

**REFERENCE MADE BY THE HON'BLE SHRI C.K. THAKKER, CHIEF JUSTICE, HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY, TO LATE MR. KHATU S. COOPER, SENIOR ADVOCATE, ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2004.**

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My learned Brother Justice Bobde, Mr. Vahanvati, Advocate-General of Maharashtra, also representing the Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa, Mr. Joshi, President of Advocates' Association of Western India, Mr. Dada, President of the Bombay Bar Association, Mr. Mehta, President of the Incorporated Law Society, (Absent, though intimated), Members of the noble profession, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today we have assembled here to mourn the sad demise of Mr. Khatu S. Cooper, a Senior Advocate of this Court, who left for his heavenly abode on March 28, 2004.

Mr. Cooper was born on November 4, 1924. He studied at Elphinstone School and at St. Xavier's High School. After Matriculation, he joined St. Xaviers College and obtained his B.A. (Hons.) in History and Law degree from Government Law College, Bombay. He had an outstanding academic career and had won numerous academic and extra curricular prizes. He was also an active sportsman, and a leading table tennis player. He won several trophies representing the State of Bombay at the All India level both in singles and in doubles.

He joined the Bar in 1946 in the Chamber of Mr. M.L. Maneksha, one of the leading Senior Advocates of his time. Mr. Cooper was a part time Professor of Law at the Government Law College and thereafter at New Law College. He also taught postgraduate students at the Bombay University for LL.M. course. He had a love for teaching, a commitment which remained with him till the end. He was an author of "Elements of Constitutional Law", a comparative study of several constitutions, which became the standard textbook on the subject.

He acquired large practice and was one of the leading Senior Advocates of Bombay. He had many juniors. Some of them today are Senior Advocates of this Court.

He was elected a member of the Bar Council of Maharashtra and was the Chairman of its Executive Committee. He was also the President of the Bombay Bar Association for more than a decade. He considered Bar Association as his second home and the members of the Association as his family members.

He was one of the leading lawyers of the country and appeared in several leading cases of public importance all over India, including the "Judges' Transfer" case in the Supreme Court. He believed in freedom and liberty and fought several cases against infringement of the Citizens' Rights. The Indian Express censorship case and the Habeas Corpus Case are some of them. He cared deeply for justice and was always ready to spare his time and ability to fight for poor and the underprivileged. He firmly believed that no lawyer should turn away any client in need and nobody should be denied legal help for want of money.

He was one of the most accessible Seniors and a juniormost lawyer was able to get his help and guidance freely and without hesitation.

In his passing away, we have lost an eminent lawyer and a great human being. Mr. Cooper is survived by his wife and two sons, who are also Advocates. In this hour of grief, on behalf of my esteemed colleagues, on my own behalf and on behalf of all of you assembled here, I convey my heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family. May the Almighty give them strength to bear this great loss and may the departed soul rest in eternal peace.

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