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Cutting Through The Conversion Cackle The 5 Major Religions Of The World

The Gathas Show That :

- (a) Religions Have Been Created by Mazda;
- (b) Each Religion Has Its Own Distinct Mysteries And Frequency; and
- (c) One Cannot “Choose” One’s Religion On Earth.

– There Is No Freedom Of Choice

In The Beginning: There was the Edict of Ahura Mazda, the *Ahunavairyā*, or the blue-print of the Universe as prepared by Ahura. This great Plan of Ahura is based on the Divine Law of *Asha*, by which five major groups of souls emerge and these groups are represented by five major religions on Earth.

Where is this mentioned? In *Yasna Hâ 19*: Just as the 5 *Gathas* constitute 17 chapters of the *Yasna*, the *Ahunavar* is incorporated in Chapter 19 of the same *Yasna*.

This chapter gives the commentary on and the inner exposition of the *Ahunavar* or the *Yatha Ahu Vairyo* prayer. In paragraph 16 of this *Ha*, it is stated, “The *Manthra* that Mazda has declared consists of three lines, meant for four vocations, five leaders (and whose) goal is righteous. They belong to *Humata*, *Hookhta* and *Hvarashta*.”

Thus, the Word which Mazda has declared or proclaimed (the *Ahunavar* prayer) consists of three lines. The first line ends at “...*hachâ*”, the second one ends at “...*mazdâi*” and the final one at “...*vâstârem*”. In this *Ahunavar* prayer, the entire process of cosmogenesis, as well as that of the final Renovation are mentioned. To achieve that, mankind have to follow the four types of vocations: *Âthrava* (Priest); *Rathaeshtao* (Warrior class); *Vâstryo* (Agriculturist) and *Huitish* (Craftsmen/service etc.) These humans have been given *pancha ratu* or five leaders who preside over the five groups of souls.

That these five *varna* or groups of souls have their five corresponding religions, is mentioned in the same *Ha*, para 14, which talks of *pancha tkaesha* = five main religions or faiths. These two pertinent Avesta words are translated in Pahlavi as, *Panch datobari*, also meaning, 5 religions.

The First Prophet Of Prophets: The very first established religion on earth was that given by Holy Prophet Zarthushtra. The teachings in his *Gathas* were meant for all mankind or all the five *varnas* and religions. During the time of the Prophet, thousands of years ago, the other four major religions were yet to manifest themselves. Zarthushtra plans and makes arrangements for their advent **at the appropriate time!**

There are ample references in the *Gathas* and other Avesta scriptures to vindicate this point. For example, in the *Ahunavad*, *Ushtavad* and *Spentomad Gathas*, the word *Daenao* (plural of *Daena* = religion) appears.

Religions NOT Man-Made: In the first *Gatha* (*Yasna 31.11*) the very first line categorically states that **religions** have been created by Mazda. **They are not man-made! In those religions, different men will be born with different beliefs and desires.**

Mysteries of Different Religions: In the same *Gatha* (*Yasna 33.13*), the famous *Us moi uzareshwa...* stanza, which appears in the *Atash Nyaish*, a fervent appeal is made to Spenta Armaity or *Spentarmad Ameshaspand*

to bestow her virtues to the devotee and, through *Asha*, to teach the mysteries of the *religions*.

After Zarthushtra, Other Prophets To Come: So also in *Yasna* 34.13 (the *Ahunavad Gatha*), there is a very pertinent reference to *Daenâo Saoshyantâm* or future religions to be brought by the respective *Saoshyants* (Saviours) at the appointed time. So, each one of us has to be patient and tolerant towards other religions.

Ushtavad Gatha Stanza Strongly Opposes Conversion: *Yasna Ha 46.6*, besides telling us that Ahura has created different religions from the very beginning, strongly militates against conversion, in that, a person from a lower grade faith can never understand and appreciate the disciplines and procedures followed by a more exalted religion.

One has to be prepared by Nature to lead a life as prescribed by the bringer of that particular religion. So, every soul that incarnates on earth, has to pass through the different grades of the five major religions.

