



Smt. Sunderbai Hansraj Pragji Thackersey

(11-06-1885 to 12-01-1980)

Smt. Sunderbai, a soul of religion and education, selfless service and philanthropy, had lived a meaningful life, just short of only five years, to become a Centenarian.

At just the blooming age of 12 years, she was honoured with the nuptial sanctity in the year 1897, with **Shri Hansraj Pragji Thackersey**, the grand son of Shri Thackersey Muljiseth. At a very young age, Shri Hansraj Pragji Thackersey had settled down well in business and won laurels in the social and political arena as well.

At the age of 39 years, having lived a wedded life for 27 years, the cruel fate snatched away from her, Sheth Shri Hansraj. At that time, though miserably bereaved of the life's partner, her profound faith in Almighty and her religious mental spirit, accorded in her great courage and strength, to take up faithfully and creatively all the responsibilities of unfulfilled assignments and cherished dreams of her loving counter-part.

She created a Trust, "**Hansraj Pragji Thackersey Education Fund**" in memory of her late husband and from its corpus, set up the Hansraj Pragji Thackersey Girl's School.

She channelised her wealth for many good causes. Her donations for the development and maintenance of educational institutions in Dwarka and a college at Nasik are worth the note in the history of the progress of education for girls.

She had made a royal donation to Vanita Vishram, at Bombay and Surat, and offered her devoted services, for about three decades, on its Managing Committee.

She also encouraged many students to go abroad for studies or business. For more than half century, this spacious building at Maharshi Karve Road (Queen's Road) stands monument, now housing the Gujarati medium **H. P. T. Girl's School**, an English medium - **The Blossoms Sunderbai Thackersey English High School**, and a large Assembly Hall, popularly known as **Sunderbai Hall**.

She was also one of the pioneers and the main supporter of the Bhatia General Hospital, which she equipped with the latest equipment and made it as one of the leading hospitals. Here she rendered her services as the Hon. Secretary for many years.

She, under the close association with Lady Premlila Thackersey, her nearest relative, the founder of the S.N.D.T. Women's University, Mumbai, had directed her donations to this University and to-day, in her memory, stands SHPT School of Library Science and SHPT College of Science at Mumbai and one of the Sections of Polytechnic of this University at the Juhu Campus. She was a member of the Senate of this University, for a number of years.

The heritage she has left behind her, is benevolently utilised with the same zeal and spirit, bearing in mind her ideals of life, by her devoted loyal Trustees, who execute her cherished dreams, with no axe to grind.

**She had lived a life in the service of humanity,
keeping her goal, "Work is Worship".**