

ABOUT THE AIDS AND HIV.

Invasion of Satan on the Defence Mechanism in Human Body.

A Real Story of Sin, Suffering and Compassion from the Annals of AIDS

Recently, as you walked around in the streets of Mumbai, you might have come across posters and hoardings on AIDS. Most of them were by way of serious warning that AIDS is a sexually transmitted disease and advise to have sex with one "partner" only or to use condom otherwise. They do not say that illegitimate sex is a sin and only marital sex should be had, as is ordained by all the great Religions.

Lord Rama took His Avatar (i.e. came to earth as a human being) to teach the humans, by his own example, the way of life commanded by all Religions; and one of the divine rules was "Ek-Patnivrat", meaning one-wife-vow - to have one wife only. Lord Jesus went to the extent of equating a mere lustful glance to actual adultery. These Messengers were not merely laying down a social rule. They were proclaiming a Command of God to be obeyed by the humans, and to suffer retribution and Karmic reaction if not obeyed.

It was a streak of God's usual humour that 1990 years after Christ, the Surgeon-General of USA (unknowingly perhaps) joined the Saviours, by sending a letter to every American family advising them not to have sex with any person other than the life-partner, so as not to invite AIDS! It is another joke of God that we the Indians of the spiritual land, which teaches one-wife-vow, do not go that far. We advise condoms! Go out, but use condoms, our hoardings declare.

One poster says that in Mumbai 100 persons are affected by HIV every hour.

What is this AIDS and what is HIV, which seems to be the stuck life-partner of AIDS?

Let us first verbalise the two words (in the style of the philological scholars). AIDS is the acronym for "Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome", and HIV for "Human Immune Deficiency Virus". The former is a syndrome i.e. a combination of signs and symptoms indicating the disease. The latter is a virus leading to the syndrome.

Virus is a very very small particle-a kind of microbe or microorganism - which can function and reproduce only if it can invade a living cell. (Cell is the smallest unit of living matter. We are all made up of cells.) An average virus has the size of about 2 millionths of an inch. "Hundreds of thousands of viruses could fit on the full stop at the end of this sentence." So says Hutchinson's Dictionary of Science.

When viruses invade a living cell, they use the cell's system to replicate themselves and in the process they disrupt the cell and cause a disease. There are different kinds of viruses causing different diseases like common cold, influenza, rabies, small pox, chickenpox, herpes.

Viruses are all around, in plants, animals, humans. But the human body has in it a mechanism of resistance. The exact nature of the mechanism is one of the mysteries of Nature, which the modern science is unable to fathom. (In Ilm-e-Khshnoom, the mystical science of Zarthoshti Din, the mechanism is said to have been founded on "Gava" and "Ushtaan"). A healthy human body can react to the invading viruses by producing an antiviral protein (a chemical compound), which is called "interferon". It prevents the viruses from spreading to nearby cells and stops the disease. In this battle, viruses often change their internal constitution in such a manner that the interferon is unable to combat them. If that happens, the body would be unable to defend the invasion, and the disease spreads out.

HIV is the virus which weakens the body's defence mechanism and resistance to other viruses.

HIV viruses are, thus, like the soldiers dressed in civil clothes entering a city to weaken its resistance weapons, so that other viruses carrying other diseases can subsequently enter and thrive on the body making it a store house of not one but several diseases. Thus HIV itself is not a particular disease, say like TB or Flu, but is a disease inviting the viruses of other diseases. These other viruses are always on a look out to enter a human body, because they can survive and reproduce on the living cells therein. They are therefore called "opportunistic" viruses, (a name borrowed perhaps from the ways of modern commerce and business, where

opportunity often means to attack when the other side is weak enough.) HIV thus provides golden opportunity to the opportunistic viruses to attack and thrive. The most opportunistic viruses which attack HIV weakened human body are a type of a rare pneumonia called PCP (pneumocystis Carinae Pneumonia); a type of skin cancer called Kaposi's Sarcoma (KS); a brain infection called toxoplasmosis; and tuberculosis.

