

1970. The family of Walavalkars was "Karmayogi". Father died after returning home on completion of the court work. While arguing the matter before the Court, son stood up to make his point. After making it, he fell on his chair never to rise again.

Shri V.T.Walavalkar was born in January, 1920. After obtaining B.A. from Wilson College and LL.B. degree from the Government Law College, he started practice in 1944. In 1961 he was appointed as Judge of the City Civil and Sessions Court, Bombay. However, he resigned from the said post in 1966 and started his practice in the Bombay High Court. In 1967-68 he was elected as Member of the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa. He was President of Advocates' Association of Western Indian for two terms i.e. in 1974-75 and 1978-79. He worked for more than a decade on the Legal Aid Committee. He was appointed on the Committee to study the Belgaum Karvar Border Dispute and to advise the Government for filing the suit. Recently, he had resigned from the said Committee.

While practicing, he was also active on political front. I am told that he was imprisoned during Emergency.

It is said that Shri Walavalkar helped number of Advocates to achieve excellence in their profession. Some of the Advocates are occupying office of Judge of the Bombay High Court. He was maternal uncle of Smt. Justice Ranjana Desai.

In 1994 he was felicitated by the Bar on completion of 50 years of practice. Even at the age of 89, he was alert and argued forcibly. He was expert in civil matters. As an upright, sincere and fearless lawyer Shri Walavakar set an example for others to follow.

Shri Walavalkar left behind him his wife Smt.Shailaja Walavakar, accomplished lawyer Shri Narendra, daughter Advocate Smt.Vardhini Naik and other two daughters Smt.Nita Ajgaonkar and Smt.Sonali Ajgaonkar.

My colleagues and I share the feelings of all those who have gathered here in expressing our heartfelt condolences in the bereavement of Smt.Walavalkar and members of her family.

Let The Almighty give them strength to overcome the grief
and to bear the loss with fortitude.

May his soul rest in peace.

~ress ~r. Ravi M. Kadam, Advocate General of Maharashtra,
at the Full Court Reference to late Shri V.T. Walavalkar on 4
December, 2008.

My Lords, The Chief Justice and other Judges of this Court, Mr. Rajendra Raghuvanshi, Additional Solicitor General of India, Mr. Rohit Kapadia, President Bombay Bar Association, Mr. Ashok Mundargi, President, Advocates Association of Western India, Mr. (J.A. Jani, Vice-President, Incorporated Law Society, and my learned friends.

1. Today we are gathered here to pay tribute to the memory of Mr. V.T. Walavalkar, a senior member of the bar who passed away recently.
2. Mr. V. T. Walavalkar started his practice in the year 1944 and was appointed as a City Civil Judge in 1960. He held office as a Judge of the City -Civil Court till his resignation in 1966. Thereafter resumed practice in this august Court. As a lawyer, he was well-read and always forceful in his arguments.
3. Mr. V. T. Walavalkar was a father figure to all the junior members of the bar, happy to help and give his invaluable advice. He always made an attempt to encourage them. He was polite, courteous and generous. Above all, he was a principled man who stood by his beliefs and ideals.
4. The Bar's great regard was reflected in his election to the office of President of AAWI in 1974 and 1978. He was appointed as a trustee of Kirtikar Library Trust of AAWI in 1966 and held this position till August 2008.
5. Due to his understanding of the law and straightforward legal advice, he was appointed by the Government of Maharashtra to a committee constituted to study the border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka. On his advice, the State decided to file a suit against the State of Karnataka

6. The dark hour of the emergency was Walavalkar's finest hour. Due to his political beliefs, he was arrested and imprisoned for almost two years between 1975-1977. While he was in prison he exhausted his entire life saving in taking care of the needs of young under trials who were imprisoned with him. As a result, after his release he had to start from scratch. However, his imprisonment and the loss of his life savings did not shake his belief in ideals and after his release, he continued to help all those who came to him.

7. At the time of his death in September 2008, Mr. V. T. Walavalkar was the oldest practicing lawyer in the Bombay High Court.

8. My Lords on behalf of the Bar and all those gathered here, I offer my sincere condolences to the bereaved family and friends of Mr. V. T. Walavalkar.

May his soul rest in peace.

'Address by Mr. R.B. Raghuvanshi, Additional Solicitor General, at the Full Court Reference to late Shri V.T. Walawalkar on 4th December, 2008.

The Hon'ble Chief Justice, the Hon'ble Judges, Shri Ravi Kadam, Id. Advocate General, Shri Rajiv Patil, Chairman, Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa, Shri Rohit Kapadia from Bombay Bar Association, Shri Ashok Mundergi from the Advocates' Association of Western India, Shri P.A. Jani, Vice-President of the Bombay Incorporated Law Society, Walawalkar family, my friends and my peers and the members of the Bar.

