



IIT KANPUR 1977-78

A GOOD CAT DESERVES A GOOD RAT

Welcome to the strange world of the Senate, where black is white and white is black; where right is wrong and wrong is right; where confusion runs riot and obfuscators have a field day; where anything under the sun may be discussed as long as it is irrelevant; where censure motions and allegations are hurled about as freely as the darts in the pandal; where much heat is generated but no light. The political skirmishes fought here between the fiercely bearded, intensely bespectacled left wing intellectuals in their *khadi kurtas* and the loud-voiced, close cropped rightist goons encased in their khakhi pantaloons is a treat to watch,

The role of the Senate can best be summed up in this quotation by Bertrand Russell: 'My conception of hell is a large, dimly lit conference room, where the damned sit around a table. The chairman rises and says "Well, now that this point is settled, we shall proceed to the next item on the agenda". The devil rises and says "With regard to the last item, I express my reservations about your clarification." And so it goes on till eternity. ,

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The Senate  
(A comedy in one act)

CAST: Bhaskar Bhattacharya, A fifth year Senator, much addicted to wearing specs and *khadi kurtas* and who has been trying to grow a beard ever since he was so high.

Takru: Student president, devastatingly attractive, a brilliant administrator, a tremendous intellectual .....

Prof. Singh: Takru's wingmate, who is not a senator, but is the only person not to have missed a single Senate meeting.

V. Prasad: A very interesting phud senator who has a vocabulary of 200 words or just 197 if 'student finance sub-committee' is counted as one word.

Also, BPS (Benevolent phud senator), Mathe, Nityanand, A. Tandon and many- others;

(All-the characters in this play are entirely fictitious and any resemblance to persons living or dead is purely coincidental)

SCENE: The SAC conference room, The horse-shoe shaped table crowded with the leftists on the left and rightists and Takru's wingmates on the right and the :president, the cult secy and company in the middle. Nityanand, the Convener, calls the meeting to order. The house has just ratified the minutes of the last freak out.

Nityanand: (licking his lips) "We are here to vote on a censure motion against Mr. Bhaskar Bhattacharya proposed by Mr. SSR Prasad. It reads 'Mr..Bhattacharya has been constantly trying to denigrate the :president (ahem!) with the intention of denigrating the senate before the student body. He has been constantly distorting, misreporting and even fabricating conversations..... . Would Mr. Prasad say a few words on his resolution?"

Mr. SSP Prasad: (a PG senator who wears his hair like a shoe brush) "You know Bhaskar, I have a great trust in you *yaar* and a lot of confidence in your abilities as a senator and I know your' intentions were not really bad when you proposed a censure motion against Takru, but the basic reason why I am censuring you is that there is no reason why I should not."

(Excited murmur amongst thee senators)

Bhaskar: "Thanks Mr. Prasad, for the censure motion against me. But all I did was to report to the senate of a couple of conversations I had with Tandon. Takru and Nityanand. That's all."

Tandon: (Cult. secy, if you forget) (clearing his throat impressively) "Mr.Bhattacharya, Takru heah sez something different from what you say, I heah say something different from what you say....Nityanand oveh theh sez, something different. Three against one. What do you .say for this?"

(The murmur that had pervaded a paragraph ago develops into a full bull session)

Prof. Singh: (whose voice stands :above the noise, being the noisiest) "What bloody . conspiracy! It was this Bhattacharya who gheraoed the academic senate when they were deciding the SC-ST expulsion issue. He forced them not to expel anyone."

,S. K. Agarrwal: "Rogu."

V. Chandra: "Disgust!!"

Mathe: "Boo."

V. Chandra: "Boo to you. (sticks out his tongue at Mathe)

Mathe: "Stop!! It is a lie. I did the gherao and not Bhaskar. "

Takru: "Exactly! Why did Mr. Bhattacharya incite you to do it? After all there is a right way and a wrong way of doing things."

V. Chandra: (Jumping enthusiastically). The right way is Takru's way, the wrong way is 'the other man's way.'

Mathe: (heatedly) "OK!! Suppose your sister is being raped ...."

