

Selected Gems From Gujarati Khshnoomic Writings

[We are starting this new feature, from the present issue. Let us explain what its aim is and what it will contain.

What is 'Khshnoom'? As is now well known, the word occurs in Gatha Ha 53-2 and 48-12. Its meaning, as given by the renowned Gujarati translator, Ervad Kavasji Kanga, is "Din no Elam" — the knowledge of Religion. Spiegel's meaning is 'contentment' in Ha 48-12 and 'wisdom' in Ha 53-2. Harlez's: 'Knowledge'; Darmesteter: something akin to 'delight' or 'joy' or 'ecstasy'; Mills: 'keen intelligence'.

If we fuse all these meanings we arrive at this definition of Khshnoom: "Knowledge of Religion, which creates ecstasy and which requires keen intelligence".

And that is what it is.

Religion is not merely a belief in God or observance of moral code. It is also Knowledge of Nature, the Science covering a speck of dust at the one end and Divine Light of Ahura at the other. It is the explanation, interpretation, revelation of Nature. And Nature does not come to an end where our senses cease to register it or our intelligence fails to grasp it. Hence the Science of Religion should and does deal with those regions, events and existences which are beyond the threshold of our experience. That means it is mysticism or mystic Science.

Khshnoom is the other name for the Mystic Science of Zarathushtrian Religion. It is interwoven in all our holy Scriptures and Writings.

The source of the present day Khshnoom is well known. Baheramshah Shroff revived it amongst us and his disciple Dr. Faramroz Chiniwala has written numerous books on it. At a conservative estimate his published writings cover 25000 printed pages!

You have two main difficulties in reading this vast literature. One is that you don't have time; the other is that it is in Gujarati and you may not be well versed to read it and absorb it. And yet you want to know.

Then, this column may give some faint satisfaction. We shall set out here English translation or version or interpretation or explanation of small passages taken from Gujarati Khshnoom writings. They will be on diverse subjects, sometimes elementary, sometimes advanced.

The current translations of our scriptures as derived from the Western studies appear to us lifeless and even primitive; they do not convey much meaning to us, nor do they inspire any devotion, which any religious writing should do. That is because the esoteric meanings of Avesta words are not known to the western studies. Only Khshnoom reveals them. Dr. Chiniwala has translated almost all our scriptures applying Khshnoomic meanings to the western methods. We'll give here some glimpses of such translations also.

Read and ponder, you will find that light is not far away

* * *

Daena, a Remedy, Not a mere Moral Code

Zarathushtrian Religion does not end by teaching just a moral code. It contains the remedy — "Baesheza" — to cure the diseases — "Tabesh" — which are fastened to the body, mind and soul. That is why it teaches the material as well as ultra-material and subtle constitution of each and every particle in the universe and prescribes the remedy for numerous kinds of diseases and miseries falling on them. The Zarathustrian practices and procedures — 'Tarikat's and ceremonies — 'Yasna' — are meant to be such remedies. — Dr. Chiniwalla, Nikeez — Vol. 2 — p. 3-kha.

* * *

Rationalism?

We see a lot of irrational things happening in the present allegedly rational time. It is common sense that you cannot give an opinion on a thing you have not understood or even known. But that very principle of rationalism is thrown to dogs! — Dr. Chiniwalla — Nikeez, Vol. 2, p. 4-kha.

* * *

Religion, not a matter of Personal Whims and Fancies !

The time has come when it has become absolutely essential to study Avesta Pahalvi languages in the light of the interpretations — "Taaveel" — contained in Khshnoom. That alone will cause the philological studies to

shine out. There is now no escape from bidding adieu to the so called Zoroastrian philosophies contained in big decorative volumes, which are based on purely personal and conjectural fancies, and from welcoming Khshnoom, which is the Daena's own original teaching, and is preserved since ages and referred to in the 'Gatha's. (53-2; 48-12; 31-3; 51-9.) — Phiroze Masani in the Preface to Nikeez. Vol. 2, page 36-ka.

