



## Who is a Parsi? Prochy N Mehta

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- The book looks back at the glorious 400 years' history of the Parsi Community
- A detailed analysis of court cases which reveals through transcripts the true picture of the Parsi community
- A well-researched and liberally-illustrated book

In this book the author takes the reader through a detailed analysis of the court cases and seeks to reveal through transcripts the true picture of the community. She unveils the history of an ancient Persian trading community, the 'Persees' or 'Persians', familiar with the sea route to India from before 500 BCE, living as a tribe among the Hindus, and narrates how they rediscovered their religion and their ancient connection with Persia.

The author depicts the dichotomy of the community in the 20th century, between the orthodox and the reformist groups and explains the anomaly of how the reformists who followed the original Mazdayasna or Parsi religion, constituted the real orthodoxy. It was a reform movement led by the high priests of the community and the most influential members of society, for a return to the pristine purity of the original Zoroastrian Religion. This book documents, through letters, articles in the newspapers, and transcripts from court cases, the views of those brave men, Dadabhoy Navroji, Ratan D. Tata, Ratan J. Tata, Sir Dinshaw Maneckji Petit, Sir Jehangir Cawasjee Jehangir, Rustomji Byramji Jeejeebhoy, Homi J. Bhabha, K.R. Cama, and many others who had the courage to stand up and fight for what they believed in, that Parsi and Zoroastrian meant the same thing.

**Prochy Mehta** is a daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, school leader and topper, and a highly successful sportsperson. She represented West Bengal in hockey and basketball, and India in Masters Athletics. She has won 71 medals at international athletic meets including 52 gold medals. A recipient of the Ladies Study Group Award for contribution to the field of sport and the Federation of Parsi Anjuman of India Award for Sports, Mehta is also the president of the Athletic Coaches Association of Bengal. She is the first female president of the Calcutta Parsee Club.