Nityanand: (Reeling with shock and rapping furiously on the table) "Mr. Mathe... ..Mr. Mathe.....decorum....decorum.. ... I must insist...I must insist..." (collapses speechless)

Mathe: "Don't laugh. It 's not funny. Suppose your sister is raped today, will you sit out here and pass resolutions?"

(Tandon opens his mouth, but decides to close it. There is a prolonged growling which threatens to swell into violence. At this point, Bhaskar starts on a long and intensely boring lecture on the SC-ST problem from '69 to the present day and he harangues about what is to be done. Meanwhile, drowsiness grips the house)

Benevolent phud Senator: "Listen *yaar*, Mr. Convener. I have got an important issue. We must name the single bedroom apartments as the Married Students hostel."

First year Senator: "But we are here to discuss the censure motion. "

BPS: "No no. You don't understand, *yaar*. This matter is very serious. The existing accommodation is already full and there are 40 people in the wedding list .. err... waiting list.."

*Dehaat* Senator: "Let us put *phor* vote."

(In the confusion, the Games secretary' s voice can be heard.)

Games Secretary: "So, we have been so far discussing the games budget. The budget reads Rs. 61002 and it needs Rs. 17000 more and so, in total we need Rs. 78002."

V. Prasad: (interrupting) "But 61000 + 17000 is 9060."

Takru: "No no, it is 12000."

*Dehaat* Senator: "Let us put *phor bote yaar*."

Another Senator: "Rightist liar. It is only 40000."

V. Prasad: "What are 'Games', *yaar*?"

Left Senator: "Let us hurry up. We don't have all the time in the world or I will be late for the revolution."

SSR Prasad: "So I would like the house to consider the censure motion I humbly proposed."

Games Secretary: "But wait!! The Games budget!!! We must hurry it up. The players are waiting on the cricket field for the ball."

BPS: “So *Bhaat!!!?! Couples* are waiting *yaar*, to change the name to Married Students Hotel .....er.....er ,hostel.”

*Dehaati* Senator: “Let us put *phor bote*.”

V. Prasad: “He is lying! He’s lying!!” (pointing his finger vaguely at everybody)

(The chaps on the left and the right of the table are by now straining at each other. The boisterous sounds of senators carousing provide a racy orchestration to plaintive wails of ‘scoundrel/who,me?/Yes you’ etc. The SAC cafeteria bearer makes a dramatic entry with a tray loaded with cups)

Tandon: (Shouting with joy) “Let us not vitiate the atmospheh any. longeh. Let’s have *chai*.”

BPS: “In the larger interests of the student body, I withdraw my resolution. Let me beg of Mr. SSR Prasad to withdraw his censure motion. Pass the tea, please.”

SSR Prasad: (sipping his tea) “Okay, I withdraw.”

*Dehaati* Senator: “Let us put *phor* vote.:

Gamesh secretary: “What was I saying about the budget?”

Nityanand: (Noisily drinking tea) “I declare the meeting adjourned.”

Malik: “I suggest for the next meeting, we pass a censure motion against Mr. SSR Prasad, who tried to pass a censure motion against Bhaskar Bhattacharya who.....”

(Fades out of hearing distance as the members rush out of the room like the evil contents of the Pandora’s box)

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All these years, the senators have served the community selflessly and thanklessly, by passing resolutions and preparing demand charters etc. to improve the general welfare. Should they decide to improve their own welfare, they might prepare a demand charter similar to this:

### **THE SENATORS’ CHARTER OF DEMANDS**

1. The senators must be considered above suspicion and must be held in highest esteem throughout the land.
2. The director must refrain from displaying temper tantrums. Not more than one resignation per month will be tolerated.
3. The senators should be doled out a special ‘No work’ and monthly allowance.

4. The dogs in the campus should cease copulating henceforth.
5. Arrangement should be made to publish the senate proceedings in the 'Pioneer', along with live coverage on IIT TV.
6. There should be total de-centralisation in all departments and in all spheres. We could begin with 'De-central workshop', 'Health de-centre' and Kanpur de-central railway station. Each senator should be permitted to set his own exams.
7. All people should speak the truth. The cold war between the USA and the USSR should cease immediately.
8. Senate meeting should be held once a week; at the Bunty's, with booze on the house.
9. In view of the erratic transportation facilities, a tempo should be made available for the exclusive use of the senators. This should be parked permanently in front of the Director's home.