* * *

Religion is not Static

"Whatever the Prophet Zarathushtra did and inspired His disciples to do, was all in consonance with His ages and times. (That was one whole structure of the Daena). For the periods of Time coming subsequently during the cycle of 81000 years (Darego Khadat), He revealed the Keys to sort out certain portions from the whole structure, depending upon the character of a particular epoch and the mental equipment, the spiritual constitution and the collective destiny' — Karma or Keshah — of the people born on earths during that epoch. This task was executed by the 'Soshyanta's or 'Raaenidar's from time to time. They were lofty souls having attained very high spiritual position, and were authorised and empowered by and under the Seal of the Prophet Himself Dastoor Adarbad Maraspand was the latest of such 'Soshyant's, who established his jurisdiction during the time of the Sassanian King, Shapoorshah Ahuramazda. The present form and structure of our Daena, all our current spiritual institutions, and all our manthra-prayers,

yasna ceremonies and traditions have been formulated by that Soshyant out of the grand structure originally established by Zarathushtra," — Dr. Chiniwalla in the Preface to Gatha Ha 28.

(Not that Religion does not require any change or that it is destined to remain static. It does require change and is in fact changed from time to time. But by whom? Not by those whose 'religion' is based on their own fads, whims, fancies, conjectures, speculations and shots-in-the-dark! The change is effected by those advanced Souls, who are, in Nature, ordained and empowered to do so and are sent amongst us specifically for that purpose.)

Creatures, Creations — and Man.

"In the 15th Kardah of Tir Yasht a very brief idea is given as to how many kinds of the creation of Spenamin are there on this Geity (earth). There are creations relating to Ganamin on the earth, but they are to be differentiated from the Spanamin creations. Amongst the latter, we can see those which are over the earth ("Oopairi Zemaishcha"), which include man, animals and vegetation. The present day world is unaware of the creatures under the earth ("Adairi Zemaishcha"). There is some information today regarding creatures living under water ("yaacha Upapa") though not complete. We cannot even imagine creatures living between earth, water and air (i.e. suspended in the air) ("Yaacha Upasma").

Creatures winged and flying (i.e. birds) ("yaacha frapterejan") are mostly known. Creatures which take short and long jumps (yaachia ravascharaan") are known though not all.

(The said Kardah further states that) the creatures and creations of the Nisti world are limitless and endless ("akar-na") and are also pure i.e. having Ashoi ("ashaono"). The present age is not destined even to imagine such creations. They are just discarded as airy myths. Tir Yashta describes them as "Tao akarna anagra ash-aono stish aaidi".

When the thoughts of all these creatures swing in harmony, Teshtar Tir Yazata gets strength to do his work.

Man is very special amongst all these creatures of Spenamin. If a human being stores truth in himself, does his duty and performs all actions as ordained by the Religion in which he is born, Teshtar is infused with limitless strength, so that the Renovation — Frashogard — of the whole creation comes nearer. This is one of the themes of Tir Yashta." — Dr. Chiniwalla in 'Tir Yashta' p. 39 and 120 (1975).

30 Minutes Enough to end the show of Man

"Some years ago, the stockpiles of nuclear weapons in the United States and USSR reached the explosive equivalent of about 15 tonnes of TNT for every man, woman, and child on earth. For the past six years, the United States has been making three hydrogen warheads per day—about 1,000 a year; and the USSR, of course keeps pace with us. And the nuclear arms potential of the USA and Russia is now 15 million tonnes of TNT. The stockpile of nuclear weapons with super powers has become the sword of Damocles hanging over humanity. Could you guess what would happen if the two giants were to attack each other for just half an hour, using their nuclear weapons? One needs to push the right buttons only, and all forms of life in this globe will be totally wiped out with that flick of a finger. It will hardly matter whether one's nation is at war or not. In your Hindu mythology there is a prophecy about a monstrous butcher—the Kalki Avatar. A nuclear holocaust will be that envisaged Kalki avatar. It will bring the Kaliyuga to an end."

—Dr. George Wald,
