

## NEW LIGHT ON "BUNAK PASBANI"

(The Conservation of the hereditary characteristics).

By Aramaiti S. Dhalla

Like Father, Like Daughter. The late Ervad Dr. Minocher D. Karkhanawalla was a well-known scientist and a staunch orthodox scholar. His only daughter, Aramaiti, besides rearing a family, as every good Zoroastrian should, has followed in his footsteps and is a research, as well as a student of the Zoroastrian religion in her own right.

Recently, when the Trustees of the Bombay Parsi Punchyat rightly refused to consign the body of a Parsee woman married to a non Parsee, a fiery controversy, totally unnecessary and avoidable, has been raging in the community.

Provoked by the wild and baseless statements made by those who support the irreligious stand of women married outside the community, Mrs. Aramaiti Dhalla has written this article, which admirably combines our ancient religious tenets and doctrines with the latest scientific experiments. Dini Avaz is grateful to Mrs. Dhalla.

According to Dinkard "You must know that one who is of Mazdayasnan religion is said to be of the Mazdayasnan religion by virtue of one's continuing the thought of Mazdayasnan religion."

The simple formula of our forefathers for the preservation & perpetuation of our religion was 'Bunyak Pasbam' the conservation of the hereditary characteristics. We are the preservers of the seed and keep the procreative power in the natural sound condition, continue the origin of species pure & keep our

thoughts supremely great.

The Holy Vandidad has banned marriage between a Mazdayasni & a non-mazdayasni. In the Zoroastrian religion marriage is not merely the union of the physical bodies, but a sacred covenant entered into in the name of Ahura Mazda.

*Our marriage ceremony includes:-*

(i) Nahan-drinking of the sacred Nirang consecrated by the Nirangdin Ceremonies and the recitation of powerful Manthras. It is for mental, physical & spiritual purification of the parties entering holy matrimony.

(ii) The tying of the knot with powerful recitation of 'Yatha Ahu Vairyo' in front of the fire & witness.

(iii) The benediction (Ashirwad), wherein Avestic Manthras are specially recited with Pazend Prayers, as the parties are to be joined not just physically, but mentally & spiritually.

The only marriage recognized by the religion is that performed according to the religious tenets & practices and these practices are clearly outlined in Parsi Marriage & Divorce Act.

And so when a girl, Parsi by birth, enters into a contract for a civil marriage with a non-Mazdayasni boy & whether her marriage is legally blessed by the state with a certificate or not, from the Zoroastrian point of view any cohabitation between Mazdayasni and a non-

Mazdayasni is sinful adultery. As the marriage is not performed according to the Parsi Marriage & Divorce Act, that girl voluntarily and automatically goes out of the fold, the question of her professing Zoroastrian religion even after such marriage does not arise. She is from the religious point of view a NON-ZOROASTRIAN and is to be treated as such.

Having voluntarily opted to marry a non-Mazdayasni, the option is not hers whether to retain the religion or not. If she had a genuine desire to retain the religion, she would not have in the first place decided of her OWN ACCORD and FREE WILL to marry outside the community and thus act contrary to the religious injunctions, and in a manner prejudicial to the very existence of the community.

It is also pertinent to stress that the Special Marriage Act of 1954, neither gives any special right to people entering into a civil marriage with a non-zoroastrian in so far as religion is concerned, nor does it compel the community to accept them as Parsi Zoroastrians after their marriage. These issues have been purposely confused by those interested in such marriages.

All laws of civil marriage by their very nature apply only to the civil or legal aspects and not to the religious aspects. In all religious matters, the members of a religious community were governed by the religious or canonical laws & they continue to be so governed.

According to Zoroastrian marriages, each partner so to speak complements and supplements the other, thereby "completing" one another. Such a fulfilment of mental spiritual bliss and well being can only be achieved between the two partners only when they breathe the same faith, tenets & practices.

According to ILM -I- KSHNOOM the RAVAN has two different entities, namely,

- (i) the *Sharif* - male counterpart
- (ii) the *Khasees* - female counterpart.