We have assembled here this morning with a deep sense of grief and sorrow to pay our homage to one of the leading lawyers and stalwart of this High Court. He will always be fondly remembered by generation of lawyers in this High Court as a kind hearted and sensitive human being.

Shri V.T.Walawalkar was born in January 1920. He completed his Bachelor of Arts in Wilson College and completed his law degree from Govt. College. He enrolled as an Advocate in this very High Court in 1944 and continued being so till his last breath. It is said that "Soldier never quits till dies" and Shri. Walawalkar proved this right in every sense of the word as he breathed his last while arguing before this very Court. After being at bar for 16 years, he accepted the Judgeship of the City Civil and Sessions Court in 1961 but thereafter resigned the Judgeship in 1966.

As a lawyer Shri V.T.Walawalkar had enormous grasping power, deep intellect, sharp memory. He not only possessed a deep understanding of law but also had a very practical approach to the functioning of the legal system. He was deeply committed to the cause of rule of law and always stood up for what was right. He was a nationalist who always had national issues deeply embedded in him and for which he always showed concern in his overt and covert action.

He always struggled to fight against injustice and to uphold the rule of law and his detention in Yerwada Central Jail during the emergency bears ample testimony to this. His commitment to improve the conditions in which the lawyers work in general and juniors in particular was par excellence. He served as a President of the Advocates Association of Western India for the year 1974-75 and again in the year 1978-79. His love for books made him work tirelessly as a trustee of Kirtikar Library Trust from 1966 onwards till August 2008. His commitment to provide legal services to people who are not in a position to afford it made him work on the legal committees for more than 15 years.

Looking at his vast legal experience, Govt. of Maharashtra appointed him on a committee to study the Belgaum Karwar Water Dispute and advise the Govt. of Maharashtra to file a suit against Govt. of Karnataka. He always was concerned about junior advocates and I can say from my personal experience that whenever a junior advocate had a problem or was in a tight situation before any Judge in this Hon'ble Court, he would always appear for the junior in the junior's matter. In fact, this was his advise to all the juniors at the bar and because of his warmth, juniors felt at ease with him.

On a personal front, he has groomed his children to contribute to the society and his children are carrying forward the torch which his father lit.

He was not only a legal stalwart, but a devoted and a sincere human being whose love for the nation took precedence over everything. His contribution to the development of law will be talked about in this court for a very long time to come. The death of Shri V.T.Walawalkar is a personal blow to me and in his passing away, we have not only lost a great lawyer but a great human being too.

In this hour of grief, I share my heart-felt condolence with Shri V.T.Walawalkar's family.

May God almighty give them the strength to bear this huge loss with grace. May the noble soul rest in peace.

Address by Mr. Vinayak Walawalkar, Chairman, Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa, at the Full Court Reference to Shri V.L. Walawalkar on 4th December, 2008.

Hon'ble Chief Justice, Judges of Bombay High Court, Mr. Kadam, Advocate General of Maharashtra, Mr. Raghuvanshi, Additional Solicitor General of India (Western Region), Mr. Ashok Mundargi, President of Advocates' Association of Western India, Mr. Rohit, Kapadia, President of Bombay Bar Association, Mr. P.A. Jani, Vice-President of Bombay Incorporated Law Society, members of Walawalkar family, ladies and gentlemen.

Vinayak Trivikram Walawalkar, a Great Legal Personality of the Bombay High Court passed away while presenting his last case before this High Court on 1st September, 2008. At the age of 88, he was strong and committed to the cause of litigant. His last argument was the Bombay High Court view on the interpretation of Hindu Law is correct view.

Late Mr. Walawalkar, popularly known as Bhau, was full of exuberance. Law was his religion. A straight forward man with a complete conviction to his ideology never allowed any compromise for his democratic principles. He had the strongest will power for toiled litigants. He always commanded respect from entire judiciary and legal fraternity. His mere appearance in the Court made change of attitudes. He never allowed anybody to disturb the decorum of the court, neither the Advocate nor the Judge.

Sometime in early Nineties, I remember the incident in Court No. 10. Justice S.M. Daud (Retd.) said in open court when Bhau was representing erring officers of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation. He said "Sir you are one of the last stalwarts of this Bombay High Court and but for your advise to your officer, the High Court refrains from observing anything against the Officer. Because your advice is more punitive to your officer than our remarks". I was present and I could feel the great respect for this doyen of the Bar.

His word in the Court was the last dictat. His opinion in the Court was command. His views on social issues were thought

provoking process. He never bowed down to any pressure, whether social, judicial or political. Every person listening to him was amazed and overwhelmed by his aura of environs.

