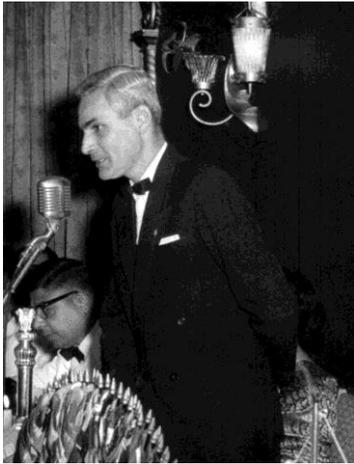
*The Nightingale sang, the Lion was smitten and so began a loving union that spanned 71 happy, adventurous, successful & loving years.*

*Noshir Nowroji Pundole was born on the 1st of March 1921 to Mehra Narielwala and Nowroji Pundole. He had two older sisters Maki and Naju and two younger brothers Russi and Kali. He was clearly his grandfather's favourite and everyone in the family knew this, especially young Noshir who was accustomed to getting his way with just about everything.*



*Noshir was articulate, excelled at school, and grew up to be a self-taught and highly successful business man. He was a principled man with an acute moral compass. His sense of responsibility towards his family was called upon when his father died suddenly, just as he was finishing high school. Being the eldest son, he*

*took over the family watch business and was able to successfully look after his mother and his siblings. He introduced Lionism to India and to various other countries in South East Asia and was affectionately known as "The Father of Lionism in India" The present*



*International President of Lions International, Mr Bob Corlew had this to say about him " Noshir inspired devotion of service in every Lion he met. Because of his inspiration and leadership, that legacy of service will continue with new generations of Lions."*

*Noshir moved to Malaysia in the 60's to set up a pioneering palm oil processing plant for the Birlas. After a few years it was purchased by the Malaysian Government but he continued to live in Malaysia and in 1977 he began a property development business which he ran successfully till he retired in 2003.*

*In later life he fulfilled his dream of acquiring a Masters degree in Business from the University of California. His thesis was based on the processing of Edible Oil in Malaysia and was later used by the Government as a guideline for more effective practices in edible oil production.*

*Noshir fulfilled his dream of amply providing for his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren for whom he lived and worked his entire life.*

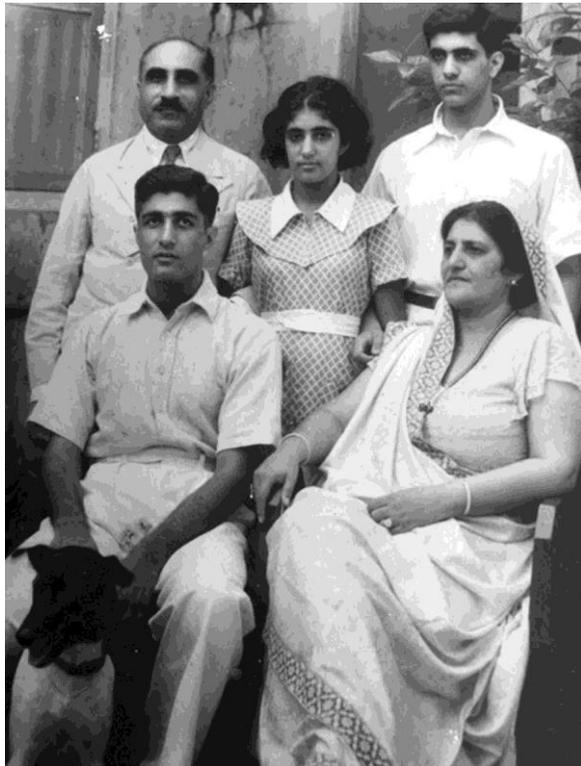




*Roshan Jehangir Lalkaka known as The Nightingale of Bombay was born on the 12th of June 1922 to Tehmina Kharas and Jehangir Lalkaka, one of India's foremost portrait artists of his time.*



*She was the youngest of three children; her eldest brother Cavas was her favourite and always interceded on her behalf with their mother Tehmina. She made no bones*



*about the fact that she preferred her sons to her daughter and consequently "Roshi" was her dad's favourite. Sarosh was her younger brother with whom she climbed trees, sang songs and chased monkeys.*

*Roshan Lalkaka lived a privileged lifestyle and her world revolved around her father, her cousins, music, her friends and her dog*

*Toby. She loved the outdoors and would rather play with her brothers than study at school. She would spend many hours in her father's studio where she learned about art appreciation and developed an uncanny eye to spot a masterpiece in a junkshop or a charity bazar. She once picked up an unsigned painting for a few dollars,*

brought it home and insisted it was a painting by the famous Indian artist Hussain and she was right, it was! Many years later the artist acknowledged and signed it and that painting has been the best family investment by a long shot!

Roshan had a zest for life and lived it to the full! She did not know what it meant to be diplomatic and she



said things as she thought them. She had a passion for jewellery and loved creating styles in the saris she seldom wore. She was the most loving, caring and compassionate person I know and never failed to put her hand in her pocket to help anyone in need.

