

Editorial –

AHURA'S PLAN OF DIFFERENT RELIGIONS REVEALED IN AVESTA SCRIPTURES INCLUDING THE GATHA.

"CONVERSION - ACCEPTANCE" FANATICISM, INCONSISTENT WITH THE PARSI TEMPERAMENT.

Parsis are good people. Parsis are charitable, obliging, helping, giving, affectionate, friendly, warm hearted..... Centuries of religious discipline has infused in them a disposition, unique in many ways. The most beautiful fragment of their temperament is their deep respect and admiration for all Religions, the fragrance of which permeates right from the days of Cyrus the great (559-529 B.C.), who actively helped the jews to rebuild their famous Temple of King Solomon, to the Parsi 'Shethia's in India, who are known to give their land and help to build the places of worship of Religions other than their own.

How can a community with such a considerate disposition ever talk of "conversion" - or a more pompous word "proselytism" ? Because conversion in effect means implying that my Religion is better than yours, which, in other words, means your Religion is no-better i.e. worse than mine. That other pompous word has its root in Latin "proselytus", Greek "proselutos", meaning "one who has come, new comer". Proselytism means inviting somebody to come to or arrive at my Religion, leaving his own. "My house is better than yours." "My Prophet is better than yours." "My Avesta is better than your Bible."

Is this consistent with the Parsi temperament?

To cover up this dirty aspect, the conversion fanatics baptised 'conversion' as 'acceptance.' If somebody voluntarily wants to come, why not 'accept' him or her? But that is a dishonest coverage, because in effect you are telling him or her, **"good that you are leaving your Religion and coming into ours; ours is so good." Which is the other way of saying "yours is no good."**

Is such a blasphemy and desecration in consonance with the Parsi frame of mind? Obviously not. Then, how is it that this conversion hydra goes on hissing in our community since a century ?

The breeding ground of the hydra is the 19th century "scientifically" Godless Western civilisation - "the infidel half century" as Bernard Shaw put it - and the hazy paradigms of the Western Studies of our Religion. The breeders were two kinds of Parsis themselves: the village Parsis, who had 'Adivasi' mistresses, and the sophisticated rich Parsis, who desired to marry white-skinned European ladies. The first had culminated in the Vansda Navjote case (1942) and the second in the famous Justice Davar case (1909). The Adivasi progeny case was withdrawn because of the testimony of Dr. Dhalla, an ardent champion of conversion, to the effect that the community was strongly against conversion, and that he himself would not perform any Navjote of such progeny. In the French lady case, it was held that Parsis do not convert and that the settlors of the Parsi Trusts of Agiarys, Dokhmas and all other charities never intended that any convert could be their beneficiary.

THE FLATTERING SCHOLARS

When in the first decade of this century, the rich publicly raised the issue of conversion of their European spouses, some "scholars" of Religion, whose scholarship was derived from the hazy and highly speculative Western studies of our scriptures, came out with several quotations allegedly from the holy Books, in support of conversion. A committee of eleven such high-brow scholars very vaingloriously and superciliously presented passages from Avesta Scriptures and Pahalvi books, allegedly showing that our Religion advocated and enjoined conversion.

There were serious basic and inherent infirmities in the thinking and reasoning of these high-brows. For instance, they themselves had adopted the western paradigm that the Gatha's are the only genuine scripture of 'Zoroaster', all other Avesta was "later" and spurious and were written by "later priests" with ulterior motives which were selfish and even fraudulent. And yet these puffed up people emphatically relied on the "evidence" from the so called later Avesta in support of conversion. There were many other inherent flaws in their whole process of reasoning. But apart from these wishful faults, do you know what was the gist of their alleged evidence?

According to them, the Parsi scriptures, Gathic and non-Gathic, declared:

That all other Religions were untrue; they were founded on untruth.

That their teachings were bad and based upon evil.

That the paths of other Religions were not the right paths.

That those of the other Religions should be brought to the Zoroastrian Religion even by force, or should be beaten and driven away.

That only those who were Zoroastrians would attain perfection, immortality and bliss.

Are you not astounded at these fanatical, bigoted, frenzied, rabid and wild pronouncements germinating from this morbid "scholarship"?

The most malignant proposition of these 'scholars' was that wherever the word "Dregvadebyo", (Ha 30-11), or "Dregvao" (Ha 45-1) or "Dregvato" (Ha 31-18), or "Dvaesho" (Ha 43-8) occurred, it meant the evil, sinful untruthful persons and referred to the people of other Religions! Truth and goodness were the monopolies of the Parsi Religion alone! What a blasphemy! Needless to state that the Gatha, like all the Holy scriptures of all Religions, are referring to the evil in man and the evil forces out in Nature, and sternly warns man not to fall a prey to the evil within and without. But here that great Truth is twisted brazen-facedly, to bring in the fanaticism of conversion!

The other matter on which the grains of wisdom were scattered by those scholarly sires was that wherever a scripture referred to a battle or war or fight, it meant fight or use of force to convert persons of other Religions to the Zoroastrian Religion! That was their Ha 31-3! **What a shameless desecration of other great Religions! What a downright insult of the Prophets and Saints and 'Avtar's of other Religions!!**

Ask again: is this in consonance with the Parsi psyche, the Parsi nature and the Parsi temperament? On the criterion stated by these high-brows, cyrus the great was a great sinner to help the Jews to build their Temple of King Solomon! He was violating the "teachings" of the Gatha !