The most satanic character of HIV virus is that it does not make its presence in the body felt for almost ten years. (Official figure is 9.8 years.) This is known as the incubation period during which the virus remains inactive. But once it becomes active, the defence mechanism of the body succumbs. The effect is devastating. The body becomes a reception center for those opportunistic viruses. The symptoms explode and in a few months the patient dies after suffering extreme agony, distress, torture and misery. (Help them, Oh Lord !) Even a verbal description of the suffering is horrifying. The waiting period for the last day to arrive can be 3 months to 3 years. (Call them back, oh God, at the earliest.)

Normally, the torture starts with fatigue, stomach pain, diarrhea, horribly smelling sweats, stammer, memory lapses..... It all depends on which virus has entered the body, and which will dominate - Pneumonia, TB, skin cancer, brain damage

BE READY FOR A TEAR

During my doing a little research on the facts and materials relating to AIDS, I came across a most wonderful real life story of a wife whose husband, Larry, died of AIDS after a 16 month battle. It is a moving story which not only narrates the agony and end of an AIDS patient, but also reveals what an ocean of compassion a human heart is. The story is in a book, "**Matters of Life and Death**" with the subtitle, "**Women Speak about AIDS**" (Virago, London 1989). It is a collection of narrations by those women, who have seen or experienced AIDS. Larry's story is titled "**Ten Thousand Waves**" and written in first person by his wife, Paz. I place before my readers a few glimpses.

In his youthful days Larry was working with a social organisation, which was involved in countering social injustices to Mexican Americans. That is where he met Paz. Later, his vocation mainly related to health care. They had three children.

In January 1986, Larry returned from a business trip and told his wife that he wanted a divorce. In fact, although theirs was a good married life, he was also homosexual and had a suspicion of being HIV affected. He did not want his family to suffer on his account. **But his wife, though knowing fully well about he being gay i.e. homosexual, stood by him for the last 16 long months of his life..... a hell of AIDS.** Now mark how AIDS progresses:

THE AGONY....

In March, Larry lost 25 pounds, developed a deep cough and was extremely fatigued. He was found to be HIV affected, hospitalised and sent home after a month. He was treated with whatever drugs then current. As 1987 arrived, he was depressed, his memory was failing. His thinking ability was impaired. His sense of humour well known among his friends was fading. See, how movingly Paz describes her own agony at the gradual loss of her husband's mind:

"For me this was the cruelest aspect of what the disease did to the man I had spent half of my life with. It was difficult to watch his physical deterioration, but **to see my husband turn into a person who often would get lost on the way to the bathroom in our own home was heartbreaking.**"

AND THE ECSTASY

As the days rolled by, Larry **started hearing voices and having imaginary visitors.** He would talk normal on phone with his friends, and **suddenly would say that there was a purple elephant in the closet!** When his friends and relatives were informed that he had AIDS, no one rejected him. **Everybody wanted to be of help.** Because he had been always loving and kind to every one. His past compassion for others brought every one near him in his dark hours. **They included three women with whom he had illegitimate relations and three men who were his homosexual partners !**

He *often* got up at night and walked around. Paz remained with him, lest he might injure himself or go out and get lost. He needed to be lifted out of bed, to be bathed and to be cleaned on the bed itself. Five days

before his death he went into coma. Let Paz pour out her heart on this :

"I called the family and they all came immediately - to be with him during his final five days. For twenty-four hours a day he had companionship - we took turns rubbing and bathing him, talking to and sitting quietly with him, **trying in everyway to make his letting go of this life as loving and peaceful as possible. I thanked one of my friends who came at 2:00 a.m. to sit with him until 5:00 a.m. on two nights, and she summed up best how everyone felt by telling me that it was an honor to participate.**

During his last days, Larry was unable to move or communicate. His eyes remained opened for the full five days. On three occasions he cried with me, and I know those tears were tears of love. He cried for the first time early on in the coma when I was talking to him of my love for him and **asking his forgiveness** for having become short-tempered with him and his illness. He cried for the second time on the fourth day, **when a dear friend and I played a tape of music which two friends had prepared to sing at the funeral.** And the third and final time was five minutes before he took his last breath. I was alone with him, and I knew that it was a signal that the end was nearing. I called the family members into the room and **we all held him as he passed from his life.**

Soon *after* his death, people began to come to the house and pay their last respects. There was much sorrow, but also much love and a deep sense of relief that the long ordeal was over for Larry - all the pain from the illness, but also the pain of his life, keeping his secret and living a double life. A great weight was lifted from my shoulders when I was able to tell people the truth about what was killing him. By opening up about Larry, I was able to heal much of my hurt and confusion surrounding his gayness."