Roshan was blessed with a beautiful singing voice and after graduating from school, studied music. She became a very accomplished singer performing extensively in Bombay on stage and in choirs, for All India Radio and as a playback singer for Bollywood films. She also gave voice lessons and taught music at schools. She soon became known as the Nightingale of Bombay. "The concert at the Scots Kirk was a most notable one.....as for Mrs Roshan Pundole, well, her voice is indeed a gift from Heaven. Her Handel selection 'Angle's Ever Bright and Fair" and Edward German's 'Love is meant to make us glad' proved that she can easily transcend the

*austere heights of classicism and the lyrical qualities of modern composers with the rare charm and deportment which has won the hearts of all who have heard her sing." The Times of India, August 14 1955.*



*Noshir was an avid Boy Scout and in 1944 he organised a charity event to raise funds for the war at which Roshan sang. He was completely bowled over by her singing and so began their love story and a union that lasted 71 beautiful years.*

*They were married at Albless Baugh on the 27th March 1945, when Roshan was 23 and Noshir 24 years old. They started life with very little, living as paying guests and working side by side at their bookstore and laundry with Roshan always supporting and encouraging her ambitious husband. Together over the years they built a loving and harmonious nest for their three children, Shehernavaz, Kershasp & Hootoksi.*



*My tribute to my parents could never be put into words because nothing I write can adequately express my debt of gratitude and love for them. They were exemplary in so many different ways - as a singer, a Lion, a business man, philanthropists and they always taught us by example rather than words.*

*My parents were very spiritual people and papa spent hours in prayer, meditation and contemplation.*



*Zoroastrinism was practiced in our home; traditions were upheld though rituals were kept to a minimum. We went to the fire temple on auspicious days and were taught to think for ourselves and not to follow things blindly. Pa would say "My thoughts and opinions must never be yours unless they resonate with you". We were encouraged to respect all*

*religions and to worship One God, Ahura Mazda, called by so many different names. We saw our parents living by Good Thoughts, Good Words and Good Deeds which they performed quietly and without any fuss or fanfare.*



*Roshan & Noshir moved to Malaysia in the early 60's and their home in Kuala Lumpur was the focal point for all Parsis who lived*

*there. Papa was the guardian of the community and being a Navar he performed several Jashans, Navjotes and Death ceremonies. Yazdi Bankwalla a member of the tiny Parsi Community had this to say about our parents "They were*



like the oasis, providing care, encouragement and nourishment to many for decades. They smiled much and loved life, strong willed and determined. This inspiration of theirs will live in the hearts of many. They were the loving Twin Towers of KL and much more."

Our parents supported and encouraged us in everything we did and accepted our opinions and way of life even when it was totally different from theirs. Education was very important and we were encouraged to excel but were never made to feel inadequate if we came home with poor results. For them it was enough if we did our best! Papa made us "check and double check" every document, paper and fact!

We were taught the value of family and money and we learned to respect both. Papa would say "cut your coat according to your cloth" and "if you can't afford to pay for it, you can't have it, simple as that!"

Mama was very proud of her 300 year old roots in the Lalkaka family and as children she delighted in taking us to the annual general meeting of the Lalkaka Family Fund. She encouraged us to keep in touch with our relatives all over the world. She loved helping people and animals and would constantly teach us proverbs in Gujarati and in English. Her favourite was "There is no religion higher than Truth" "Spare the rod and spoil the child" and "be a little deaf and blind, happiness you'll always find" She did not merely spout these, she lived and practiced them.

Once I took a taxi to their apartment in Kuala Lumpur and as the driver dropped me off he asked "Do you know the lady who wears a scarf and drives a blue Mini? She lives in this building and always helps everybody." When I told him the lady was my mother, he refused the fare I owed him. I met another woman who told me that she had met my Ma when she was a saleslady in a shop. Mama saved her eyesight by getting her timely treatment and paying for it.

For over 20 years in Malaysia, Ma volunteered at the



Bukit Nanas Home for orphans who were disabled victims of war. She raised money for them, taught them songs, bought them gifts and was the light in their lives till many of them passed away. She also worked tirelessly for the SPCA

raising funds and finding homes for animals that had been abandoned.

Papa was disciplined in his thoughts and his habits. You could set your clock by his actions in the day. To him, prayer was of paramount importance and nothing came in the way of time set aside for it. Physical exercise, eating regular meals and a cat nap in the afternoon were part of his routine.

Ma loved a good party and as much as she enjoyed having people around her, Pa treasured his solitude & enjoyed silence. He was an honest, upright, modern man with old fashioned ideas and principles. My parents

*loved and cherished each other and were proud of their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.*

*At the end of their lives their most fervent wish was to return to their home in Bombay to live out their last days in peace in their own apartment; but sadly*



*the lady to whom my mother showed only kindness, has taken over the flat and the litigation continues to this day. Throughout this difficult time my Ma exemplified Universal Love even to those who had hurt, lied and stolen from her. She would say “It is easy to laugh and to smile, when life goes along like a song, but the man worth his while, is the man who can smile when everything goes dead wrong” and smile she did!!!*

*My parents left a legacy of Wisdom and Love to be emulated and passed on from one generation to the next. They continue to abide in our hearts and memories of them always make us smile and fill me with joy!*



*60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration*