

## **Dr A.K. BOMAN-BEHRAM**

### **Ardeshir Kavasji Boman-Behram**

Birth, Bombay India - December 21<sup>st</sup> 1909

Death, London UK - February 10<sup>th</sup> 2000.

Married Hilde Holger June 8<sup>th</sup> 1940, Bombay

Divorced Hilde Holger February 18<sup>th</sup> 1975, London

Remarried Hilde Holger September 28<sup>th</sup> 1989, London

Dr A K Boman-Behram came from a prominent political philanthropic Parsi family in Mumbai. But he was the black sheep of the family as he was not interested in politics, only in Medicine, Homeopathy and Research.

His grand uncle was Sir Jehangir Bomon-Behram who first practised as an attorney in the High Court, then devoted himself to public service becoming Bombay's first Mayor in 1932. The Queen's knighthood was conferred on him in 1934.

Sir Jehangir Bomon-Behram's brother was Mr R B Boman-Behram, a pioneer in the cement industry in Western India.

Their nephew, Bomanji K. Boman-Behram who died 31<sup>st</sup> January 1986, was elected in February 1967 to Marahashta State Legislative Assembly as an Independent Member, serving for a period of five years. B K Boman-Behram then too became the Mayor of Bombay during 1974-75, after which he chaired many Parsi boards and charities as well as secular advisory committees.

Early on it was said that one of Dr A K Boman-Behram's aunts married into the Tata family. Dr Boman was one of nine children. His brother N. Boman-Behram isolated himself in Bangalore while building an amazing art collection of Indian antiquities. These included priceless brocades, Mughal miniatures, and the Poet Sa'di preaching in the Mosque of Damascus from a lost manuscript of the Gulistan, c. 1600. His collection also featured the magnificent bronze Buddha of the Gupta period, now in the Asia Society collection.

Dr A K Boman-Behram's oldest sister Manek Boman-Behram married Congressman Khushedji F. ("Veer") Nariman who had collaborated with Gandhi and who was also a Mayor of Bombay, lending his name to Nariman Point, as his in-laws had done before with so many streets named after noteworthy Boman-Behrams.

After graduating from Bombay's Medical school in 1934, and already conducting dietary experiments, Ardeshir Kavasji Boman-Behram began to have quite a reputation as a Homeopathic doctor.. In 1939, after being introduced to Expressionist dancer Hilde Holger in order to bike her each day to the British Consulate to be stamped as a German alien, he saw her as a scared refugee fleeing Hitler's Austria, and feeling sorry for her, fed her lunch each day at his clinic. In 1940 they married, much to the horror of his Zoroastrian family. However Hilde soon won them over.

In 1943 their son was still-born, but three years later Hilde gave birth to their daughter Primavera. At the terrible assassination of Mahatma Gandhi on January 30<sup>th</sup> 1948 and with the massive blood bath which ensued, the new family decided to move to England where Dr Boman could work at the Royal London Homeopathic Hospital

with colleagues such as James Douglas Kenyon, Marjorie Grace Blackie (Homeopath to Queen Elizabeth II.) and more.

Initially they settled in a Parliament Hill Fields flat before moving to a house in Oval Road, Primrose Hill. He quit the hospital in 1951, becoming a GP, while working briefly in researching Cancer Prevention. Shortly afterwards he began a Harley Street private practice.

In 1949 his son Darius was born, but with tree holes in his heart, wet lungs, the blood pumping round in the opposite direction, and Down's syndrome he had only two weeks to live, the doctors at Great Ormand Street hospital predicted, therefore Dr Boman decided to take his son's future into his own hands, and administered a Mexican snake venom after it had undergone Homeopathic potentisation. This strengthened his son's heart. Some time later Dr Boman prepared vaccines from Darius' urine that he administered about twice yearly. It was touch and go, but by the age of twelve Darius had regained strength and was ready to have a tutor to teach reading and writing. Had he been strong enough to study far earlier, Darius would have been able to read and write say "C" "A" "T". But could not make the connection that it was CAT, an animal. His aesthetic sense, on the other hand was highly developed, both in the visual and the musical arts. Darius inspired not only his mother to pioneer Inclusive Dance but also his father to tackle a non-toxic cure for cancer. Darius lived till sixty!

The family's Camden house was a hive of activity. Dance students and professionals in the basement studio with a loud piano and banging drum, and centrifuges and test tubes upstairs with a dangerous smell of Acetone proliferating the air. Some time later when Dr Boman made friends with Reggie who worked in a very large laboratory, the garden shed became home to two thousand mice, bred to develop cancer tumours, as well as large vats of pure chemicals that his friend donated. Based on Dr Boman's hunch that the peptides found in high grade yeast may help to curtail the proliferation of the cancer cells, he painstakingly kept records of how his substance (later to be named Canyeast) performed. The tumours did shrink as a result. Desperate patients provided promising anecdotal evidence that Canyeast was clinically working. Spike Milligan produced a show to raise money specifically for Dr Boman's research, because his actor friend who had late stages of lung cancer was cured by Dr Boman's CanYeast.

In the mid seventies, Dr Boman was introduced to Dr Michael Tisdale at London's St Thomas' medical school who later got a research position at Aston University. Tisdale's support for Boman back in the 1970's took place with the knowledge that, in the 1940s, it was shown that extracts of yeast produced tumour growth inhibition in animal experiments. So together they tried to isolate the active ingredient of Canyeast. Now what was needed was controlled testing. This required huge sums of money, which was promised by a Lord, but going through an imminent divorce he suddenly backed out. Devastated, Dr Boman then suffered a bad heart attack and died two years later. Now there is much research with peptides. And even Glutathione has attracted scientific interest in recent years; which high grade yeast has as an intrinsic component. Decades earlier, Dr Boman was looking at the moon without a telescope. Now we have the telescope, or science, to isolate such active ingredients.

[Obituary Ardeshir Kavajji Boman Behram homeopath Guardian 8.3.2000:](#)