Frequency Of One Religion Different From That Of The Other: According to *Yasna Ha 49.9* (*Spentomad Gatha*), **all religions are worthy of praise!** This stanza clearly shows that (a) every religion in which a person is born, will enable him to make progress, if he follows the path laid down in it; and (b) the frequencies of only those can meet, who belong to the same faith. **If a person from one religion radiating on one frequency, tries to enter the other religion, vibrating on another, there is a clash of frequencies, which results in a disorder in Nature!**

So, every human being must appreciate the above factors, as ordained by Ahura Mazda, and if one understands the particular fact that every human can achieve salvation by professing and practising the religion in which he has been born, he will never dream of accepting another religion.

Conversion, therefore, from one religion to another, completely vitiates these basic truths of Nature and militates against the concept of the loftiness of every religion!

Then What About The Freedom Of Choice? Do we not have the option of selecting our own religion?: If the reader has followed and properly understood what has been stated above, this question wouldn't arise. Yet, it is possible that he/she has been told from time to time about another *Ahunavad Gatha* stanza, *Yasna Ha 30.2*, according to which, it has been alleged, that man has been

given the freedom to choose the religion he wants! According to some of these translators, each man should think for himself before believing!!

A little common sense will show that no Messenger of God will ever ask a 3-dimensional-intellect human to think before he believes the Prophet! Also, imagine the wicked times in which our Prophet came: when the "Soul of the Earth" itself clamoured for a Saviour! Surely, in such desperate times, a Prophet like Zarthushtra, would never dream of telling mankind that, you have the freedom to choose! Shocking, that even in this day and age, a psychologist keeps harping on this condemned theme!

The pertinent words that some fuddy-duddy translators think that *Yasna Ha 30.2* has given them a licence, are: "*geushaish vahishta*" and "*soocha managha*". They are loosely translated as "listen with your ears" and "ponder with your enlightened mind", each man, or man to man, etc.

What is noteworthy is that the word, "*geushaish*", is used in the **plural** and not in the **dual** number. That is "many ears" instead of 'two' ears, is mentioned. Again, which one of us has an "illuminated mind" that we can choose ourselves?

The passage in question applies to the highly evolved souls, the disciples of the Prophet, who, without veering from their faith in his teachings, and remaining steadfast to his doctrines, have developed the many 'ears' of their astral bodies (the *chakhras*) and possess an illuminated mind to ponder and meditate on Zarthushtra's teachings!

What Was The Position Before The Advent Of Prophet Zarthushtra?: In spite of repeated answers to this question through the years, it keeps popping up again and again in the minds of many Parsees, who cannot appreciate the simple historical fact that before Zarthushtra, there was no prophet and no established/revealed religion. There was just one world religion, the *Mazdaysni Daena*, that is, the religion of Mazda worshippers. The Hindus call it *Brahma-o-Yagna Dharma* in Sanskrit, which words correspond exactly with the Avesta *Mazdayasni Daena*: *Mazda = Brahma + Yasna = Yagna + Daena = Dharma*.

This was the primeval religion which was practised by the *Pairyo-tkaesha* emperors and paladins like Hoshang, Tehmurasp, Jamshid, Faredun, Rustom, Keresasp, Framroz, etc. But there was also another group of people inhabiting the earth, who were called *Daevayasnis* in Avesta. These were the demon worshippers as against the Mazda worshippers.

As time went on, certain beliefs and precepts of the Demon worshippers began to creep into the *Mazdayasni* religion, corrupting it with anti-Mazda exhortations. So powerful did this negative influence on the *Mazdayasni* religion become after some time, that according to the *Ahunavad Gatha*, Ha 29, the "Soul of the Earth" clamoured for a Saviour to stop the atrocities being perpetrated on it.

That is when the first Prophet, Holy Zarthushtra, who, according to the *Avesta*, was a *Yazata* in the garb of a human, arrives on the scene. He has many missions to perform, some of them being, cleansing and reforming the *Mazdayasni* religion, which had been infected with the *Daevayasni* beliefs, sowing the seeds for the coming of other prophets and saviours at the appointed time; eradicating the evil and untruth in some of the demons, who turned a new leaf, while ostracising the others, who refused to give up their wicked ways; and above all, establishing the *Mazdayasni-Zarthoshti* religion, as the first revealed religion of Ahura Mazda!

So, the long and short of it is, that it is senseless to talk of any kind of "conversion" from one religion to another, as we know it today. Similarly, other passages in the Avestic Scriptures, which talk of *Athravans* going to distant places, clearly indicate that they went there to bring back the *Mazdayasni* religion to its pristine purity.