When the *Sharif* merges into the *Khasees* in the Ultra-physical Universe where the Atash Mino Karko is, then only *Khaetodath* takes place.

Both husband / wife must be of Parsi-Zoroastrian birth, of the same Mazdayasnian stock, for *khaetodath* to take place. But who bothers about all this? If one cannot marry according to Parsi Marriage Act, one can satisfy the lustful desires by contracting civil marriage.

(a) When a girl marries, even in international law, the female takes the name and is entitled to the nationality of her husband. The children too take the name & nationality of their father.

(b) A woman lives according to the customs and practices prevalent in her husband's family, as such, she can never live as a Zoroastrian following the religious practices in an alien household.

(c) According to our religious practice, a girl after her marriage takes on not only the name & surname of her husband, but is presumed to have left her family (father's family) and merged with that of her husband. If the daughter of the athornan family marries a 'behdin' her name in marriage ceremony and in all ceremonies thereafter is as behdin so & so instead of 'Austi so and so' as if she was born in the family of her husband.

In short, according to us, after marriage a woman automatically leaves the religious beliefs and practices of her father and her family and is presumed to have embraced the religious

beliefs and practices of her husband and his family.

By this norm, when a Zoroastrian girl marries a non-Zoroastrian, she leaves her father's religion irrespective of whether she is admitted in her husband's religion or not. So far as the Zoroastrian religion is concerned she has irrevocably left Zoroastrian religion.

Therefore, the claims of a woman marrying outside the community that she continued to retain the Zoroastrian religion is untenable and incongruous.

Once she marries outside the religion, she is out of the community and she abrogates all her rights & privileges in her father's religion.

Consequently, she is an alien in so far as the benefit of the use of Atasahbehrams, Agiaries, DOKHMA & religious funds, properties as well as participation in religious ceremonies are concerned. Today, unfortunately while we still emphasise the importance of heredity & pedigree in animals, we seem to be living in a euphoria, a fool's paradise that heredity & pedigree are unimportant for mankind. The people who will rightly worry about the pedigree of their dog before it is made a member of the 'Kennel Club'; who will spend hours studying the pedigree (out of whom, by whom) of a race horse before betting on it, will think nothing of whom they or their children marry! The persons who would never in their wildest dreams, entertain the idea of mating a champion Dachshund with a champion Alsatian, even though both are champions, both are dogs, and both are German, would have no hesitation in mixing up their own pedigree!

There was a very interesting article in Times of India weekly (23/1/72) wherein the

author writes "The police are awfully ticklish about their dogs. As Asstt. Commissioner of Police Basil Kane says, "Only blue-blooded aristocrats will do" -- And the progeny of the dogs of the best pedigree but of different breeds just won't do as the wise will tell you, the bad characteristics of the parent dog will predominate in the progeny. Once selection is made half the job is done ----". What happens to horses, & other animals applies to humans too. But just because one is supposed to be in LOVE with a non-Mazdayasni one marries for selfish reasons insulting the glorious Zoroastrian religion! At that time, neither the parents nor the family members have the guts to stop such a marriage but come challenging the rituals, law, practice of our 'BULUND' Mazdayasni religion and beg of the Mazdayasni married girl (the ex-parsi girl who has left her father's religion & merged with a non-Zoroastrian religion), not to go ahead.

Our religion has always aimed at achieving harmony - "Hamazor" - with Nature & its laws.

During the mating season, the female species of certain moths, insects secretes microscopic quantities < 10 gm of these substances, which attracts only the males of that PARTICULAR SPECIES from as far as a mile or so away.

These secretions are so specific that two compounds differing only in the configuration of the double bond (between carbon atoms in a compound) allowed two closely related species to exist in the same area without danger of cross-mating.

Let us not forget that even when man for his own selfish purpose unnaturally cross-breeds animals as in the case of a jackass & a mare to

produce a mule, Nature which abhors such cross-breeding assures that such a progeny is not continued. The mule is always sterile.

Nature is against cross-mating. One can appreciate the specificity laid down in the secretions of insects, considering the enormous number of insect species in nature.