He believed in one principle, Justice for common man. He wrote books when he was not working in the courts. I have not seen a senior Advocate who was so soft but with rigid expectations from junior advocates. He always taught Junior Advocates about their appearance, preparations and presentation in the Court.

He suffered jail term for 19 months during Emergency of 1975. What he did in those critical days is an experience to learn. His old friend, Mr.C.K.@ Bapu Parulekar, Senior Advocate from Ratnagiri, and one his disciples and present Bar Councillor Mr.Nandu Phadke, who were jail mates of Bhau, always tell stories of Bhau with regard to his views on Freedom of Expression. Records of Yerawada Prison speak volumes of his greatness and human touch.

He was the Trustee of Kirtikar Law Library. He took all the efforts to develop the Library. He always wanted Junior Advocates to take advantage of the Library. Such was the concern for young Bar.

I was one of the persons who on many occasions received advice from Bhau for my opinions, my programmes, and I always felt encouraged by his guidance and observations. He believed in the fact that an advocate learns by experience and his advice helped me to improve myself. Few days before his death when he was commenting on my election as Chairman of Bar Council, he advised me that, I quote 'If you want to be a strong Chairman of the Bar Council, be vigilant with clear conscience and work for betterment of system for litigant'.

He was the counselor of many erring advocates and he could reprimand them if they commit mistake. He had a typical style of making statement about political situation with Konkani beginning and nobody was offended because he was Bhau. He crossed all the religions and classes and tried his level best to advise us how to be a good law officer..

On behalf of the Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa, I pay my respects to departed soul for his great contribution to the legal fraternity. I convey my deep condolences to the members of the family. May the great soul rest in peace.

Address by Mr. Rohit Kapadia, President of the Bombay Bar Association at the Full Court Reference to Shri V.T. Walawalkar on 4th December, 2008.

My Lord the Hon'ble Chief Justice and the other Hon'ble Judges, my colleagues here, members of the bereaved family and friends,

Not so long ago we gathered here to condole the said passing away of Mr. M.A. Rane. We find ourselves here on another sad occasion.

Vinay Walawalkar, the name was always associated with a wizened gentleman whose tenacity as an advocate was matched only by his courtesy to Judges and kindness to his opponents.

Amongst the first memories I had, when I had just joined the Bar, was the then unusual news of a sitting Judge of the City Civil Court quitting his post. I was then too junior to fathom his reasons but I am sure he had many. His popularity rose and in 1974 he was elected President of the Western India Advocates Association.

From 1975 to 1977 he was detained in jail as a political prisoner. Why? Did the Government think that he was a threat to our nation's security? But then, during the emergency, such inexplicable happenings were not uncommon.

The Bar, however, perceived the detention for what it was, brushed it aside and re-elected him President of the Advocates Association of Western India in 1978.

With the passing away of Mr. Walawalkar, the Bar has lost an erudite and fearless lawyer lawyer who staunchly believed in principles and convictions.

On behalf of the Bombay Bar Association and on my own behalf, I extend my deepest condolences to the members of his family.

~~Address by Mr. Ashok P. Mundargi, President, Advocates
Association of Western India, at the Full Court Reference to Shri
V.T. Walawalkar on 4th December, 2008.~~

Hon'ble the Chief Justice Shri Swatankerkumar and other Hon'ble Judges of this Hon'ble Court, Shri Ravi Kadam, Advocate General of Maharashtra, Shri Rajendra Raghuwanshi, Additional Solicitor General of India, Shri Rohit Kapadia, President, Bombay Bar Association, Shri Rajiv Patil, Chairman, Bar Council of Maharashtra, Shri Jani, Vice President of the Incorporated Law Society, members of the family of late Shri V.T. Walawalkar, my colleagues at the Bar, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Shri V.T. Walawalkar was born at Malvan into a well educated family. His father Shri T.N. Walawalkar was a renowned lawyer practicing on the Appellate Side. Shri V.T. Walawalkar after his early schooling at Malvan came to Bombay. He graduated from the Wilson College and then obtained his LL.B. Degree from the Government Law College. From 1944, Shri Walawalkar practiced on the Appellate Side. He was one of those few lawyers who had the acumen to be equally proficient while conducting civil trials, criminal trials as well as civil and criminal appeals.

Shri V.T. Walawalkar was kindhearted and during his career he had endeared himself to one and all who knew him. Shri Walawalkar believed that he was in this profession to render service to litigants and not to amass wealth.