A Brief Note On The Mazdayasni Religion As Mentioned In The Avesta: Besides the "*Jasa-me-avangahe Mazda*" prayer, which we recite after tying the Kusti, wherein first we talk of being a *Mazdayasni* and then a *Mazdayasni Zarthushtrish*, there are many daily *Avesta* prayers in which the ***Mazdayasni Daen*** has been **specifically described as a Yazatic Force**. To take just a couple of instances: In the *Khorshed-Meher Nyaishes*, one recites, "*Razeeshtam Chistam Mazdadatanam Ashaonim Yazamaide, Daenam Vanguheem Mazdayasneem Yazamaide...*" = "We attune ourselves to the holy, righteous **Chisti** or the Epitome of Wisdom, who is the co-worker of **Deen Yazat**", we attune ourselves with the benevolent **Mazdayasni Deen**".

Similarly, in the *Deen Yasht* we have the refrain: *Razishtyiao Chistayiao Mazdadatayio Ashonayiao Daenayao Vanghuyao Mazdayasnoish...* In the *Visperad*, *Astad Yazat* is called the astral form of the *Mazdayasni Deen*!

The point we are making is that the Mazdayasni Deen is a Spiritual Entity in Nature, like any other Yazat.

Rise Of the Other Religions: Long after Prophet Zarthushtra left this earth, other *Saoshyants*, the prophets, law-givers and *Avatars* – come to fulfil the grand plan of Nature, as unfolded by our Prophet, so that groups of souls belonging to different frequencies and wavelengths, could tread on the path enunciated by their respective teachers.

Conversion/Acceptance, etc. is the work of the Devil or Ahriman, whose job it is to thwart the smooth working of the White Side of Nature.

The Bible, too, has a few passages as given here under, wherein Lord Jesus warns against any kind of conversion from one religion to another.

(1) **The Gospel of St. John: Chap. 10:** "But you believe not, because you are not my sheep, My sheep hear my voice, and I know them and they follow me".

(Here, Jesus talks of he being a shepherd to only **his** flock of sheep!)

(2) **St. John, Chap. 15:** "You have not chosen me, but I have chosen and ordained you".

(3) **St. John, Chap. 6:** "Therefore, say I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. From that time, many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him".

[Note Lord Jesus' allusion to the different frequency and wavelength of each religion!]

(4) **St. John, Chap. 17:** "I pray for them; I pray not for the world, but for them which Thou has given me, for, they are Thine!"

(5) **St. Matthew, Chap. 23:** "Woe, unto you, you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For, ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him two-fold more the child of hell than yourselves!"

Are the Wadia brothers listening? Even the Bhagwad Gita Has A Word of Advice For Them:

*Shraiya na swa-dharmo veeguna
Para-dharmat Swanushthinaan,
Swa-dharma needhana shraiya
Para-dharmo bhayāvaha!*

"Even if one's own religion has any blemish, it should be followed, because it is better than imbibing another religion. Even if death comes by following one's religion, it is better, because accepting another religion is fraught with danger."

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When Kersey Antia & Wadia Brothers Of ARZ Go All Out To Fool The Parsee Community...

**Dasturs Drs. K.M. Jamaspasa & F.M. Kotwal Fully Justified
In Questioning Their Credentials**

Ignorance About The Zoroastrian Religion And The Parsee Zoroastrian History Prompts ARZ To Quote Or Cite References Or "Authorities", Who Have Long Since Been Effectively Refuted!

Since 2007, a Mumbai organisation, calling itself the "Association For Revival of Zoroastrianism" (ARZ) has taken upon itself to invite speakers from abroad to dilate on conversion in the Zoroastrian religion. Last year it was Dina Mcyintre. This year it was a clinical psychologist, Kersey Antia, also from North America, who threw up the same sickening stanzas from the Gathas, which have long been answered, dissected and rebutted by different speakers and writers, but like a bad penny, these hackneyed banalities keep returning through the mouths of imported speakers, who, in their turn, are only retailing what their masters like Insler or even Jafarey have stated!

This time Antia, who, for the last three decades, has been talking of *Yasna* 30.2 or 31.3, repeated this bilge along with some other Avesta and/or Pahlavi passages, which, otherwise, men like Antia, look down upon!

