

## Gatha Ha 31-11 Reveals Ahura's Divine Plan of Different Religions.

### IS IT RIGHT TO DESECRATE OR BLASPHEME OTHER RELIGIONS?

There is a thought running in the psyche of a considerable part of the Parsi Community that our Religion is superior to other Religions. This is coupled with the notion that all Religions are not the same.

There is a group which takes pompous pride in saying, "I am proud of my Religion". The undercurrent is that other Religions are inferior. Some declare with great relish that there is so much in our Religion that you need not even look to other Religions. I suspect that this is an excuse for avoiding to read about other Religions due to either laziness, or incapability to read any Indian language, particularly Gujarati.

There is another group, known as "red cap", which goes to the extent of ridiculing other Religions. They are permanently angry on all other Religions! For instance, they say that green colour is from Muslim Religion, therefore we must avoid all green things. We must not wear green shirt or dress. I know some people from this group who threw away all green clothes. I do not know whether they have stopped eating green vegetables, or have started cutting down all green trees. This red cap cult has several such comic specimens in their thoughts, words and actions.

Is this false sense of superiority justified? How far is it true to say that all Religions are not the same? It is no doubt a fact that there are more than one Religions and they have different tenets, traditions and day-to-day observances and their doctrines seem to differ, at times radically. The question then is: WHY so? What has the Zarthosti Din itself to say on this variety of Religions? Does it refer to more than one Religions? Yes, it does.

The Avesta word for Religion is "Daena". It is scattered all over Avesta, by itself and with different grammatical forms. The bare references cover 3/4th of the right hand column of page 240 in Kangaji's Avesta Dictionary. (There are more than 60 references). For those who are Gatha maniacs: "Daenaa" is in 45-11, 49-4, 44-11, 51-12; "Daenaam" is in 44-9, 44-10, 53-2; "Daenayaai" in 46-7, 51-17; "Daenaa" in 33-13, 34-13; "Daenaaoscha" in 31-11 (Sorry for this boring 'scholasticism'.)

For the answer to the questions posed in last but preceding para, let me place before my reader Gatha-Yazashney Ha 31-11.

"Hyat ney Mazdaao Pauravim  
Gaethaaoscha Tasho DAENAAOSCHA  
Thva Mananghahaa Khratushchaa Hyat  
Astavanteym Dadaao Ushtanem  
Hyat Shyothnaao Sengahaaschaa  
Yathra Velyneng Vasaa Daayete."

"Oh Mazda! when you first made, through Your Thought-Force, the world of physical existences (and) **Religions**, thereafter You bestowed on us intelligent wisdom (and) the bodily life; towards that, were determined for us (the humans) (different) Faiths, (and) Devotions and for that you gave and determined the commands i.e. tarikats, duties, actions, deeds, doctrines."

The key-word is "Daenaaoscha". "Daenaa" is clearly the plural of "Daenaa". This is therefore a direct reference to more than one Religions. The late savant Khurshedji Kama referred in his Gujarati book: "Paigamber Asho Zartoshtnaa Janmaaraa no Ahevaal" to the word "Daenaa" in Ha 46-6, 34-13. Farvardin Yashta-74, Ha 31-11 and at other places, and taken it as plural of 'Daenaa' (First Edition - 1870, page 143).

Ha 31-11 has four ingredients:

1. Mazda made the corporeal world with physical existences ("Gaethaa").
2. Along with Gaethaa, He made more than one Religions (Daenaa).
3. He bestowed on the humans a bodily life (Astavanteym.. Ushtanem) and intelligent wisdom (Khratu).

4. He has Determined for them different Faiths, (Veryneng), Devotions, Cravings for the Divine (Vasaa), Commands, Doctrines, Tarikats, Duties (Sengahaa), Works and Deeds (Shyothnaao).

The declaration of Truth in this passage is: Mazda created the physical world, gave body and intelligent wisdom to the humans, bestowed on them different Religions and each Religion has its own prescribed faith, devotion, doctrines, deeds, duties. All the words: Shyothnaao, Sengaha, Vereyneng, Vasaa, are in plural.

This is a clear message that different Religions are in accordance with the divine plan of Ahura. His messengers bring different Daenaao to different groups of humanity.

The corollary is that different groups of humanity have different physical, mental and spiritual compositions and their Religions are determined accordingly.

Let us try to explore these Truths through a different root:

What is Religion? Is it just a matter of concepts and beliefs? Or is it a matter of TRUTH? Is it just a matter of history, geography and philology or is it a revelation of Truth declared by the Prophets of God? Is it just a matter of academic guess works or is it a statement of Divine Science of Nature? Is it something to be mentally constructed or something to be spiritually achieved?

