

# WHITHER MANKIND? WHY ALL THESE HATRED AND SUFFERING?

## WHAT HAS THE ZARATHOSHTI DIN TO SAY ON THE PRESENT TURMOIL ON THE EARTH?

The homo sapiens - the human species is in a turmoil. The globe is burning. The heat is on. Fields of hatred are furiously whirling. The countries known to be most powerful are passing through a wave of intense scare. They are afraid even to breathe lest a deadly poison be inhaled. Peace on earth is now a far remote dream. Unrest, distress, pain, sufferings have enwrapped the globe. Humans are fiercely fighting amongst themselves.

Why and how all this? ... And will it end? Has the Zarhoshti Daen anything to say about this spherical inferno?

As early as in 1972, at the United Nations Human Environment Conference, it was pointed out that the rules of life and the conduct of living as taught by the Prophets, saints, sages and men of **God were the laws on which the Nature operated**; that what the 20th century humans were doing was the exactly opposite. Hatred, not love; greed, not selflessness; anger, not peace were reigning supreme; and that this was leading humanity to self destruction. An excellent report of this 1972 U. N. H. E. Conference was published in a book titled "**Only one Earth**".

It was an indictment on the erring humanity. Every chapter of the book was vibrating with the inherent entreaty: "What are you doing, man? Do you wish to die? .." It was also proclaimed: "you can survive, if you change" and the Conference did suggest the ways and means. But Alas! It was the 7th decade of the 20th century, that is, it was too late to talk of morals and selflessness and love and spiritual values. Other such Conferences were held after 1972, but they ceased to talk on morals altogether. A report of such a conference held in early eighties was published in a book "**Our common Future**" in 1984. Except a stray reference by an Asian speaker at Jakarta, the report did not refer to human greed or all the mire of immorality in which the humanity was fast sinking. The international conferences thereafter discussed and quarreled over: how far you can reduce your selfishness to suit my rising selfishness!

How was it that the basic operative laws of Nature as proclaimed by God through His Prophets, Avataars and Saints, were replaced by the evil laws of satan, (or devil or Ahriman if you like)? What happened to the human psyche that it was lured into the snares of satan?

The Zarhoshti Din reveals that **these are cycles of time and they are destined**; but that even such turmoil's are God's ways to bring the creation nearer to Him. All Religions give a clarion call: **NEARER TO THEE MY LORD**. The worst of the time cycles is initially one step backward and then three steps forward.

"**Zarvaan-e-Daregho Khadat**" is the name of a time cycle of 81000 years which run successively on the globe. These Avesta words occur in "Jasa -mey- Avanghey Mazda, Amahey Hootaashtahey ....." prayer. 'Zarvan' means a period of Time. Daregho Khadaat is a technical term for 81000 earthly years. Every Daregho-Khadaat starts with the Mazdayasni King, Gayomard. That is why Firdosi, the sublime poet, begins his "Shah-Nameh" with Gayomard. The present Darego Khadaat started about 13000 years ago. During the first about 4000 years, there were fierce battles between the 'Mazdayasni's and 'Daeva Yasni's. Mazda Yasnis mean those who follow the path of Mazda, and Daeva Yasnis were the followers of 'Daeva's -the evil forces. (The word Daeva in the great Hindu Dharma has the contrary meaning "the Shining Being," from the root 'Div', (divya). 'Daeva's of the Avesta has a different root viz 'dab', to deceive. This does not mean that evil in Parsi is the good in Hindu and vice versa. Daeva in Parsi is Asoora in Hindu). Mazdayasnis and Daevayasnis fought during the first four thousand years of the present Daregho Khadaat. When the Mazdayasnis could not defeat the daevas, Asho Zarathushtra arrived (Gatha Ha-29), and established the Mazdayasni Zarhoshti Din. A reign of peace and spirituality prevailed for about 8000 years. During this period

other great Religions were sent by Ahuramazda (Gatha Ha 31-11) in this historical order: Hindu, Jew, Christian, Islam.

From about 1000 A.D, the evil forces started fortifying themselves and leading the humans away from God. By 1400 A. D. the Western civilization began its spiritually downward fall. A monumental day was 28th April 1686 when Newton read his paper on the laws of motion. It was the beginning of the notion that man could understand the laws of Nature without bringing in God. We the humans had arrived by accident on an accidental globe in an accidental universe. Then arrived Darwin, Adam Smith, Freud and the West turned athiest. Bernard Shaw described the latter half of the 19th century as the "Infidel half century". All virtues, morality, devotion, spirituality, humanity dried up. Daevayasni came back, though not as strongly as in Asho Zarathushtra's times, yet devastatingly. Science replaced God in the Western human mind. Every step which modern science took "to understand" - as it thought - the laws of Nature, had a military component, ultimately leading to cruelest methods of killing. And now the climax is reached: nuclear weapons and biological weapons. A war is said to be going on but nobody knows between whom and whom. Nobody knows what bomb will fall-nuclear bomb or anthrax bomb, and on whom, by whom and when.