Stupidity Of Some Parsees

Parsees of Mumbai are normally known to be gullible in matters of religion. But, these days there are some, who are downright stupid! They belong more to the snooty elite class, for whom a concert or an opera at the NCPA falls in the same category as a religious talk by a foreign speaker. They have to be *seen* at such functions, even if they cannot tell an *aria* from a *yasht*! But, it's a status symbol to be present there!

The Wadia brothers of ARZ, who have naturally joined hands with their comrades-in-arms, the Association of Inter-Married Zoroastrians (AIMZ) and given it (the latter) new life, know this weakness of the hoity-toity, too well! Hence, they

organise and drum up tremendous publicity about such imported vaudeville shows, since they are not able to find local talent to muster enough support for their anti-Zoroastrian propaganda.

Ever since the ARZ was formed in 2005, **The Parsee Voice**, has, with hard facts, both religious and historical, rubbished the queries raised and statements made in their advertisements in *Jame Weekly*. Once, we had even offered to take them on, on a public platform, so that their fallacies could be exposed in public, but there was no response from ARZ.

High Priests Rightly Question ARZ's Credentials

At the meeting held in Mumbai on the 15th February, 2008, by Parsee High Priests and Scholar-Priests, speaker after speaker condemned and ridiculed ARZ's stance regarding Acceptance/Conversion (A detailed report of the meeting appears elsewhere in this issue).

Since Dastur Dr. Jamaspasa and Dastur Dr. Kotwal could not attend the meeting, they had sent a message, which very rightly stated, *inter alia*, that, "Misguided individuals with no proper religious scholastic training are trying to stir up trouble and confusion in the minds of our small community in order to promote the issue of religious conversion...". Further, they justifiably remarked, that, "To say, therefore, that Zarathushtra 'converted' or even 'accepted' persons of other faiths into Zoroastrianism... is to exhibit complete ignorance of Imperial Zoroastrian history, and is a total misrepresentation of the scriptures of our ancient faith".

Very aptly put! All of us, who are sick of reading the puerile and absurd adverts like "Zarathushtra was not a racist", etc. would applaud the two Dasturs. But, as this issue was about to be sent to the press, we found that the two trustees of ARZ, the Wadia brothers, have not only taken umbrage at the Dasturs' letter, but have mocked them about what one's forefathers said and did, and how both of them gave permission for the "Navjote" of Neville Wadia.

Strange! Very strange! Because, the difference between what happened in the past and what the Wadia brothers are doing today, is so big, that the proverbial chalk and cheese one pales into insignificance. It's more a difference between Raja Bhoj and Gangu Teli.

Let's explain. We shall first take up the two ancestors of Dastur Dr. K.M. Jamaspasa, and what they did.

The Past "Navjotes": Dastur Jamaspji M. Jamaspasa, the great grand-father, who performed the Mazagaon Navjotes in 1882 of 11 progenies of Parsee men and non-Parsee women, as well as his son, Dastur Kaikhushru J. Jamaspasa, the grand father, who performed the "Navjote" and the "Ashirwad" ceremony of the French woman who married Ratan Tata, **have not at all convincingly quoted any Zoroastrian scriptures to buttress their views and/or actions.** For example, in the **Passokh-e-Nirang-e-Javeet Daenan**, cited by the Wadia brothers, and which was mainly a reply (*Passokh*) given to Dastur Peshotan B. Sanjana of the Wadiaji Atash Behram, who had asked Dastur Jamaspji, what ceremonies/rituals were performed before the Navjotes were undertaken, Dastur Jamaspji wrote on Page 12 of his *Passokh*, "Mankind desperately needs religion or Divine Laws, ever since the world came into being, humans were created ... and even today needs it. Now, when any man wants to practise the Mazdayasni religion, no one has the power to stop him. So also, religion too, has compelled man to follow the faith of his conscience. In this duty, if anyone interferes, religion holds him guilty".

These and similar statements by Dastur Jamaspji are only his personal views and thoughts! But, as pointed out by his son, Kaikhushru J. Jamaspasa, and as cited by the Wadia brothers in the Jame Weekly of 9th March, 2008, Jamaspji could have quoted certain passages

from the scriptures. But what were they? **The same as mentioned by his son, Kaikhushru? Like, spreading the religion on Haftkeshwar Zameen**, or, according to them and even the Wadia brothers, who blindly and thoughtlessly copy them, "the seven regions of the world"?! Or, for that matter citing **Yasna Ha 42 (not 41** as erroneously mentioned) about athornans travelling to distant lands "to spread the Zoroastrian religion" (sic)?! All these gentlemen, including Tehmurasp D. Anklesaria mentioned by the Wadia brothers, perpetrated horrendous blunders, only to suit their personal whims and to tailor and stretch the Avesta/Pahlavi passages to bolster their own beliefs!