Ask any Medical industrial / Dairy Microbiologist why they require PURE CULTURES (organisms of ONE GENETIC type).

The slightest difference in the organism and the same enzyme, antibiotic, fermentation property, reactivity with antibody would change, leading to lower or charged grade products, fluctuations in radioimmuno assay, etc.

To a microbiologist a slant of a particular PURE culture is more than gold or silver. He takes all precautions/checks to ensure there is no contamination or cross-mating.

In the same way, a culture from time to time is preserved intact with all its biological characteristics by transferring it to the fresh culture medium till further required.

We act as the culture medium with a change of culture medium at every generation preserving the pure seed of Ahura Mazda intact from generation to generation-conserving the hereditary characteristics so beautifully and specifically.

We are aware that minority immigrant groups, who permitted and encouraged inter-marriages; such groups have ceased to exist as separate entity.

We want to exist as separate entity preserving the hereditary characteristics preserving the seed in the purest condition. When the parents cannot check their own child from marrying a non-Mazdayasni boy, what right

have they to force the Parsi-Panchayat to admit such a child's dead body in the DOKHMA, which is not just a 4 walked chamber, but a very powerful instrument consecrated with efficacious Manthras interweaving the Ush-tana. Mithra and Aipi of the Zoroastrians. The recitals of the Yatha Ahu Vairvo get interfaced with the Ushtanay Mithra & Aipi and thus help create talismanic ring of Ashoi. This is very pertinent for a Parsi Zoroastrian's Ravan Bokhtagi to take place and for the soul to make heavenly progress.

No doubt! Dokhamanashini is THE BEST, THE ONLY method of disposal of the dead which is scientifically sound, preventing the contamination of man's environment air, water, earth and of man himself. It is the only method which recognizes the source of contamination isolates the source and follows the eradication of the source of contamination as quickly as possible with maximum efficiency and minimum spread.

(A) Dokhme-nashini is the only method which helps in the liberation of the souls of a Parsi-Zoroastrian. It is not just exposing the body to Khurshed- Nagirashni, right from the point of death when the man is not already dead (1) we are asked to quickly clean the body make the person wear clean clothes, (2) if possible give a few drops of Hoama water, (3) light a fire near the head of the dying person, (4) Recite *Patet Pashemani* (repentance of one's sins) (5) Continuous Ashem Vohu prayer is to be recited.

(B) *Sachkar* - Immediately on a person being pronounced dead, washing of the body with Gaomez takes place, clean sudreh Kusti are tied & Sarosh Baj prayer is started *Bandh Bandh-voo*, knots at the points of ganglia and a demarcation known as 'KASH' is drawn.

(C) *Sagdid* is done-so that the powerful magnetic currents coming from the dogs eyes takes care of *Druj -i- Nasu* (the evil of decomposition)

(D) Continuously prayers are carried on in that particular room, where a lamp burns all the time, and where the body awaits the *Gehsarna* ceremony, certain portion of the Gatha is recited. The *Ahunavaiti* Gatha is recited. The staut (vibrationary effect) of this great prayer is immeasurable. It helps the invisible shell of mental worldly vibrations, any last bad thought, to be cut off and allows the soul to move further in the unseen realness.

Gehsarna + Dokhme Nashini = Ravan Bokhtagi

Before *Cheharum* 3 Sarosh Yazashne should take place; during the first 3 days of demise, at least one *Vendidad* of Sarosh Yazad is to be recited. Before the *Cheharum*, the 3rd day's Ushahin Geh is very beneficial for the soul when it is at the point of leaving its connection with the material world and also its invisible blue-cordlike connection with the Tan (Physical body) in the Dokhma.

Then there are prayers to be recited in fire-temple for 10 days. And so Dokhma Nashimi is not just dumping the dead body in the Dokhma. It is the most scientific method where body is not just considered as *Tanu* but the invisible/spiritual part of the body is also taken care of.

According to our religion, the physical body that we can feel & see is not only made up of *Tanu, Gaetha, Azda* but there also exist *Kehrp, Ushtana, Tevishi, Urvan, Baodangh & Fravashi* which one considers while carrying out the ceremony of the dead.