The Zarthoshti Din declares that this is the time of "Kyaamat", not in the sense of the last day of Judgment, but a period of time, when the Satan reigns supreme. It is the time of a violent Karmic bath for the humans on the globe. The evil forces within man and outside man reach a certain climax and the situation goes so much out of control that nothing less than total destruction seems to be approaching. **At that point, divine intervention arrives.** This has been predicted in all Religions. The advent of Baheraam Varzaavand as the coming Saviour is foretold in our Holy writings: **The information emanating from Ilm-e-Khshnoom is that the saviours of all Religions will arrive in a Holy Brotherhood and place the humanity once again on the Path leading to God.**

But before that, the hellish fire of Satanic destruction will spread; and the question has arisen: **what is going to happen to our community, and what should we do?**

The greatest calamity that fell on us beginning about one and a half century back, is that we have totally forgotten who we were, and what was our civilization and culture, since the beginning of the present Zarvan-e-Darego Khadaat. How many of us are aware: That we were a major ruling Race who had powerful empires founded on Religion? That our Kings had not the material but spiritual good of every person existing in their regimes? That many of the Kings were themselves spiritually far advanced and it was their anxiety to provide to each one of their subjects all the facilities and conveniences for their journey on the Path of God? That all our spiritual Institutions like Holy Fires, Kriyakaam, Dokhmas etc. were administered by the Kings under the guidance of "Magava-Mandal's"- a group of highly advanced 'Athraavan's, 'Magi's, Mobeds, and Dastoor's? That every person in the Kingdom was encouraged to follow 'Tarikat's and Disciplines of the Din, like Sudreh Kushti, Manthra Prayers, Meher Patet etc.? That for the preservation of these very Institutions and Tarikats, our forefathers selected this sacred land of Bharata, where the great Hindu Religion and its Rishis and Moonies had flourished?

Not that we were not aware of all this during our stay in Hind. For a full thousand years we were actively and zealously conscious of our heritage, culture and Religious way of life. We steadfastly put them in practice in our day to day life, at the same time having profound and genuine respect for all other Religions around us. Our Mobeds had spiritual powers-like Dasturji Kukaadaaru had.

But as the Western scientific thinking was slowly developing, the study of our Din was taking a turn away from the intense Faith which had brought us to Hind, in the first place. Only 14 years after Newton -in 1700-one, Thomas Hyde, a Professor at Oxford purported to make "first systematic attempt to restore the history of the old Persian Religion". A chain of events was set in. In 1755 one French scholar Anquetil Duperron came to India, and the Parsi life and the Parsi Scriptures were brought to the notice of the Western world. The study of our Din spread out in many parts of Europe. The march of the West from faith to Godlessness was already on. The scholarly study of our Din ran parallel to that march. In the result, that study reduced our Din from its sublime spiritual, devotional and mystical height to mere western level of history, geography, philology and

etymology.

A community can survive only if it sticks to its spiritual and religious Institutions which are its identifying hallmarks. The sweeping tornado of the western thought, modern science on the one hand and the "scholarly" study of our Din on the other, have seriously damaged each and every Institution- from Sudreh Kushti, Atash Kadeh, Kriyakam and Dokhma to our moral and spiritual integrity and incorruptibility, and the preservation of our Racial gene.

The information and predictions emanating from the genuine fountain source of IIm-e-Khshnoom are that during the period of this Kyamat, the Zarthoshti divine Institutions and the Zarthoshti moral and spiritual psyche and disposition, will drain into, and mix up with, the four other main Religions and at the end of the Kyamat when Shah Baheram Verzavand is about to reveal Himself, the Zarthoshti Faith and Psyche shall have remained in only "11000 breaths", and that too under great agony and distress for not being able to follow the tenets and Tarikats of the Din. (Dr. Saheb Framroze Chiniwalla has recorded this on page 123 of the second part of his Farvardin Yashta-vid Frashogard : Volume 30, Nos. 3 and 4, January to June 1941, just before the Birth of Shah Varzavand.)

It is now clear that both the predictions namely that the humans shall pass through untold and unpredictable calamities and mass destruction, and that the Zarthoshti Din in its practice shall contract to a microscopic point, are coming out true before our very eyes. It is surely darkness before light, storm before peace, scorching heat before a cool refreshing shower, but what do we do till then? Or would it be in our destiny to see Shah Verzavand and other Saoshyants? or will the Kyamat sweep over us before that? Each of us, the Parsis, wherever you may be on the globe has to think about this. Whatever is going to happen will happen, either way. But what do we do right now?

