

**The Legacy of the Zartoshty Brothers**  
**Philanthropists, Benefactors & Patrons**  
**of the**  
**Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe**  
**The oldest Asian religious voluntary organisation in the UK**  
**Established 1861**

Mobed Faridoon Zartoshty (1904 – 2000) and Mobed Mehraban Zartoshty (1917 – 2012), affectionately known as ‘The Zartoshty Brothers’, are internationally renowned for their philanthropy in the service and well being of the Zoroastrian community.

The Zartoshty Brothers hailed from Yazd, Iran. They were educated in Mumbai and returned to Iran where they reached great heights of prosperity through their businesses, prior to the Islamic Revolution of Iran. They abided by the English proverb; ‘My Word is My Bond’ and admired the English business houses for their integrity and their ethics. **Both Faridoon and Mehraban implemented their father’s wise and invaluable advice to them to set aside percentage of their profits into a charity account. Day by day and year by year the charity account grew and ultimately dwarfed what they had kept for themselves. This saving became the seed corn of the philanthropy of the Zartoshty Brothers and their philanthropy became legendary. In their life time, the Zartoshty Brothers were rightly described as the greatest Zoroastrian philanthropists of our times!** There were certain very distinct characteristics about their giving. The first was the utmost humility of both brothers even in situations where they were the largest donors. The Zartoshty Brothers always said “Giving is very easy; it is the project implementation that is difficult so I thank you for doing this community service”. They usually preferred to give to institutions rather than to individuals.

The generosity, support and philanthropy of the Zartoshty Brothers was limitless and truly strengthened the Zoroastrian community institutions in the UK. The Zartoshty Brothers were benefactors and patrons of the Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe (ZTFE), as it was the largest beneficiary of their charities. The ZTFE would not be where it is today without their generosity, support and inspiration. The 700 seater auditorium at the Zoroastrian Centre for Europe complex in London is named ‘The Zartoshty Brothers Hall’ in their honour. The ZTFE maintains close association with the family of the Zartoshty Brothers. ZTFE organises

the annual varsi / sal prayers and gahambar in the memory of the Mobed Faridoon and Mobed Mehraban on their respective death anniversaries in the Zartoshty Brothers Hall.

The Zartoshty Brothers together with Professor Emeritus Mary Boyce established the 'Zartoshty Brothers Chair in Zoroastrianism' at the prestigious School for Oriental & African Studies (SOAS), University of London, the only Education Institution in the world that has a permanent and established Chair of Zoroastrian Studies. The Zartoshty Brothers separately endowed a large and generous fund to provide full scholarship to Zoroastrian students to pursue Iranian Studies and Zoroastrianism. Each year at least one if not two and sometimes three Zoroastrian students are granted scholarships by the ZTFE in order to nurture Zoroastrian scholars of our ancient but wonderful religion and heritage.

The Zartoshty Brothers left behind a proud legacy with many Institutions they supported with their philanthropy. Besides the ZTFE, their charities also assisted Zoroastrian organisations in India, Iran and North America. The Zartoshty Brothers were great bridge builders between the Parsees of India and the Persian speaking Iranian Zoroastrians. Large sums were endowed to the Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP) for providing educational scholarships and for deserving poor Zoroastrians in Mumbai. They donated sums to the B D Petit Parsee General Hospital, the Bilimoria Hospital in Panchgani, Cama Athornan Madressa for training young priests and the K R Cama Oriental Institute in its projects to preserve old Zoroastrian manuscripts and books. The Zartoshty Brothers donated the biggest sum to build the 'Lion of Bombay' Sir Pherozeshah Mehta Bhavan at Bombay University and also the Sir Pherozeshah Mehta Library. The Zartoshty Brothers' charities helped several associations of the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA) and the Atash Behram in Yazd together with schools and institutions in their beloved Iran. Secular institutions such as Red Cross in India, hospitals in North America and educational establishments in their beloved Iran have also benefitted from their charities.

The Zartoshty Brothers are rightly described as the greatest Zoroastrian philanthropists of our time. They were certainly not the wealthiest Zoroastrians of our time. However, in terms of the proportion of their wealth which they gave away in their own lifetime, they have no parallel. Such noble souls come to a community once in several generations.

May the fravashis of the Zartoshty Brothers rest in Garothman Behesht and may their memory always be with us as a model and an example.