Shri Walawalkar was appointed as a Judge of the City Civil and Sessions Court in 1961. He was calm, studious and considerate as a Judge and in a few years would have graced the bench of this High Court. However, due to personal reasons he resigned as a Judge in 1966 and again started practicing in this Hon'ble Court.

Shri Walawalkar has a long service oriented association with the R.S.S. He did pioneering social work for various social organizations which conducted hospitals in rural areas. He was amongst the top hierarchy of the R.S.S. And on this account, he was detained at Yerwada during the days of the Emergency, from October

1975 to March, 1977. After his release from Jail, he did not seek any laurels but continued silently his political work. He remained in the background and did not hanker after political office. He believed that real social work was always done silently, without fanfare, out of personal earnings. He showed interest in social work, rather than become a political worker at public expense. Shri Walawalkar contributed to the R.S.S. But did not seek any benefits and political gain from his work for the said organization.

Shri Walawalkar was a father figure of our Association. In his long innings of 64 years at the Bar he was twice elected as President of our Association in the year 1974-75 and 1978-79.

Shri Walawalkar was admired and respected by each and every member of our Bar. Many lawyers always went to him with their personal difficulties and leaving aside his busy schedule, Shri Walawalkar was always there to help and guide them.

Shri Walawalkar was known for his honesty and integrity. Judges and lawyers of this Court held him in high esteem and respected him for his simplicity and kindness.

On the day previous to his death which was a Sunday, Shri Walawalkar had gone all alone in a taxi to Malad to visit the house of Advocate O.S. Sawant, our Member, who had undergone heart surgery some time before. He had made enquiries about Shri Sawant's health and comforted him while wishing a speedy recovery. Such genuine concern was shown by him to all who were in difficulties.

Many relations of Shri Walawalkar are practicing in this Hon'ble High Court, while one is a sitting Judge, his son Shri Narendra Walawalkar is a Senior Advocate of this Hon'ble Court.

On 1st September, 2008, whilst arguing an appeal in our Court, Shri Walawalkar felt giddy and sank in his chair. The next iminute he was no more.

One recalls Jawaharlal Nehru's words on Mahatma Gandhi's death.

"There was perfect artistry in his death. He died suddenly as all of us should wish to die."

On behalf of the Advocates Association of Western India, I express my heartfelt condolences to the family members of late Shri V.T. Walawalkar and pray to the God to let the departed soul rest in eternal peace.

Address by Mr. Priyahas A. Jani. Vice-President. The Bombay Incorporated Law Society. at the Full Court Reference to Shri V.I. Walavalkar on 4th December. 2008.

My Lord the Hon'ble the Chief Justice and the Judges of this Hon'ble Court, Mr. Ravi Kadam, Advocate General, Mr. Rajendra Raghuvanshi, Additional Solicitor General of India, Western Region, Mr. Rajiv Patil, Chairman of the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa, Mr. Rohit Kapadia, President of the Bombay Bar Association and Mr. Ashok Mundargi, President of the Western India Advocates Association,

It is with deep sorrow that I, on behalf of the members of the Bombay Incorporated Law Society, associate myself with the sentiment, which have been expressed here.

It is really a sad occasion but we can only take consolation in the fact that, The one that is born death is certain but uncertain is when, where and how. There is no cure for birth and death. Therefore only thing for us is to enjoy the interval and not treat it as troublesome.

Born in January 1920, on 1st September, 2008, at the age of 89 whilst on his leg before the Court Shri Vinayak Trivikram Walavalkar took his last breath. A death many of us would wish to come. Shri Walavakar was enrolled in 1944 as an Advocate and remained in the profession of law as an Advocate or as a Judge for almost 65 years. Being politically active fighting for fundamental human rights during emergency Shri Walavalkar was sent to Yerwada Jail.

I pray tribute to the departed soul on behalf of the members of the Bombay Incorporated Law Society and on my own behalf. In passing away of Shri Walavalkar we who knew him well have lost a warm friend and an able Advisor. A senior upon whom all juniors could depend.

I was not so fortunate to meet Shri Walavalkar in my practice of law but I was fortunate to have met him otherwise and each time I have met him I have learnt the qualities of an able

L~wyer. Observing Mr. Walavalkar in his conversation with a client or a colleague or a Junior I have learnt humility. But when it came to putting forward case of a client Shri Walawalkar was determined to ensure that the point put across to the Court is considered by the Court.

Shri Walavalkar believed that, Death is nothing to us, since when we are, the death has not come, and when the death comes we are not there.

I respectfully join my Lords and my colleagues in th prayer that the soul of Shri Walavalkar may rest in eternal peace and his abiding memories may live for long. I extend on behalf of the Bombay Incorporated Law Society condolence to the members of his family.

May the soul of Shri Walavalkar rest in eternal peace.