According to the Zoroastrian principle of ASHOI, one has to practice it in daily (invisible to naked eye but scientists have now been talking about this Aura) or the pure magnetic aura is disturbed. Here I cannot go into the details of the scientific proof but I quote the references, DINI AVAZ Vol 2- No.5, Vol.3 No.2, etc.

(A) has beautifully explained "the Kirlian photography, Chinese Acupuncture & Ultra-physical Energy - body. Sudreh Kushti, Liberator of Spiritual Energy from its Chakkaras".

(B) Dini Avaz Vol.2- No.2 - Sudreh - Kusti. Generators of Spiritual Energy within us and absorbers of Divine Energy flowing in the Universe.

It is so-very beautifully explained the use / practice of weaving Sudreh-Kusti how they actually are the generators of spiritual energies within us and Absorbers of Cosmic Yazatic Energy from without!

Sudreh / Kusti are not just identity cards in Zoroastrian Religion; as one has seen from Dini Avaz References but very very active generators of spiritual Energies.

In Vendidad Fargard XVIII V. 70-121 A conversation between *Craosha* & the *Druj* respecting various kinds of sins which occasion pregnancy to the *Druj*, or in other words, cause an increase of pollution is stated. The 4th cause which increases such pollution is going without Kusti and there is not an atonement for this He is afterwards able to go along in the corporeal world as a slayer and a sorcerer, he puts to death the corporeal world PURITY. -- etc. etc.

(to be continued)

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(From last issue)

(a) As the parallel rails of a rail road go farther & farther they seem to meet. Imagine if this should really happen (this is due to the convex lens of the eye which forms diminished image of distant objects.)

(b) A stick immersed obliquely in water appears bent (- law of refraction).

(c) In desert region people are misguided by their own eyesight we are all aware of mirage (-which is nothing else but total internal reflection of light rays.)

(d) What we call white light is made up of seven different colours which is only seen when passed through a prism.

(e) There exists radio waves but we are unable to perceive them; only with a proper instrument, i.e. with a radioset one is aware of their existence.

(f) Micro - organisms are present in air / water / food / objects / skin;

Practically they are universally present but microbiology is just over a century old. Due to lack of an instrument to detect them, they went unnoticed by the scientists.

Unfortunately, human eye can only resolve and see clearly a diameter of about 100  $\mu\text{m}$ . and only when microbes were magnified to an extend of 1000 times by light & 1 million times by electronic microscope that the cell of an organism could be seen by our eyes to believe that they exist.

(g) The same holds true for radioactivity too!

Like micro-organism, radioactivity is not detected by our 5 senses without the use of special/proper instrument but that does not mean it does not exist. We are aware of Alpha, beta, gamma rays but where are they? Just because I cannot see them coming out of a test tube, it does not mean they do not exist. Though, something which you cannot see with your naked eye, can still be very hazardous, as you all know right from: (i)denaturation of proteins (ii) change in blood chlorides & water metabolism (iii) extensive hemorrhage (iv) Anameia (v) Early aging in short life span (vi) to some extent increase incidence of cancer, (vii) there can be impaired fertility (viii) Genetic defects, etc. etc. etc. can be observed depending upon the time and close nature of exposure, of radiation exposed/absorbed by our body above the given permissible limit of safety.

The peaceful use of isotopes, Energy obtained by reactors and the diagnostic advantages treatment of patients with cancer and lots others are the side uses of radioactivity.

Here I cannot help but enlighten some of the non-scientific-field persons. Let me give a few examples which I encountered in my life while working at the B.A.R.C. Being very fortunate to enter the field of microbiology and radioactivity, for me it is simply "From what I have seen I have faith in things I have not seen" a true to earth statement made by Michael Faraddy.

On the very first day in our laboratory, the lab-in-charge gives us instructions, that are meant to be followed. There is no alternative

as in microbiology and dealing with radioactivity one needs faith. e.g., If I am told "this 1 ml liquid contains 'A' amount of activity or 'B' amount of no. of pathogens capable of causing tuberculosis....." We treat that particular tube with care though it looks just like water having no colour, no smell, no turbidity!!!

