

# WHAT IS FREEDOM?

By : Silloo

Society at large has been glorifying Freedom-complete Freedom. Millions are in search for it. Freedom of speech, expression, freedom to choose. Freedom to act as one pleases-as the mind dictates or the mood prompts. Why not? Tired of all the old restraints and restrictions, we want to exercise freedom.

A toddler bangs away with his wooden toy on your polished chair, you let him. After all, you do not want to curb his creativity and intrude up on his Freedom.

A twelve year old has somehow his hands upon an objectionable sex magazine. He is feasting his eyes on the shameful pictures in his room behind closed doors. You open the door and walk in. He complains about having no privacy or freedom. You apologize and walk out leaving him to sow his seeds of morals and character.

The teenager comes home late in the night; you do not know where she goes and with whom, what she does. She must have her freedom or else, she walks out of your house to live elsewhere in some miserable condition, but with freedom. After all, she is past 18 years.

The husband is tired of the wife's questions because evidently he is harboring some secrets of his clandestine affair with another woman. He says he 'needs his SPACE'-(a terms I had never heard about till recently). He needs his freedom to go where he wants, when he wants. Just because he is married, he does not become a slave or a chained dog. Boy is he suffocated! The sacred chain that bound the two as one in marriage (one that has room for secrecy) voluntarily, is long forgotten in his frantic search for 'Freedom'.

Why even some seniors scream for freedom. Preferring fun, entertainment, self centeredness to watching and enjoying grandchildren, they leave their families and prefer to live by themselves-for freedom.

Of course these are extreme cases but they do happen.

FREEDOM - Have we not stretched this word and taken it too far to mean 'license'? Have we not distorted the noble connotation and used it *for* self-aggrandizement? Just what does it mean to be free? Our world is full of people- the freedom-seekers, who wish to shirk their responsibilities, who cannot curb their unending desires, who pamper their senses-all in the name of freedom. Such people fill the stands full of pornography: Freedom of press. They worship Satan: Freedom of religion. They murder babies before they are even born: Freedom to abort.

They all have rights. The constitution guarantees them.

That's' the mistake they make. Freedom is not a matter of rights. It is a matter of RIGHT. And "**no man can become free until he has become a slave to something higher and greater than himself**". "Make us captives, Lord and then we shall be free".

This point is best illustrated by the story of 'The prodigal Son' (The Bible)

In all our prayers, we beseech Ahura Mazda and the Divine, to grant us Freedom-Freedom from our own weakness and faults. Freedom from our misgivings, the negative side of our nature, our passions like anger, jealousy, greed, hatred, lust, vices, addictions-things we cannot help but succumb to in spite of our efforts and our conscience. We ask that we may be delivered or freed from all those.

This earth is like a training school for us humans. There is no complete Freedom in any school, but rules and discipline. The point I am trying to make is, as humans, we were never meant to enjoy complete Freedom. Of course we are given a Free will but the consequences sure follow as after day Night.

From the time we are born, our soul is shackled in an earthy body. As children, we are subjected to parental authority. As spouses we have certain obligations, responsibilities, towards our 'better halves' and as family members we adhere to the family rules and discipline. As citizens we are restricted by laws. Why is it

that we can never enjoy complete freedom without causing disorder? It is 'because we don't know any better'. Our actions are prompted by our mind which has layers and layers of ignorance of the spiritual Universal Laws of Nature. Our mind is, unless controlled by discipline and authority, virtually a slave to our inner enemies, our weaknesses.

"Those who are crying out the loudest for the freedom to do as they please will one day come to themselves. For the more they get of what they want, the less they will want of what they get".

---

## POEMS FROM SILLOO'S PEN...

### MAY EVERY DAY BE HAPPY NOWRUZ

Behold, the Heavenly Realms  
                  have opened up  
Pouring nectar into the  
                  overflowing cup  
Khurshid and Meher, the  
                  Cosmic Twins  
Cascading showers of Blessings.

It is the Day when sprightly  
                  Spring takes birth  
And we wish Happy Birthday  
                  to dear Mother Earth  
From Pyrannez, through  
                  Himalayas to Alboorz,  
Nature vibrates to the  
                  sound of Nowruz.  
Awake, awake O Man,  
                  Good or Ill

Come out of Self,  
                  and bow to His will:  
Forgive and forget your  
                  burns and bruise  
Wish all friend and foe,  
                  a splendent Nowruz!

### DEAR GOD

I know too well the cause of my suffering  
Misfortunes and hurt are all my doing!  
The troubles and pains upon myself I bring  
I'm all for your justice, Your praises I'll sing.  
And yet, a sigh escapes me every now  
                  and then  
Although I have not the slightest right  
                  to complain,

Forgive these silly slips on my humanly  
weak part  
For later, I realize the truth and console  
my heart.  
Guide me through this 'mess' with my  
hand in Yours,  
Grant me the strength to open locked  
doors,  
Bless me with Your Grace as I fall  
upon my feet  
So the fault I see in others, I may not  
repeat.

**- Silloo**

***(Parsi Pukar April-May 2000 - Vol. 5; No. 10-11)***