

Editorial –

## REPORTED ATTEMPTS TO CONVERT PARSIS INTO CHRISTIANS.

### HAVE WE ANY STRENGTH LEFT IN US TO RESIST THE ONSLAUGHT?

Jame Jamshed of 2-11-1997 carried a letter from Mr. Bhacca, "the President of Surat Panchayat" under the title: "Undesirable Activity of Conversion of Parsis into Christianity". It stated that somewhere in October, a Christian gentleman came to the Girls Orphanage at Surat and gifted to its Superintendent 40 cassettes entitled "Jesus", for free distribution to the girls. He said that the cassettes were made from the finances provided by a "Parsi" lady of America.

On 3-9-1997, 'Gujarat Samachar' of Surat carried a report that a lot of money were being brought in India for converting Indians to Christians.

Mr. Bhacca states in his Jame letter that some Christians are involved in such conversion activities in the "Parsi" villages of Mandvi Taluka, and distribute the cassettes to the villagers and tempt them to be Christians. Mr. Bhacca has not stated how many Parsis are actually converted.

It is natural that some Parsis are upset and would like the community to resist this onslaught.

**But; a question: - Has the community any inherent strength to resist the invasion?**

The grim answer is, 'NO'.

The greatest blunder we Parsis committed was to believe that the "Studies" of our Religion, which emanated from Europe in the 19th century, depicted our Religion truly and correctly. We were so much enamored by these western studies that we sent our Dastours and students of Religion to get the Western degrees and doctorates, and branded them as "religious scholars".

### THE SCIENTIFIC ARROGANCE

These Western studies brought forth several paradigms, which were contrary to the universal truths taught by all Religions including the Zarathushtrian.

The basis of these paradigms was their science, which declared that the human intellect was capable of understanding all the laws of Nature; the scientific intellect could arrive at the truth. By the end of the 19th century, this intellectual arrogance was at its climax. All the laws by which the machinery of nature around us operated were boasted to be almost fully found out by the human brain. God was needless hypothesis. **This 'scientific' mania silently entered the western studies of our Religion and they put it in the mouth of Zoroaster!** Look! This was exactly what He taught. His was the only Religion which was "scientific", because He said exactly what this present day great science was saying viz. "Arrive at the truth through intellect; think out the truth, each of you!" That was their Gatha Ha 30-2. Devil had quoted the Bible and further twisted it by declaring with great pride that Zoroaster taught "freedom of choice". A still further twist and that freedom of choice was made the banner of conversion - of non-Parsi spouses to Parsis, and then any non-Parsi to a Parsi. "If somebody wants to become a Parsi by his own free choice, accept him"; here was a polite word, "acceptance", substituted for "conversion".

**Now, if the wheel turns black and if a Parsi by his free choice becomes a christian, how can you stop him?** "All that I am doing is to follow Zoroaster's own teaching viz. choose by yourself", the Parsi-to-Christian would say. What will be the reply?

The Parsi-to-Christian (P to C) may also rely on the famous "Navjote" of the late Mr. Neville Wadia. His father was converted to be a Christian; his mother was a devoted Christian by birth; he himself was baptised as a Christian; and yet the so called democratic majority of Dasturs had advised and approved his alleged Navjote at the age of 80 years!

The Bombay Parsi Panchayet had allowed Dokhm-e-Nashini to him thereby violating the donors' intention. It was not for nothing that the faithful of the community had seriously objected to the alleged Navjot. But B.P.P. had brushed aside the objection. Now would not that P to C convert rely on the precedent? With what face B.P.P. or those supporting Dasturs can now raise their voice? They have so far not. They may be watching the direction of the wind. If there is much uproar to this P to C business, they may come out with some Gatha x-y to "distinguish" between Neville and P to C, or may say, they had never supported the freedom of choice doctrine.

Let us also remember that Mr. N. A. Palkhiwala, a novice in Religion, had pompously supported Nevill's Navjot on the same alleged Zoroastrian doctrine of freedom of choice. He had even quoted Ha 30-2, in his own twisted way. Same now applies to P to C.

Let us remember that three of those majority (now vanished) Dasturs had disapproved Patterson's "Navjote" with the same vigour as they had advised and approved Neville's "Navjote", although there was no difference between the two cases.

Let us remember that the same Mr. Bhucca, who makes a show of being perturbed, had got performed the alleged Navjote of Mukesh Rameshchandra Rathod, which was strongly condemned by a public meeting of nearly 1000 Parsis held in his own town, Surat.

Let us remember that the now disarmed editor of Mumbai Samachar, Mr. Jehan Daruwalla, was a great champion of conversion and 'freedom of choice', and an enemy of Religious Institutions, and the Surat and Bombay Parsi Panchayets wanted to 'honour' him on the holy land of Udwada, and Dastur Mirza was to join the tamasha in spite of serious resistance from the Mobeds and people of his own town! The tamasha was ultimately abandoned due to the uproar amongst the faithful.