Does that mean we are FOOLS? Of course not as we all are aware that when the radioactivity - containing - tube is kept in the well of a gamma-counter (an instrument to measure radioactive counts) it shows the number of counts of radioactivity from which the amt of curie measurement could be done.

Same way if I take a loopful of organisms from that clean, water-like liquid and streak the same on culture slants, I know that after inoculation, there would be a number of micro-organism colonies with live Mycobacterium tuberculosis.

Just because I cannot see the organisms causing tuberculosis or radioactivity (which can cause adverse effect, will any Scientist touch that liquid with bare hands or wash his or her hands in that clear water-like liquid? A BIG NO. Because, we have, as I repeat, faith in unseen from what we have seen.

One day, we were having a regular checking after some radioactivity work. Suddenly, the counter started jumping its digitals, 10, 100, 1000, 10000 and so on. We could not understand this. Our health physicist smiled and told us coolly that there should be some hospital patient passing by in the corridor who would have been given some radioactive treatment! That is, after the treatment he was giving out these radiations from his body into the environment; and when he passed our room our instrument took it up and the count - rate increased! We all felt relieved that it was not

some contamination on our part that we had no spillage of activity on our body. When that person was away from our counting room our instrument went back to the normal counts.

There are so many examples that could be given to understand that there exists much more than what our limited five senses can ever comprehend.

After knowing something of this, now does it make some sense when one says that the invisible things can bring about disturbances though we do not see them?

Not only a non-Zoroastrian but a Zoroastrian lady during menses cannot attend any rituals or sit when prayers are recited, because all our rituals are based on

- (i) **PURE VIBRATIONS**
- (ii) **ASHOI (PURITY to the n<sup>th</sup> degree) OR RIGHTEOUSNESS,**
- (iii) **PURITY OF KHOREH**
- iv) **PURITY OF ASHA - the law of order**
- v) **PURITY OF MITHRA - the law of thought power**
- vi) **PURITY OF MANTHRA - the law of the efficacy of the Mystic words of chants composed by our dear Prophet in attunement with the original Universal Musical Note - the Ahunavar.**
- vii) **PURITY OF BAREJ - the law of thermal Energy of Fires of different rates & intensity (including the fire present in our body)**
- viii) **PURITY OF KHAJTRA - the law of the Thermo - Electro-Magnetic forces and currents working throughout the visible & unseen realms, in indefinitely various forms of electricity magnetism.**
- ix) **PURITY OF URU - the law of unfoldment or spiritual progress towards the goal of "One far - off Divine event to which the whole creation**

moves". the inherent tendency to advance is the essential characteristic of 'URVAN'.

x) ZARVAN - the law governing time

Our main aim is to annihilate DRUJ at any cost.

We know that there exist much more than our ordinary senses can understand e.g. light acts as wave and particle both - particle of energy - but these were as energy bundles and so-called energy-quanta or photons. These are physical energies but in nature there are ultra-physical & spiritual energies which we cannot even imagine or understand, as yet all forms of physical energies are not fully understood by scientists.

Kirlian placed an object to be studied say a human hand in the specially made equipment where it is subjected to a high frequency electric current. The object was then seen radiating multi coloured lights from its various points as though the hand had various dots on it from which the light radiated. He even showed if a normally looking person was emotionally upset or mentally nervous, if a normal looking leaf was from a diseased plant and he even could predict disease approaching with no visible symptoms.

The discovery was that every physical body had a counterpart body of energy or it was also called Aura. And it is now well realised that it has shapes & colours and in an unhealthy state, its shape is distorted or colours fade. It is affected by our thoughts and emotions.

And it has been found that it reacts to cosmic occurrences and of what is this subtle energy body made, nobody knows. Will any scientist know when ordinary light behaves ghost-like?

Science, when properly understood, makes man humble in his ignorance and smallness.

Dr. Vennever Bush concludes that men follow science where it leads but not where it cannot lead.

