

## Life-Sketch

### SHRIMANT GANESH KRISHNA KHAPARDE

[*Member of State Council 1918-1936*]

[*B. 1854-D. 1938*]

GANESH Krishna Khaparde (B. 1854-D. 1938) was born on *Ganesh Chaturthi* in the year 1854. He is well known as Dadasaheb Khaparde. He was born in Hyderabad State at Ingoli village. He took his education upto matriculation at Nagpur, Umaraoti and Akola. During his student days he studied Sanskrit under the famous Sanskrit Scholar Narayanshastri Pinjarkar. He took his higher education in Bombay in the Elphinstone College. He passed his B. A. in 1877 and became a fellow of the college. He passed his LL. B., degree in 1883, and joined the Government service as Extra Assistant Commissioner in which capacity he worked from 1884 to 89. He gave up service and became an Advocate to start an independent practice.

He soon made a name and became famous as a pleader both on the Criminal and Appellate sides. He was elected Vice-Chairman of the Umaraoti Municipality in 1895. He was also President of the Local Board from 1889 to 1907.

He was elected President of the Social Conference held at Nagpur in 1892 and also Chairman of the Reception Committee of the Indian National Congress at Umaraoti in 1897.

Dadasaheb Khaparde came in contact with Lokmanya B. G. Tilak and became his devoted friend in the famous Tai Maharaj case. Baba Maharaj was a rich Jahagirdar of Kolhapur whose daughter was the daughter-in-law of Dadasaheb. When Baba Maharaj was on the death bed he made a Will making Dadasaheb and Lok. Tilak Trustees of his Jahagir. The friendship thus created by

chance became firm and finally Dadasaheb became a close friend, philosopher, a camp follower, an ardent admirer and trusted colleague of Lok. B. G. Tilak.

In 1907, at the Surat Congress he played a singular role along with Tilak in posing a strong opposition to Sir P. M. Mehta. This, was naturally not to the liking of the Government which by a fiat dismissed him from the Presidentship of the Local Board. This action of the Government created a great furore and all elected members resigned their seats in protest.

When Lok. Tilak was given 6 years R. I. by the Bombay Government, Dadasaheb tried his best to help him and continued his efforts in India as also in Great Britain. He went all the way to London and by meeting friends who were convinced about the injustice done to Tilak tried to bring pressure on British Government to release him. From London he went to Mandalay-Burma to meet Lok. Tilak and returned home after two and a half years. In the meanwhile he lost his mother.

After Lok. Tilak's release he took prominent part in politics as a spokesman of Lok. Tilak. He was offered the Presidentship of the Belgaon Provincial Political Conference by Lok. Tilak. Later he took part in Montagu Reforms talks and went to England as a delegate of the Home Rule League. He made a number of speeches in England and became popular by his wit and humour and fine mannerisms and was described as 'Mark Twain' by some news-papers. He remained in England for more than seven months.

Dadasaheb was elected to the Council of States in 1918 in the New Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms, and was member of the Council till 1936.

He hurried to Bombay when he learnt about the illness of Lok. Tilak. He was with him till his death. He continued to take part in politics but after the rise of Gandhiji, with his philosophy of non-violent-non-cooperation, he was relegated to the background.

Shrimant Dadasaheb was known for his philanthropy. His house at one time was not only the seat of nascent politics but a get together for students, scholars, discourses, sermonisers and the like. Dadasaheb became a veteran leader and those coming into contact with him, were duly impressed by his devotion, forthrightness, disciplined behaviour, patience and perseverance. He passed away at the ripe age of 84 at his house at Umaroti. He was rightly nicknamed 'Nawab of Vidarbha'.

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