And yet, most, if not all of these gentlemen of yore were sincere in their own pet beliefs. For example, they believed, though wrongly, that *Daevayasnis* were people belonging to other religions, instead of the hard fact that they were those who threw spanners in the works of *Mazdayasnis*. If athornans then went far and wide, they did not go to convert people of other faiths (as there were none!) but to spread the lofty teachings of *Ashoi* or piety and righteousness! In fact *Yasna Ha 42*, specifically talks of athravans who "**wished for Ashoi" (asho-isho)** or desired *Ashoi* for those who had turned away from it!!

Unfortunately, the ARZ trustees do not have even a smattering of who wrote what during the 20th century, regarding works by Tehmurasp D. Anklesaria and others. These great scholars, the last being the late Dastur Dr. Hormazdyar K. Mirza, have completely demolished every single argument or point regarding **any** so-called scriptural evidence for conversion.

But then, as we have said in our earlier issues, those who dream of conversion, or those who have an axe to grind, by sheer force of habit see it even in their plate of **dhanshakh** or cup of coffee! And the ARZ trustees are no different!

Perhaps inspired or instigated by others, they ask Dastur Dr. K.M. Jamaspasa, whether he would use the same epithets and make the same comments **exclusively for the ARZ, to malign his forefathers! If the Wadia brothers had any sense of proportion and modesty, they, in the first place, wouldn't have placed themselves on the same level with the two Dasturs of the past! The criticism levelled by Dasturs**

Jamaspasa and Kotwal was meant for the ARZ trustees who are blissfully unaware of any articles, books etc. written throughout the 20th century, by savants of repute, proving to the hilt that proselytisation is totally against the Laws of Nature and the spirit of the Zoroastrian religion!

NEVILLE WADIA'S "NAVJOTE"

Not content with taking on Dastur Dr. Jamaspasa, ARZ's Wadia brothers then tackle both Drs. Kotwal and Jamaspasa for granting permission to the late Neville Wadia to have his "Navjote" performed.

The ARZ trustees may or may not be aware that in 1994-1995, this Editor, as one of the editors of the "Deen Parast" journal, had severely castigated all the Dasturs, who were guilty of saying 'yes' to Mr. Wadia. In three to four lengthy articles, he had left no stone unturned in making it very clear, that this "Navjote" was untenable and a highly irreligious act.

However, today, after nearly 13-14 years, when the Wadia brothers, who have been rooting for conversion or, if you like, "acceptance", for more than two years now, and who have a totally different, nefarious agenda to carry out, not only question Dasturs Kotwal and Jamaspasa on Neville Wadia's "Navjote", but make snide, sarcastic remarks that they are **with** these Dasturs for what they have done, it is time to demonstrate to the community, the meaning of "**doodh ka doodh aur paani ka paani**"!

Firstly, the concerned two Dasturs, along with three others of India, had then very reluctantly agreed to the fervent pleas of the late Neville Wadia, that he would want to REVERT to the religion of his forefathers.

Here, for those who are not aware of what exactly happened and how Neville Wadia had become a Christian, we give the facts, briefly: Neville's father, Sir Ness, with his brother Cusrow, had fallen head over heels for a British girl, when both of them were in England. Unlike, as it happens in a Hollywood or a Bollywood movie, the girl did not ask them to fight a duel or toss a coin for her hand. Instead, she asked either of them to convert to the Anglican Church. Cusrow declined, but Ness fell for the barbs of Cupid! To them was born Neville, who was baptised at a very young age, as is the rule in Christianity.

However, both Ness and Cusrow had a very soft corner for the Parsee community – the baugs built in their names stand as testimony even to this day! When Neville, in the evening of his life, lived most the time in Mumbai, he had a natural yearning for the religion of his grandfather and even father, who till he joined in union with the Christian girl, was a full-fledged Parsee-Zoroastrian. There was no gap of "three generations" as alleged by the ARZ Wadia brothers!