It is a common sight to read a board "Please do not enter-sterile room" or "for authorised scientists only" outside a sterile room. A sterile room is a must for culture & microbiological work and no one is allowed to enter it without fulfilling certain criteria of PURITY (physical of course) laid down by the in-charge. It may include bathing, wearing sterile clothes, gloves, head cover, shoes, use of dettol, work in between 2 burners in a sterile chamber under negative pressure, etc.

The in-charge has every right to preserve this level of purity for the sake of his sterile room and refuse an entry of even the head of that particular institution, if required. For his aim is to preserve the purity of culture and his working room, where at no cost he can allow any contamination.

Our religion aims at Purity / Asha in everything and like our laboratory or sterile room-in-charge, our Prophet Zarathushtra, the material world in-charge, has laid down and specified rules & regulations of purity for man (Ahura Mazda's best creation) and his environment. It is stated in Vendidad F.21 & Gathas 48 that Purity is best from the beginning of one's birth. To help his followers he gave us the weapons of powerful manthras and to recharge our spiritual batteries with Sudreh & Kusti prayers. Our prayers are so powerful that we are told in the Vendidad F. XIX that Angra-mainyus and the druj attempted to slay Zarathushtra, who however defeats & renders them powerless by reciting the Ahuna - Vairya and the drukhs ran away from him & spoke thus to Angra Mainyu : "I do not see death in him in the holy Zarathushtra. Full

of brightness is the pure Zarathustra.

*There was a very important article in Dini Avaz Vol. 3, 5.*

(*subtle vibratious*). In this article, sometime in 1902, an experiment was carried out by Nasarvanji Dorabji Postmaster and his friends. They prepared some delicate sensitive screen made up of gelatin, copper oxide, zink sulphate, Gold chloride, Silver Nitrate, Mercury oxide glycerin and some other chemicals. They carried out this experiment at night at Malad in a dark / quiet place. As a person would speak each word would come out as beautiful colours on that screen. He remembers the beautiful shiny sky blue clear colour was seen when Ashem Vohu was recited.

Then this Parsi Gentleman carried out the kusti prayer and just beautiful inexpressible colours were seen on the screen till he came to "Taroidite Angre Mainyush" The screen broke into pieces!! All those who eye-witnessed this experiment were speechless; they just could not believe their eyes !

Dear friends, there is much more in these prayers than we can understand. To maintain purity/Asha/Righteousness/Asha in the Universe that our dear Prophet has blessed us with beautiful, powerful prayers to smite the evil / druj". And to do so we have to follow the rules of purity.

Forget about a non-Zoroastrian but even a Zoroastrian without performing the Padyab Kusti is forbidden to enter the place of worship. A mobed-saheb cannot carry out the inner rituals of Vandidad Niragdin & "Pav - Mahal" prayers without the proper purification, namely, the nahan or the bareshnum as required. Here when the inner prayers are going on even a Parsi who has done the padyab kusti is not

allowed to enter within the limit laid down or the 'Kash' or 'Pavi'.

When the rules laid down by our material-world in-charge are so very strict for a Mazdayasni Zoroastrian there is just no question as to whether a non-Zoroastrian or an ex-Zoroastrian without Sudreh/Kusti & proper prayers recital can enter any place of worship or can be entitled to Dokhmehashini & use of Dokhmas. Before I end, let me quote from the Holy Vandidad Fargard XV - In this Fargard an enumeration of five sins whereby a man becomes Pesho-tanus is given in which the very 1st Pesho-tanus is stated as "The 1st of these sins which men commit is : when anyone CALUMNIATES a pure man to a man of another belief and opinions; He sins knowingly by his own understanding. He becomes thereby a sinner and a Pesho-tanus"....."

May Ahura Mazda and Vohu Mano bestow good mind upon these Peshotanus causing the false propaganda against our most scientific, glorious yet simple religion.

**Atha Zamyat. Yatha Afrinami!**

*Compiled From Notes of :*

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*By his daughter :-*

Mrs. Aramaity Shahrukh Dhalla. 17/9/90

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