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What a tragic story? How pathetic and yet how humane?

A human life on earth does not operate on Newton's law of gravitation or Darwin's law of evolution or philological laws of scholasticism. It operates on the spiritual, moral and Karmic Laws. All the three are interwoven. Religion is their foundation. And Religion reveals that within man, there is a cow and a wolf both.

Look at Larry. He was a great human being. He could not tolerate injustice to anybody. He was kind to everybody. He was a real man of the cow. And yet his sexual life was thoroughly debased. He had a most loving wife and three very loving children, but also had three mistresses and three men as homosexual partners! Here the wolf in him had completely swept him away. And that is where he got AIDS from. It is well known that **HIV arrived in mankind in the 8th decade of 20th century mainly through homosexuality.** They shall "receive in their own person the due penalty for their error", declared St. Paul (Romans 1-27) after specifically referring to homosexuality. He was reciting the Law of God - the law of Karma.

But never abhor a sinner. Judge not others; first judge yourself. If a sinner suffers, rush to his help. He was a victim to his wolf; let your cow rush to him to mitigate his suffering. That is another Religious Law. We saw that law also operating in Larry's story. They held him with love and compassion as the lamp of life was blowing out. There was forgiveness, compassion, mercy, love all around his death bed..... Five minutes before his death Larry and Paz cried..... she was washing his sins with the water from her eyes....

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THE ORIGIN AND OPERATION OF AIDS AND HIV.

From Monkey to Man and Then Through Sexually Transmitted Diseases – STD.

"Akoman" Has Swept Away the Present-day Humanity.

One of the deadliest gifts that the so called "progressive" 20th century has given to the humans is AIDS. In an excellent and painstaking book "**Man and Microbes**" with the subtitle "Disease and plagues in History and Modern times", **Arno Karlen**, a well known researcher and writer on medicine, behavioral science and history writes:

"When the AIDs syndrome was identified in 1981, it overshadowed all other STDs" (Sexually Transmitted Diseases). It is a mass killer without parallel... Even in the best possible scenario - safe sex behaviour, effective drugs and vaccines and constant medical vigilance - AIDS will kill tens of million of people in the next few decades, leaving entire nations invalids." (Tarcher Putnam, 1995 - page 9-10)

Mind! That best scenario is far away. Mankind is too busy with its greed and lust to take any effective steps to bring that scenario. No safe sex behaviour exists; if anything, it is worsening day by day with the active help of dirty films and pornography in home computers. No effective drugs and vaccines are found. The problem is aggravated by the fact that HIV virus is found to be capable of mutating often and creating a number of types. Sitting silently for ten long years, the virus keeps changing its genetic structure to evade the host's immune defenses. By the time symptoms appear, the patient may have in him a different variety of HIV virus, against which the standard treatment may not work at all. This is one of the toughest hurdles in developing drugs and vaccines for Aids. (Page 189-90 *ibid*). Man is on the losing end in his battle with microbes. And the third scenario, constant medical vigilance, is a himalayan task in the so called "developing" countries like ours. Our spineless and principles-less politicians are too busy in their utterly selfish game of toppling making toppling governments even to think of AIDS or environment or for that matter even law and order in the country. And our country is moving upwards and upwards in its "progress"... in AIDS!

The hurdle to searching the remedies may become tougher and even impregnable. Virologist Stephen Morse of Rockefeller University says that there is no reason to disbelieve that **the HIV virus can mutate to an air borne disease**. If that happens any person can catch the Aids virus like, say, flu, from the air through breathing even! There is a "Visna virus" related to HIV, which infects sheep and **is spread by coughing**. **And that visna virus is the root cause of mad cow disease!** So, if Aids becomes Aids-flu, imagine what can happen. It will become as rampant as flu and even common cold....