Year after year, Neville in his speeches as a Chief Guest at Parsee functions, kept on harping on his inner turmoil of not being a Zoroastrian. He also repeatedly expressed his keen desire of being consigned to a **Dakhma** after death. We wish to make it very clear that even today, we emphatically maintain that the High Priests, including Dr. Kotwal, did make a mistake then. There was no doctrinal justification for their gesture.

But, there is a world of a difference between that aberration and the present insidious propoganda of the ARZ trustees. In the first place, the basic premise of ARZ trustees is to allow/permit, say the totally non-Zoroastrian spouse of a Parsee woman, to embrace Zoroastrianism if he wished! Who has given the ARZ trustees any authority, including a "Divine" one (!?) to carry out this anti-religious function? They have neither the religion nor Zoroastrian history on their side.

Secondly, Dasturs Drs. Kotwal and Jamaspasa, with the other High Priests, were at pains to make it abundantly clear that what they were doing then, was only as a **rare exception** – allowing a gentleman, whose grandfather and ancestors were staunch Parsee Zoroastrians, to return to his roots. **They were not setting a precedent nor have they thereafter made any statements about anyone being allowed to be accepted or converted! Their attitude throughout has been that Zoroastrianism forbids conversion/acceptance of total aliens.**

Contrast this with the ARZ trustees, who, week after week, have been tormenting the community with their ridiculous adverts in Jame Weekly. These trustees have neither any credentials nor any authority to convince the community about their weird aims which are both anti-religious and anti-history!

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OUR MAILBOX

CALLOUS ATTITUDE TOWARDS VARASIAJI

The Editor – The Parsee Voice

I had written a letter of protest in Nov.-Dec. 2006 issue of The Parsee Voice, regarding the inhuman treatment meted out to the Varasiaji at the Banaji Limji Agiary at Fort . The Varasiaji was brought from Nargol every six months and kept in a 10x12 place, tied with two ropes making it impossible for him to make any movements for nearly six months in a year at the Banaji Limji Agiary.

This Agiary has no facility to keep a Varasiaji, but the Panthaky Saheb for reasons best known to him was not able to see the torture perpetrated on our Holy Varasiaji through such inhuman treatment!

Despite our various appeals to the Panthaky Saheb and the trustees of the Banaji Limji Agiary, no efforts were made to stop this inhuman torture and the Varasiaji was made to shuffle from Nargol to Mumbai and back throughout the year. He used to be tied with two ropes of four feet each in opposite directions, making any movement impossible for him! The most respected Holy Varasiaji had become an object of pity, only because the Panthaky Saheb wanted to perform a number of Nirangdins!

In October 2007, the said Varasiaji was again brought from Nargol to Banaji Limji Agiary, to repeat the 'yearly Ritual of Torture', to this Holy Messenger of Bahman Ameshaspand. The very next day when I went to see the Varasiaji, I noticed that he was gasping for breath! Two tight ropes were again tied around his neck making any movement impossible. His health started deteriorating due to such torture as he stopped eating any food and in a few days we could see the Varasiaji becoming all skin and bones, a tragic sight for this 'Holy Respected Reverand' of our community. **The Varasiaji died on the 14th day of the Nirangdin ceremony.**

The Panthaky, desperate to finish the Nirangdin, got another Varasiaji from Cama Baug to fill up the vacuum. On inquiry, it was found that this new Varasiaji is also tied with two tight ropes around his neck and therefore, made to shuffle between Nargol and Banaji Limji Agiary and go through the same torture faced by the previous Varasiaji!

In this context, it is worth mentioning that since 1995, an international reformist organisation,

famous for its conversion views and having funds backed by unknown sources has started a unique experiment to soften the clergy towards its reformist views by supplying them funds via Nirangdins through its nominees. This experiment was first carried out in Surat where they supplied funds to perform about twenty Nirangdins a year since 1995 every year for the last twelve years. It was done by the nominees of this International reformist organisation resulting in the orthodox clergy breaking a lot of rules of Nirangdin to accommodate nearly two dozen Nirangdins a year!!

On inquiry with an assistant mobed who performed these Nirangdins in Surat, it was found that the time gap between two Nirangdins performed by the same set of priests was less than 24 hours on many occasions (the time gap between ending of one Nirangdin and starting of another Nirangdin). He also admitted that due to excessive Nirangdins, the Holy Nirang was so much in excess, that it had all to be poured in trees since there was no place to keep it. The reformist lobby had successfully managed to silence the orthodox priests in Surat by providing them with financial gains which would make them more compliant to its reformist conversion views.