May we offer some hints, some guidance from the spiritual treasury of our Din?

Please read the next article.

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## WHAT SHOULD WE PARSIS DO IN THE PRESENT ALARMING TIMES?

**PLEASE HAVE THE PROTECTIVE RING OF THE ZARATHOSHTI 'TARIKAT'S AROUND YOU AS MUCH AS YOU POSSIBLY CAN.**

I begin in the name of Asho Zarathushtra and all the Prophets, Avatars, Saints, Seers and all Women and Men of God.

What do we do in this hour of darkness and destruction?

First thing, please alter your thinking, your mental make up, your psyche, your inner most feelings. After all, who are you? With all the toils and troubles of our day-to-day life, we have to go, one day; where and when, we don't know. Our Din proclaims most eloquently and effectively that we have a Ruvaan within us, within our self, within our body, and on death, it has a journey towards Ahura. We are here on the earth for a purpose; that is to alchemise certain threads of evil interwoven in our body. We have to convert the dirt in us to gold. We have to be the farmer of our body. The commands of our Din are the equipments gifted to us by Asho Zarathushtra and His divine emissaries, to plough the body and evolve ourselves spiritually.

During our short stay on this earth, certain laws operate on us. We are commanded to lead our life in consonance with those laws. Our destiny, our Karma leads us, pushes us, through different times, places, situations and circumstances. Today we find ourselves in such situations where all our so called luxuries and material conveniences are turned into potential dangers. A film actress was, that day, telling her fans not to write any letter to her, because she was not going to open it! Anthrax!! Don't accept a glass of water from a passer by; be careful of a suspicious looking person; when you travel, be prepared for an assault.. What advices? Let every human doubt every other human!

Take it that all this is our destiny. But in the midst of all this chaos and confusion **let your mind be always conscious of Asho Zarathushtra.**

This is not an easy exercise. You have to train your mind. In presence of a sudden calamity, we forget everything. We loose our mental balance. Train your thinking to be calm and composed; the disciplines ordained by the Din are the only exercises to train your psyche.

What are those disciplines? Firstly, the thought that every thing that happens is in accordance with the will of Ahura. That is the message of the first three words: "Yatha Ahu Vairyo" of the Ahoonvar prayer. **"Help me oh Ahuramazda, to keep this Truth in my thought all the time, so that I may be able to face any misery, any calamity, any suffering with courage. When you Ahuramazda are with me why should I worry, come what may?"** Let this be your constant prayer. It should go into your breath and blood. Your inward personality should at every moment murmur this tune.

Would you be surprised if this humble servant of yours tells you that every command and every tenet of our Din is intended to generate this prayer within you? The Parsi way of life which we followed for a thousand years (and almost forgot since about last 100 years) is by itself this Divine Prayer. Time has come with a bang when you should imbibe it within you.

What is that way of life?

There was an elaborate procedure to be followed when a Parsi got up from the bed in the morning. This included Kushti prayer and taking of Aab-e-Zar (i.e. 'Taro' or 'Nirang' -bull or cow's urine) I do not set out here this tarikat in full. I am suggesting a substitute, rather poor one, but which is in consonance with our present life, particularly in Mumbai and other cities and towns.

The correct time to wake up is within 36 minutes before sunrise. This is the time when the Haavan Gah

sets in. There is a reason for this. During this time, certain white forces, energies and fields are whirling in the air, and you can infuse them within you. The rule is that: come out of the bed, turn your face to the east, bow down and touch the floor with your right hand (or both the hands), reciting one Asheym Vohu.

Mind! This is not just a mechanical exercise. You are performing a tarikat, which is for your spiritual evolution. You have therefore to pass certain thoughts in your mind while touching the ground and reciting Asheym Vohu.

Whilst touching the floor of your home, you are bowing down to the earth on which your house stands. Earth is Ahuramazda's creation. Every object or thing which enters in our mental experience i.e. which is registered in our consciousness, is a condensed form of Ahura's divine light. Imagine Ahura as a sphere of light pouring out His Rays, which in our world of experience, are condensed as physical objects. The emanating pure rays are called 'Yazat's or 'Ameshaspend's, and the things of our experience on the earth are the material forms of their light.