Mark that sheep and cow, the creatures of Bahman Ameshaspend! Bahman is "Vohumano", the good mind much boasted by some license giving scholars. Look at what the 'Vohuman', the "good" mind of the present day has brought. AIDS! Aids is an STD sexually transmitted disease. Sex is Ahriman's greatest weapon which sweeps man's 'Akoman'. 'Man' (Mn) in non-saintly man is therefore not Vohuman but Akoman. Gatha Ha 33-4 lays down five phases of Akoman, the dwelling house of 'Druj' (the evil in man) and prays for its eradication. Resist the Druj or perish, says Gatha Ha 45-3 and 53-6. Let the 'good' in man dominate the evil, and let the evil be converted and added to the good; that is the basic message of the Gatha and for that matter, all Religions. Alas! The present mass of humanity has flouted that message from the divine and the result is: as St. Paul says, starting from Godlessness they have arrived at homosex, and the punishment i.e. the Karmic reaction has set in: AIDS through STD!

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A LITTLE HISTORY OF AIDS

From where did the HIV virus bang with the humans of this earth? Several theories are put forth. Like all histories and all theories, they are a perplexing mixture of observed facts and unobserved guessworks and speculations. One theory is that HIV-like viruses exist in mammals since millions of years. (Mammal is an animal characterised by having mammary glands in the female, used for suckling the young. Mouse, rabbit, cat, monkey, man are mammals. There are over 4000 species of mammals. The smallest known is the shrew weighing 2 gms; heaviest, the whale, 140 tonnes).

All mammals have T-cells in their bodies. These are one kind of immune cells, which protect the body by fighting against the invading viruses. Some species of mammals are amenable to the attack of an HIV-like virus - FIV on their T cells. (FIV means Feline Immunodeficiency Virus). Horses, cattle, sheep, goats, mice, monkeys are found to have this kind of viruses, but they could not be transmitted to humans. They cause AIDS in these animals by weakening their immune system. Aids in monkeys is called SAIDS. The first 'S' is for 'Simian', which means monkey or ape. Aids in mice is shortened as MAIDS. These are caused by the attack of the immunodeficiency viruses (IV's) of different varieties on the T-cells. How this IV's crossed the species barrier and dashed with humanity is again an Akoman story.

In 1977 the first known attack on human T-cells was discovered in southern Japan. It developed a disease, T-cell leukemia known as ATL, the cause of which was discovered to be HTLV, a virus whose mode and mechanics of operation was similar to IV's. These are the fore-fathers of HIV, and **are known to be sexually transmitted.**

MONKEY BUSINESS

One theory which is stated to be more plausible than others is that HIV reached the humans some fifty years back from African monkeys; and the ways and life styles of the humans themselves invited the virus. The bewildering situation was that the same scientific and technological reforms, progress and changes, boasted to be for the health, happiness, prosperity and 'good life' for the humans, were themselves the main causes of the breakdown of the human species barrier for the HIV to come in.

20th century is supposed to be a conqueror of many diseases. The science and technology of medicine have worked out many wonders. But the methodology of these sciences have themselves provided a fertile ground for the import of HIV. The medical researches much depend upon experimenting on (i.e. torturing and killing) animals, particularly the monkeys and the mice, the storehouse of SAIDS and MAIDS. One of the source for this monkey business was Africa. The monkeys for export were crowded in holding pens, cargo planes, ships and laboratory cages. This resulted in a frightful increase of virus populations and generation of new viruses. Here was an entrance channel for HIV. The blood of the villagers or transporter or laboratory workers or doctors or even patients might have been contaminated by the contact with the blood of the monkeys.

INJECTION NEEDLE, THE MIRACLE OF SCIENCE

Another chance the modern medicine itself provided to HIV was the hypodermic (i.e. injection) needle. The fine thin needle with a glass syringe became a miracle and power of the western science. Alas! The needle itself punctured a hole in the species barrier to give entry to HIV. First step was the use of unsterilised needles. Hospital staff and Doctors were made too lazy and careless by 'Satan to sterilise the needles. Then arrived blood transfusion on the one hand and drug addiction on the other - another fatal 20th century gift of Satan. Drug addicts sold their blood and resorted to prostitution to buy drugs. They were one of the main transmitters of HIV. Cheap disposable plastic syringes aggravated the transmissions. Once the barrier was punctured, the spread was rapid. International travel, another marvel of 20th century technology, kept on circulating the virus with frightening speed.

