

44 yrs after marriage, couple parts ways

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“AFTER THIS divorce, I will go home with a heavy heart,” said Justice D.Y. Chandrachud while granting divorce to a Parsi couple who separated after 44 years of married life.

The couple — Shirin (72) and Farhad (78) (names changed) — was granted divorce by the Bombay High Court on Monday after both decided against reconciliation. After the divorce, the duo will stay in neighbouring flats in Byculla.

Farhad agreed to pay Rs 45 lakh as one-time alimony.

After discussions, Farhad agreed to pay Rs 5 lakh for Shirin’s treatment (as she is not entitled to mediclaim benefits) and Rs 5 lakh to forfeit her rights in properties owned by the couple jointly.

In 2007, Shirin had sought divorce on grounds of mental and physical harassment.

She claimed that her husband and his family had been torturing her and also alleged that her husband used to beat her and their son.

In a last ditch attempt to save the marriage, Justice Chandrachud spoke to the couple, their daughter and counsels. He asked the daughter if she had tried to patch up differences between her parents. “Till the time I was living with them, I tried...” said the daughter.

Farhad’s counsel Vivek Kantawala said there was no chance of reconciliation.

Observing that it was better for the couple to part ways, the judge granted divorce to the couple under Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act.

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