Earth is the physical manifestation of Sfandarmard Ameshaspend, also called Spenta Aarmaiti. The functions of our earth are to provide food for us and bear all the burdens. Spenta Armaiti is therefore the Yazata of selfless service and humility. Therefore as you bow down and touch the ground, think this: **Oh Spenta Armaiti, the Yazat of this earth, I offer you my homage to You my mother; You feed me and I live on You; I throw dirt on you; but You with your divine light alchemise the dirt to fertility. You teach me, inspire me to be humble and selfless like You. Oh Mother! Alchemise the dirt within me to your Light; turn my ego into extreme humility; my hatred into love; my greed into selflessness; dissolve all my pride and envy. I bow down to You, oh Armaiti, on this beautiful morning when the fields of 'Yazat's are whirling around, when the trees, intoxicated by the cool breeze are murmuring Ahura's divine song, when the birds too join in His divine tune.....**

Pass these thoughts in your mind. It is not difficult. Thoughts have tremendous velocity. All these can pass like lightening within you. With daily practice, they will automatically germinate within you.

The morning hour is the sweetest time of the day. Your mind is as fresh as a green tree and as calmly flowing as a gentle stream. It will be intoxicated by these thoughts of devotion. It will dance with joy. And that divine joy, bliss, ecstasy is called "Ushta" in Avesta. That is why you recite that small 12 words prayer of Asheym Vohu, where the word Ushta occurs twice.

What thoughts would you pass while reciting Asheym Vohu?

The ultimate component of Ahura's universe and whole creation is "**STAOTA YASNA**". It means VIBRATIONS. Vibrations mean motions, movements, something flowing, whirling, gyrating, reeling. Every thing is a vibratory motion, be it an electron or cell or drop of water or leaf or animal or man or star or even Yazat, the Ray of Ahura's Light. The whole Creation is a Yasna i.e. Kriya, action, of Staota i.e. vibrations. These are very subtle motions. The ordinary human consciousness can catch them only when they attain physical forms. But the humans are gifted with speech, which can reflect the subtle vibrations whirling in Nature. Reflect means that the human tongue can move in such a way that it can generate vibrations in the atmosphere which are a replica of the divine Yazatic vibrations. That is the principle on which every manthra or mantra is founded. All our manthra prayers better termed Manthravaani- are such vibratory reflections and replica of the whole machinery of Nature. ("Vaani"- in Gujarati means speech, language, spoken word). One of the most important Manthra compositions is the small 12 worded Asheym Vohu.

When you recite "Asheym Vohu, Vahishteym Asti, Ushta Asti, Ushta Ahmai Hyat Ashaai Vahishtaai Asheym," you are absorbing within you certain Yazatic vibrations of Ahura's Light, through the movement of your tongue. Those vibrations set in motion certain thought currents in your subconscious mind. You have to bring out these thoughts in your conscious mind. For that you should know the elementary meanings of the words you are reciting.

Asheym Vohu prayer is a vast ocean of vibrations. Its full meaning and message is beyond our finite consciousness. We can just have a very primitive surface idea.

Remember, we are doing our first morning exercise as we got up from bed. Time at our disposal is short. Our daily duties are waiting. Therefore while speaking Asheym Vohu let your thoughts be:

**I am on this earth by Ahuramazda's Law, Will and Command (ASHA). My ultimate aim is to go back in His Presence, which will be my ultimate joy and bliss. (USHTA). Give me strength to act according to Your Law of Truth and Righteousness as taught by my Din, so that every moment of my life be a moment of USHTA, and I can infuse Ushta in others.**

Every word of Asheym Vohu has deep mystical meanings. For example 'Asha' in the word "Asheym", "Ashaai", means: Ahura's Law, Order, Beauty, Truth, Righteousness, Purity, Freedom. Each of these contains vast and profound meanings. So also 'Vahishta', 'Asha Vahista', 'Ushta', 'Asti'. You can delve into this, if you have patience to study "**Khordeh Avesta baa Khshnoom**" by **Framroze Chiniwalla**. However in your morning exercise, you do as elaborated above.

Asheym Vohu is to be followed by a Kushti. (I assume, you do not do Taro-Kriya). Kushti is a profoundly powerful meditational and devotional exercise. I'll give you some idea later about it some day.

So, in short, in this time of Kyamat, this is the first exercise. Then during the course of the day, do a Kushti every time you answer the nature's call i.e. go to w. c. If, in the situation you are, you are not able to do so, recite in your mind 5 Yatha Ahoo Vairyo and 3 Ashem.

While dealing with people, be honest, selfless, loving, obliging. Avoid hatred, hypocrisy, cunning, envy, anger.

**Please remember all these are exercises to generate protective rings around you in this Kyamat times.**

Find time to recite Manthra Prayers. Kushti, Sarosh Baj, Gah, Khorshed Niyash, Meher Niyash, Doaa Naam Setayashney and Char Dishano Namaskar are the compulsory prayers. You can curtail your T.V. timings.

Visit Agiari, Atash Beheram and recite an Atash Niyash before the Padshah Saheb. If not feasible, pray before a 'Divaa' - a small flame.

When the world is on the top of a volcano these are the protective measures you MUST adopt. Even in the present chilling times, you may be saved.

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