Unfortunately most of the so called oriental or religious studies ignore the basic foundation on which the grand edifice of Religion stands since countless millennia. These studies go on throwing one conjecture after other regarding the alleged history of Religions based on airy and unverifiable data. Certain ideas followed certain routes of geography and such and such an idea or concept or belief was "taken from" such and such a Religion by such and such a set of people at such and such a place. **These studies are like imaginary travel diaries of concepts and beliefs!** They are not even conscious of the fact that **every Religion is a body of Natural Truths, which go beyond ordinary human intelligence**; that every Religion is the divine declaration of God regarding the Truths unseen, and an ordained way of our DAY-TO-DAY life on earth. They boast that their method is "scientific" but in reality they are far from **the basic element of science, namely the quest for Truth**. They are ignorant of the fact that Prophets are those **who have experienced and seen the TRUTH and they are sent by God to man to give him a little glimpse of the Truth, and command him to base his life on it**. The very foundation of Religion is Nature's Divine Science which is unobservable by man. The modern studies have an inherent current of thought that a modern professor is better equipped in knowledge than an ancient Prophet.

We Parsis, particularly, ran after such Professors of guessworks and based our paradigms on their conjectures. To us, Bartholomae and Insler are the declarants of our religion. We do not - and as our hollow high brows declare should not-even look at other Religions. These pompous highbrows themselves close their eyes to other Religions and proudly ask us to do so. Some of them, I suspect, cannot see, even with open eyes, the truths propounded by other Religions, because they cannot read and study in any language other than English, and their consciousness cannot go beyond their own personal ego. So far as the red cap vala are concerned, they look to other Religions with the eyes of hatred, which is worse. Hatred is worse than ignorance.

**The study of Religion is the exploration of divine Truth with full consciousness of the tremendous limitations embodied in our intellect and our five senses.** To adopt the way of life taught by Religion is more effective in such exploration than reading books of conjectural professors. **Three minutes of doing Kushti is more effective than 300 hours in a library.**

Since Religion is the statement, declaration and proclamation of Truths in Nature, how is it possible that one particular Religion would say something contrary to something contained in another Religion? If all prophets are sent by God, how can it ever be that one Religion says, "the Truth is that a is b" and another says, "the Truth is that a is NOT b"? If we read such inconsistencies in different Religions, there must be something wrong in our reading. The apparent contradiction must have deeper significance. **It cannot be, in the very nature of things, that God talks in such disharmony. There must be ample room for harmonious construction of the seemingly opposite Truths; because both ARE Truths.**

The above - quoted Gatha 31-11 declares that all Religions emanate from the divine plan of Ahura and that different prescriptions are provided in different Religions. **They are different, not contradictory.** They

are different medicines for the different groups of the sick, because their diseases, their faults of the flesh, are different. But the ultimate aim is to make them healthy and devoid of their diseases, and to take them back to God. When the great saint of Bengal Ramkrishna Paramhans was asked: why are there different Religions, he gave an answer, simplest and most profound, at the same time. He said: think of a mother with 3 sons; one is an athlete, so mummy has to give him good healthy food in good quantity; the second son has chronic dysentery, he has to be given a lot of curd, and milk is to be scrupulously avoided; the third son is rather weak, so mom gives him milk and other nourishments in measured quantities; so also God gives Religion according to the constitution of the person!

How simple and how profound! **Each according to his spiritual need!** Milk is for one but not for the other. **What is suitable for one may be harmful for the other. But the AIM is to keep the children healthy.....**

#### **THE TRUTHS SUMMED UP.**

All Religions emanate from the divine plan of Ahuramazda. **Each of them is a statement of Truth.**

Every Religion proclaims that we come out of God, and ultimately go to Him. The ultimate Truth and the ultimate aim is the same; it is explained in different languages and by different pictures in different Religions.

Mankind is divided in groups. Each group has different constitution, and is therefore assigned a particular Prophet.

The Prophet ordains special prescriptions for the group. Other groups have their own Doctors and own prescriptions. Each has to follow its own and reach the ultimate goal.

There is therefore no conflict between Religions. Conflicts are man-made. The boast of superiority is entirely irrelevant. **FOLLOW YOUR OWN RELIGION AND HAVE PROFOUND RESPECT FOR ALL OTHER RELIGIONS.** In your quest for Truth, do not hesitate to have intellectual journeys in other Religions. **You will understand your own Religion better.**

And the last but not least, **Religion is God-given and not man-chosen.** Conversion from one Religion to another based on some mental jumps is unnatural. It creates disorder in the journey of the soul. It is a revolt against God.

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**(Parsi Pukar May-June '99 Vol. 4; No. 11-12)**