THE MOST LUSTFUL ANIMAL: MAN!

But, as you must have by now seen, the greatest and most powerful fiend to spread AIDS is the human behavior of this scientific times - Sex. Human eroticism is unique. No other mammals behave as human do. Animals do sex to reproduce. They have periods of excitements, whereafter they do not indulge in sex. They go by their instinct. But this human mammal goes by his much boasted "thinking mind", of which it feels proud and superior though in fact Akoman: The humans do not have any time schedules in sex. They have no seasonal bursts. They are ever ready. Reproduction of species is no consideration. Physical pleasure is the one and only criterion. And the fiend of the modern science has provided them with safe pills and methods to resist reproduction. They adopt such ways in their sexual behaviour as no other animal does. **They indulge in oral sex, anal sex, homo sex, bi-sex and most licentious heterosex.** They often start before the fertility age and continue, or try to continue, after fertility. The uncontrolled sex in young age leaves the person craving for sex in old age till death. The loss of physical capacity does not stop his or her mind from the craving (again Akoman). ALL THAT RESULTS IN AN EXPLOSION OF STD AND THE RECENT FINAL WAVE OF STD IS HIV-AIDS.

'GAY'S AND 'GRID'

Homosexuals - particularly men are most adaptable to HIV. One contact may be enough. Heterosex may require more than one contact to be infected, because nature has provided defense mechanisms for the natural act. Homo sex is too unnatural to have any defense. In fact AIDS epidemic was identified in 1980 through homosexuals. Gay men were found to be suffering from rare disorders like PCP (a rare kind of Pneumonia) and KS (a fatal brain disease). In those early days the syndrome was called GRID for "gay related immune disease" or "gay cancer". AIDS victims were called the members of the 4-H club: homosexuals, Haitians, heroin users and hemophiliacs. Haiti, in West Indies, was one of the originators of AIDS. Hemophilia is a men's disease. It causes coagulation of blood and excessive bleeding, and a certain percentage of hemophiliacs were found to have AIDS. It was thought in early eighties that heterosex did not transmit HIV, another Satanic illusion, which was later shattered.

Today, the main circulators of AIDS is sex, intravenous drug use, blood transfusions and other kinds of direct contact with body fluids and infected blood. International travel helps actively. The probability of HIV transmitted through body cuts or through air is lurking at the horizon.

Arno Karlen in his "Man and Microbes" says at the end of his chapter Eleven, "But by even the most optimistic scenario, AIDS will do horrendous damage." How far man's attempts to control it will succeed is anybody's guess. But other questions have sprung up. Epidemics are known to crash populations of rodents once a certain climax in their spread is reached. Would that happen to the humans when AIDS reaches such climax? Another question is "whether there is another AIDS, and yet another, waiting in the wings to emerge" (ibid page 194).

There is an entirely new angle to this hoary scenario. Some media had reported in 1990 that according to some, scientists in U.S., Europe and Russia, AIDS virus could have arisen from a biological weapons experiment gone awry! This is stated to be quite unfounded but David Suzuki and Pater Kundtson in their book "**Genethics - The Clash Between the New Genetics and Human Values**" (Harvard - 1990) propound a thought experiment" where scientists develop genetic weapons which may spread HIV - like viruses on enemy population! Another boon from modern science!

This may sound a bit fanciful, though highly probable. But here is a fresh one. In the posh Shelbourn Hotel in Dublin, an Italian Doctor and his wife were awakened at midnight by the presence of a burglar in their room. He had in his hands a syringe filled with red liquid. "Hand over all your valuables, otherwise **I will inject this into your wife. It is filled with my blood, which is HIV positive**", he said. They forthwith complied. In Europe, particularly in France, the drug addicted shop lifters are known to threaten stabbing with a hypodermic infected with HIV. ("**The Octopus**" - "Europe in the Grip of Organised Crime" by Brian Freemantle - (Orion - 1995, page 54)

See the "Vohuman" in the humans?

(Concluded)

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(Scientix will some day take you further in "Genethics" i.e. the ethics of genetics; and "Octopus." - Ed)

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