■ ■ ■

Am I just raking out the past? Why refer to a nine decades old matter in 1997 ? No, it is not just a matter of the remote past. It is a matter of the vibrating present. The Jafri Iranian cult of conversion-fanatics in the West are relying on this very 'scholarly' evidence to propagate conversion. Parsis have become too lethargic to see through the game. In the 1993 Gatha colloquium in London, an innocent looking suggestion was made at the end viz. let us have a scholarly debate on conversion. The decorated magazines, the internet, the email from the West are all vibrating with this conversion fanaticism of those who call them Parsis and one Muslim, who never was, and is not, a Parsi.

■ ■ ■

The scriptural evidence is exactly the other way round.

The main thrust of the Zarathushtrian Daena is on EVIL ELEMENT within man and the EVIL FORCES out in Nature. Asho Zarathustra as the first Prophet teaches that the humans have within them two elements: the Evil (Druj) and the Good (Gava). The EVIL WITHIN is to be alchemised into GOOD and to be added to the Good already existing there. The process of

alchemy is through different Paths i.e. different Religions. All the Paths have one root and one origin. They then divide into different Paths. Each of the Paths has a common aim. Each teaches several common Truths and yet has different prescriptions, procedures and practices for the group of humans treading on that particular Path. That is Gatha Ha 31-11, which clearly refers to "Daenaao" - Religions - the plural of 'Daenaa.' The passage proclaims that Ahura has devised these 'Daenaao' for the humans of this globe. These Religions prescribe and ordain different procedures, duties, practices 'tarikats's ('Shyothnaao'); different faiths (Vereneng); different desires and devotions (i.e. towards different Prophets and 'Saoshyant's) ("Vasaa"); different doctrines as basic teachings ("Sengahascha"). Ahura has given the mental powers to the humans to understand and absorb this Truth.

Gahta Ha 34-13 elaborates this Truth. The path of life is full of the conflict between the good and the evil. The Religions (Daenaao) presented through Ahura's Messengers ('Saoshyant's) can erase out that conflict. One who follows the divine Path of Ashoi-Purity-prescribed for him or her by his or her own Religion ("Hookeret") attains immortal bliss ("Urvakhshat"). Ahura has destined for such wise humans the Final Reward (of Perfection, Union, and Immortality - Hauravataat & Ameretaat - referred in preceding passage 34-11).

Here Religions and Messengers are in plural number. The word "Hookeret" clearly indicates that each Religion leads to the final center and that one who sticks to the center of one's own Religion attains the ultimate goal. This is described by different names; Salvation, Mookti, Nirvan, Frashogard.

Gatha Ha 46-6 specifically refers to the conflict between the good and the evil and proclaims in no uncertain terms that Daenaao-Religions- are bestowed by Ahura to alchemise all evil into good.

In Ha 33-13, the devotee prays to Ahura to lead him or her to the divine Light and to enlighten him or her on the Truth of Daenaao, through implicit obedience and humility. ("Oos moi Ujareshvaa Ahura....")

Ha 49-9 which also has word Daenaao, proclaims that the Truth is contained and taught in the Religions (i.e. every Religion) and every Religion is the Gift flowing from the voice of God.

Now I ask you, my dear reader, which of the two is consonant with the Parsi psyche and Parsi disposition: (1) the Truth that every Religion emanates from Ahura according to His divine Plan; that every messenger of God brings down the Truth; that every Religion leads to God's center and the ultimate goal; that every Religion is therefore entitled to profound respect; and that therefore every human should follow his or her Religion and conversion is a blasphemy ; Or (2) The Irani-Jafri fanaticism that 'my Religion and my Prophet is better than yours, therefore come or welcome' ?

Which of the two is Parsi - like?

Another question: Which of the two readings of the Scriptures sound more humane, more loving and more truthful? Please note that the translations of Ha 31-11, 34-14, 33-13, 46-6 and 49-9 elaborated above, follow the very rules of the Western grammar, etymology and philology more stringently than the twisting and torturing of the Scriptures by the conversion-fanatics, for whom every person of the other Religion is a "dravand" !

CYRUS IS THE LORD'S SHEPHERD.

"Cyrus the king issued a decree: Concerning the house of God at Jerusalem, let the house be rebuilt Let the cost be paid from the royal treasury They finished their building by command of the God of Israel and by decree of **Cyrus and Daraius and Arta-xerxeb king of Persia**; and this house was finished on the **third day of the month of Adar**, in sixth year of the reign of

Darius." **(The Holy Bible - Ezra 6-3, 5, 14, 15).**

"(The Lord) who says of Cyrus, "He is my shepherd and he shall fulfill all my purpose".

(Isaiah 44-25).

(Note the month of Adar and its third day i.e. Ardibeheshta !)

Those three Persian Kings were infidels on the "evidence" of conversion - acceptance fanatics !

(Parsi Pukar AUGUST 1997 Vol. 3; No. 2)