After successfully carrying out this experiment this notorious organisation has now decided to try this same experiment in Mumbai, for which they have selected Banaji Limji Agiary. There seems to be a waiting list of Nirangdins, by this reformist organisation, through its nominees from abroad, who have till now never even bothered to visit the Agiary except preaching that even non-Parsees should be allowed in Agiaries.

In a hurry, the honourable Panthaky Saheb was forced to bring the Varasiaji from far off places. He is kept in a cage-like enclosure and tied with various ropes!. **What use are these Nirangdins if the very Varasiaji, on the basis of whom Nirangdin is performed, is kept in such torturous, inhuman conditions?**

One Varasiaji has already laid down his life and now another Varasiaji will go through the same torture if he manages to live through such yearly ordeals!

My request to the Parsee community, is to reason with the Panthaky Saheb to stop performing Nirangdins at regular intervals.

Varasiaji is a part of Divinity and should be treated as such – with honour and dignity.

(Mrs. Meher K. Zaiwala)

Editor's Note: We have ourselves checked the above story of the Varasiaji being kept at the said Agiary as if he was a sacrificial goat. The hard fact is that there is no space in the small enclosure, where other small **Gospands** are also kept.

A Varasiaji is not readily available at all in the market. It takes months, and even years sometimes, to find the right animal. After his consecration, he becomes an **alat** and has to be kept with utmost dignity and respect. Today, Varasiajis are very scarce. If we don't preserve and take care fo them properly, a time may soon come, when no Varasiaji is available! God help us then! No Varasiaji, no ritual, no Navjotes and no Navars! In short, a catastrophe of the first order!

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MORE NON-PARSEES IN UDVADA?

Sir, – I had just gone for a weekend to Udvada last and was a bit disturbed when one of residents told me that one hotel whose issue was under the hammer for selling out to non Zarthushtis. Well the true blue Parsi gentleman who was going to sell off his estate and shift to Australia, has embraced a minority faith and has allegedly sold his hotel too. I wonder if anyone else has come to hear this. Sad, is it not?

Also a few plots of land have already been bought up by some Jains ... most probably for farm houses, get-aways, as is becoming so popular in and around Surat. It really tore my heart to hear of this and I wonder what is to become of our Holy peaceful town of Udvada. As it is when a car roared past the cobbledway, it shocked me to see non-Zarthustis and I really did not like the feeling that rushed through me. My first reaction was "O good Lord NO !!!" Well ... if this is what the world heritage site is going to do..... ONLY Ahura Mazda can bless us and keep us pure and bonded together.

It's really sad. Udvada is such a beautiful, peaceful little town when the rush of our humdins depart after their Sunday lunch from their various hotels and flats. Its a joy to walk down the clean silent streets around Pak Iranshah ... such serenity and soothing vibrations, rarely found around temples. I just do hope our generation next gets to experience this clean and pure surroundings.

Mrs. Veera Ghadiali

Surat Athornan Mandal Condemns ARZ & Antia! When Will Its Mumbai Counterpart Take A Leaf Out Of It?

The Surat Athornan Mandal on Sunday, 27th January 2008, has passed the following resolutions, which has been accepted by all the members.

"RESOLVED that the Surat Athornan Mandal strongly condemns as anti-religious and blasphemous the propaganda of the 'Association for Revival of Zoroastrianism' (ARZ) which attempts to subvert our pristine pure Zoroastrian Religion as one in which 'acceptance' of juddins (Non-Parsees) i.e. conversion and mixed marriages is acceptable.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Surat Athornan Mandal firmly believes that in Zoroastrianism, race and religion are inextricably linked and that while the terms 'Parsee' and 'Irani' define our distinct

race and identity, the term 'Zoroastrianism' defines our ancient Religion.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Surat Athornan Mandal emphatically states that the Zoroastrian Religion FORBIDS the act of Conversion from one established religion to another and considers it a satanic act.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Surat Athornan Mandal deplores and condemns the anti-religious beliefs and actions of Dr. Kersey H. Antia, who is known for his heretical views and is a sort of 'conversion specialist' in the United States of America, in preaching 'acceptance' which is forbidden by the Zoroastrian Religion."

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