## **ALL PHILOLOGY AND NO DEVOTION.**

Another stab inflicted by the Western studies into the heart of our Religion was the complete absence of any spiritual, devotional or mystical fervour in their presentations. They were and are confined to history, geography, philology and wild speculations. They describe their studies as "critical". They have conferred upon themselves a right to be critical about the holy scriptures, their writers and even of the Paigamber. **According to Max Muller Zoroaster was a mythical figure and even Gatha was not his writings. According to Mills, he lived in shepherd age; Mary Boyce, the stone age. According to Nyber he was a Mongolian Sorcerer.** He asked all kinds of ignorant - by - today's - standard questions and even begged for alms (ashodad) in the form of ten pregnant mares and one camel, in Gatha Ha 44.18

As against that, look at the way in which the Christians describe their great Prophet, Jesus. He is the Son of God. He Himself suffered acute pain to save His people. He had so many miracles....

What are we doing? We put our Prophet's pictures on Calendars which would be thrown away in the garbage next year. We have no idea that He was a Yazata in human form as the late savant K. R. Cama and Iim-e-Khshnoom point out. We do not look to His miracles described in Dinkard which are based on the 13th Avesta Nask named after "Anghaheush", the 13th word of the holy Yatha prayer. We bring Him to the level of an ordinary man and philosopher with 3 wives to prove "his manly vigour!" We take out a film where we publicise Zubin Mehta in the name of Zoroaster, and when questioned in court, Palkhiwala rushes to the rescue of the film makers; and not a single Parsi Advocate is found to present the case of the faithful!

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## **INTELLECT, A VESSEL OF RISING CONSCIOUSNESS**

Carried away by the almost atheistic currents of the Western studies, we depict our Religion as being too intellectual to be spiritual or devotional. The Truth taught by all Religions is that intellect is a vessel for consciousness. It has to be filled up, level by level, by the divine consciousness. **A non saintly human's level is too low to delve into the higher truths of Nature.** That non-saintly level is to be brought up to the saintly levels stage by stage. That is the aim of the lives, past present and future, on the earth. **The level can go upward only if life and Religion are made inseparable and every moment of life becomes a prayer to God.** What we call the moral is founded on the

spiritual. Good and evil are defined by God and declared through His Prophets. A non-saintly intellect is inclined towards evil. Left to itself, it will drift away to evil. He is therefore to be commanded by the Sermon on the Mount and warned by Patet Pashemani to do certain things and not to do the opposite things. If you choose evil, the end will be disastrous. Religion is therefore not freedom but compulsion.

These are the truths taught by all Religions, all Prophets, all saints and all seers. They describe the beginning and the end of a Ruvan's Journey in the same way. Difference lies in the tarikats of each Religion. They are like different prescriptions to different groups of the ailing humanity.

### **THE FIVE POINTS PROGRAMME.**

The P to C onslaught can thus be resisted only

(i) by generating earnest devotion for Asho Zarathushtra through stressing His Yazatic stature and miracles;

(ii) by generating faith on the tarikats viz. Sudreh Kushti, Manthra Prayers, Atash-Kadehs, Kriyakam, Dokhma, Meher-Patet (i.e. stringent moral code) and Boonak Pasbani;

(iii) by depicting Religion as bounden duty and not the "freedom to choose" which is a license to succumb to the snares of Ahriman;

(iv) by stressing the spiritual, devotional and mystical aspects of the Zarathushtrian Daena; and

(v) by emphasising that different Religions are sent by Ahura according to His divine plan and they differ, not as regards the ultimate Truth, but only as regards their respective tarikats i.e. the prescriptions of life, and that the Religion of one's birth is the only path ordained for one to march towards Ahura.

Are our Dasturs, with their western entanglement, capable of doing this? Can our Punchayet Trustees, with their religious ignorance, do this?

The answer is a grim No. **only the common faithful can do something; and Iim-e-Khshnoom is the only mansion which is shining with the spiritual light on each of the aforesaid five points.**

How do we do it?

**Ask and it shall be given to you; knock and it shall be opened to you. The asking and knocking should emanate from a sincere heart and not from a pompous hypocrisy.**

**K. N. Dastoor**

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### **THE DIVINE PLAN OF RELIGIONS**

Paigamber Asho Zarathushtra was, historically, the first Prophet. Not only He was aware that other Prophets and Religions will follow Him but He Himself had made certain preparations for their coming at the determined time.

Because, He was not an ordinary human being. He was NOT a speculating philosopher or even an evolving saint. He is a special Ray of Yazatic Light, emanating from the First source of that light, Ahura. That Ray of Light had taken a very subtle human form some 9000 years back and passed through this material earth for a certain determined period of the earthly time.

Being a Yazata Himself, He was aware of the great Truth that different Religions are bestowed on different groups of humanity according to the Divine Plan of Ahura Mazda. Asho Zarathushtra was ordered to execute and extend that Plan.

Religion of every human being is determined, before his or her birth, by God.

You disturb your own spiritual journey towards God by pretending to 'change' your own Religion gifted to you by God at your birth.