THESE DEMANDS ARE ABSOLUTELY NON-NEGOTIABLE AND SHOULD BE ACCEPTED IN TOTO WITHIN TWENTY FOUR HOURS, FAILING WHICH THE SENATE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO TAKE THEM BACK.

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## CLASSIFIED ADS

**BOOKS:** *'Encyclopedia of Senatorial practices'* (Complete and unabridged)

Pp 34. 64 colour illustrations. Hard-bound library edition.

'Brilliantly articulated...the wit is dazzling.' The New Yorker.

'Flamboyant sexual imagination'' Illustrated London News.

An invaluable handbook for every senator containing rules and regulations of student senate, code of ethics, addendum to the present constitution, glossary of terms and errata. Definition of words that every senator should have on fingertips, like Point of order, Resolution, Closed-door, In-camera and *Chai*.

**Sample:** AGENDA Noun. Pl. of Agendum. Just like *tinda* and *tindum* and gymkhana and gymkhanum.

## **Inflections of the word:**

Angendahi agendahu agendaahi  
Agendabhyam, agendeshu, agendani

I agend; you agended; we agends  
I am agending; thou art agendeth; we will agent.

**Antonym** – GENDA (see also ‘Minutes, hours and seconds’)

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**PERSONAL** – *Takru, return from Lucknow. All is forgiven. You can see ‘Manoranjan’ as many times as you like. Tandon worried. – Nityanand.*

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The TV Centre is fast becoming an endangered species. Watch TV every day. (This is an authentic ad)

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**The Hall IV-Hall 1 ‘Cold war’, is fast reaching a crescendo. What started off as a TV war that was being fought on ideological grounds may soon turn out to be a bloody civil war to be fought on the playgrounds. That is when we received this letter, a la Gettysburg speech. We hope this letter soothes the warring nerves.**

## **A PHUD HITS BACK HARD**

Dearest Respectfullable Friends,

I is watching with very, very great melancholy wall-poster campaign against phuds. I is phud for last fourteen year and I never, never see such merciless behaviour from undies. Other day, I is walking in Hall I on way to research laboratory. I stop very suddenly. In Hall I notice board there is very very big poster. Poster say "Down with phuds. Last night we was going see TV. in Hall IV. But we were prevented from entering by some phuds saying we aren't residents of Hall IV. I request your co-operation in seeing that no phud allowed to enter Hall I." Signed Illegible. I is shocked. I is started to trembling with angriness. I face opposite direction and walk back straight to Nair Canteen.

There I meet my dearest friends. I fell them about this. I also tell Nair about this,. My friend say "The undies are coming. They coming to our mess, our reading room, our TT room, our Carrom room, even our lavatory room". Nair say

"Undies taking over my canteen." I is very hotly angry. I order 2 *lassis* and I *uttapam* from Nair. I cool down. Then my friends also want to cool down. So I order 23 *lassi* for them. Then Nair want cool down. I order one more *lassie*. Everyone cool down. But my research work for that day completely spoiled. My friends research work also spoiled. All of us very melancholy. Only Nair happy. My pocket empty.

Because of undies we is spending so many years of our childhood doing research. But undies must know, without research country not prosper. Country not prosper, we not prosper. Undies must behave very kindly to us. We is so old to be your father. Some of us so old to be your grandfather. We behave very kindly to undies like our own very beloved sons. You also must respect us like your father and grandfather.

I travelling to my research lavatory now. I is requesting Cheshire Cat write this letter in your wall magazine. Then I hoping your heart filling with sorry. Then you can come and comfort me and we smoking one Charminar and eating one sweet like real father and son.

I is waiting everyday, Nair Canteen when clock is between 7 a.m. and 3 a.m. Then everyone be happy.

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Thank you,

PHD Rao

**PUBLISHED BY A FEW GUYS**

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