

Our Thanks (i) to Our Many Truth-Seeking Readers and (ii) to a Few Cheap Newspaper-Columnists.

It is a matter of profound gratification for us that this humble Dini Avaz has, with only six issues, generated many currents in the community, not only in India but also abroad.

"We did not know all this! Nobody told us!"

"Is our Religion so great and so lofty and so profound? Wish I had known earlier!"

"I thought there was nothing much in Zoroastrianism. A few old rituals and mere talk of simple manashni, gavashni, kunashni."

"Frankly, I was damn tired of hearing this manashni, gavashni, kunashni business for infinite number of times. Zoroastrianism seemed to begin there and end there! But you show that there is much more in it than I ever dreamt!"

"Reading the 'saar' (summary) in our prayer book, Khordesh Avesta, I was wondering: are there not even a few spiritual or philosophical thoughts in our Religion? What are we "praying?" And why, if this is the content? There must be something deeper. But where to find it? The meaning of each line of Kem-na-Mazda you give in Dini Avaz has given me a refreshingly devotional angle!"

"I thought we are wasting our time, money and energy after useless rituals. But when you are talking about 'Zoroastrian yoga' and spiritual exer-

cises and disciplines, I am really set to thinking!"

"I thought in this jet and moon-trip age science must have exploded all these religious myths and fads. But you say something startlingly different and that too with materials from most modern science! I admit I am shaken!"

"Reading Dini Avaz it seems mysticism is itself a science — beyond all physical and common-man-made sciences! Is that right?"



These are a few sparkles coming to us from our readers — especially young readers.

Well! Thanks a million! But what we say is nothing new. It is the Science, Teachings and Truths of Zoroastrianism, which are unaffected by the flow of time and are THERE in our Holy Writings. We only set them out here in the present-day language.

If they enlighten you, if they inspire faith and devotion in you, if they at least furnish food for thought to you, then we bow down our heads in deep gratitude to Ahura, to Zarathushtra, to all Good Forces and Energies whirling in the Universe and to those Forces which inspire us to do what we are doing through this humble Dini Avaz! May we be fit to be guided by Them!



There are other currents too we have generated. Since the last quarter of the 19th Century Zoroastrianism began to be misunderstood. Its spiritual content was attacked by the onslaught of the then Western scientific thought. Few Parsis were swept away. They raised a cry: "throw away the useless things from our Religion." The only criterion to judge the useless was the then science and the then studies wholly nurtured in that science.

Today after 100 years, the god of science is found to have failed in understanding nature. All that it has succeeded in is knowing **something** from the secrets of nature and using it in destruction of humans and all that is Godly in a human.

And yet the old relic of 'throw away the useless' still continues in some antiquated quarters of our community. There are a few Paris of the older generation who still try to stick to those 19th century ideas. They are blissfully ignorant or prefer deliberately to be ignorant of all the vast mess modern science finds itself in. They do not simply know that mysticism has invaded science. Science has failed. Religion and Mysticism are justified. But the fossils in our community still remain.

These old-timers have recently found a way in the Gujarati Daily: Mumbai Samachar. It has two columns a week — one in English and other in Gujarati purporting to be on Parsism and Zoroastrianism, which of late do nothing but bray towards the scientific and mystic aspects of the Zarathushtrian Religion. It is obvious that this humble Dini Avaz has struck them directly.

And THAT is another gratifying achievement for us. The evidence,

facts, materials and data we present here, from the fields of modern science and the sciences of mysticism and particularly Zoroastrian Mysticism, have created a stir and a flutter in those out-of-date campaigners. Our aim is to present the truth, and truth is always bitter to the prejudiced. **Truth is pleasant for its seeker, painful to its evader.**

How is this campaign carried out in the new mouth piece, Mumbai Samachar? Let us show you a few of these columns' fallacies, follies and faults:

1. The columns do not contain any argument whatsoever **on merits!** All that is set out consists of rash generalisations and a volley of useless words around some individuals, without naming them and even stating what they had said or written which induced the columnist to waste the valuable columns of a good daily!

2. There is an **inherent current of ignorance** running throughout the columns. Subjects which require a life-time of study are dealt with in a most slipshod, frivolous and cheap newspaper like fashion. Some stray quotations from some authors or alleged correspondents and some pompously hollow comments on them — that is the mode and mechanics of these wasteful columns.

3. Quotations are very often out of context and irrelevant to the purported issues. Sometimes there is no issue at all!

4. At times, quotations are misquoted or even mal-quoted. Attempts are made to present such ideas from the authors of the quotations which are simply not there or are even contrary to the author's own! For in-

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The Kushti Prayer, Its Meaning and Thoughts

The first two passages of the "Kem-na-Mazda" prayer are from the 'Gatha's of Zarathushtra. "Kem-na-Mazda.....Daenayai Fravaocha" is from yasna (Gatha) Ha 46-7. "Ke Verethrem ya thwa.....vashi Kahamai chit" is from Yasna (Gatha) Ha 44-16.

As a revision, I set out here at one place the meaning of both these passages :

1. "When the enemy within me and without me stares at me in the attacking posture, who Oh Mazda! Shall save me, except You and Your Divine Energies ('Yazata's)? Only You and They can enlighten my mind with Your Divine Fire and by that Light only shall I emanate Truth, Love and Holiness from me. Teach me the Divine Knowledge and Wisdom which shall bring me nearer to Thee Oh Mazda" I

2. "Who will defeat the enemy within by the strength of the Manthra ?

You (Oh Mazda!) will show me my Teacher and Guide, who has knowledge about You and Your Creation and who can lead me to You in both the worlds: the present and the next.

(Towards one who craves for you Oh Mazda) Sarosh with His Divine consciousness (Vohu Mano) will come. That is Your Gift to whosoever You love, Oh Mazda" I

The rapid thoughts of the passages are : The Evil within and without me, is to be conquered by the help of Mazda, His 'Yazata's and 'Manthra'. The Divine Fire within me is to be kindled. When that happens, 'Sarosh' will come, and I shall emanate Truth and Love.....and shall march nearer and nearer to Thee, Oh Mazda I

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stance, the columns quoted an opinion of **Dastur Khurshid Beheram** of Secunderabad published in an old 1904 booklet. That Dasturji had in his opinion expressed very strong and convincing reasons against conversion. But the **Mumbai Samachar** column gave a few lines out of context from Dasturji's opinion and stated expressly, in so many words in the body as well as in the headings, that the Dasturji was very much in favour of conversion!! — A most glaring piece of journalistic dishonesty coming from an old reputed daily under Parsi management!

5. The columnist refuses to read books! He relies on some stray haphazard ideas which he got perhaps in his childhood or studenthood — obviously 5 to 6 decades back. He refuses to cure his ignorance on sub-

jects of science, mysticism or Religion. He has apathy for books we refer or list here. He should ponder on the following words of a voracious reader, **Mr. Rusi Jehan Daruwala**, appearing in his article on "Study of Occultism (Sunday Standard, 20-2-1977):

"... Many people have a natural aversion to reading scientific or apparently scientific books. Such reading requires independent thought or at least thinking with the author, which requires concentration on the given subject."

That is the right diagnosis of the Mumbai Samachar Parsi columnist. No independent thought, lack of concentration and consequent natural aversion to reading scientific books!

These khrrr drums expose their own cracked hollowness and give indirect tribute to the truths we present here. Therefore, **Thanks a billion**