
A LIST OF THE FAITH-KILLING PARADIGMS OF THE WESTERN ZOROASTRIAN STUDIES.

Zarathushtra, the Farmer; Yazats, No Divine Entities; Hinduism, a Many Gods' Religion; Supremacy of Human Intellect; Gatha-Alone-Cult; the Frandulent Later Priests; Ignorance of Paharvi Writers; Conversion because Other Religions Untrue; Khaetvodeth, "Next of Kin" Marriages...

The Western Studies of "Zoroastrianism" (as they call it) have spread a soft bed sheet of paradigms on the already sleepy Parsi Community. A paradigm means a theory which sticks to the human psyche for a period of time and then breaks, to be substituted by a new one. The new paradigm has also the same fate. Therefore, all paradigms are the theories waiting to be falsified. (See page 7 of this issue).

A number of such paradigms are presented to us by the Western Zoroastrian Studies (WZS). They were based on the scientific paradigms of the 18th and 19th centuries. Those founding paradigms are broken in the 20th century. Modern Science does not hesitate to declare them as broken. But the WZS unscientifically sticks to their old ones. A group of Parsi scholars were carried away by those theories and the sleepy Parsis went into a deep slumber below the soft and cosy comfortable bed sheet of their paradigms

Let me summarily enlist the paradigms generated by the 19th century physical sciences.

1. When the humans on earth descended from monkees, they were primitive, barbarous and wild tribes. (Most of the lectures of the late Dr. Manekji Dhalla began by : "પ્રાચીન પહેલે જંગલો..." As man's intellect developed, he saw the world with awe and fear. That was the cause of many superstitious beliefs, which in turn became religion. After thousands of years, the

humans have now achieved great intellectual and scientific "progress". (Dr. M. Dhalla even wrote a book, "Our Perfecting World.") This is called "progress paradigm.

2. The universe operated on natural laws, as Newton and Darwin proved by their laws of motion and natural selection. No designer "God" was needed.
3. The human intellect, with its tools, viz., logic, mathematics and reasoning, is fully capable of understanding the universe and arrive at its truth and reality.

(2 and 3 are called "Newtonian-Cartesian Paradigm." The idea of the intellectual supremacy was mooted by des-Cartes.)

The scholars of WZS were nurtured in these three paradigms. All the three were inherently opposed to religion. God became a mere concept, an idea, which they expored historically and intellectually. Religions became subjects of "critical" study. Holy Scriptures of all Religions became mere philological, etymological and comparative readings. They were pieces of primitive literature much remote to the modern progress line. Godlessness in the atmosphere was incompatible with the truths of the Divine. The human mind became a dry barren country with no rain of devotion and love. Age long religious experiences of millions of people were mental disorders. All supplications to God, all the throbs of the heart towards the Prophets and Avataars, all tears of seperation from God, became psychopathic

diseases. Love towards God or towards humans in misery became just pathological storms in the physical nervous system. Survival of the fittest was the key of life; kill and carry away the mates of the weak was the rule of nature.

How can a religious study grow on this barren field? How can the truths of the spirit be planted on the rocky soil of stark materialism?

So the Western studies came out with a number of paradigms far away from the spiritual content of the Zarthoshti Din. Here they are:

MONOTHEISTIC — POLYTHEISTIC

1. The religions of the world can be divided in two classes Monotheistic and Polytheistic. Monotheistic means those, which believe in one God; Polytheistic, many Gods. The belief in one God is superior to the belief in many Gods. The latter sounds more primitive. The wilder tribes worshipped trees and sun and fire and mountains and cattles. One God is a more advanced concept. "Zoroastrianism" should be declared as monotheistic. Parsis are an advanced community.
2. Since Z-ism is monotheistic, the concept that the seven Ameshaspendis and thirty three Yazats are living divine entities operating as deputies of one God, Ahura Mazda, is non-Zoroastrian. Ameshaspendis are just the nomenclature of the virtues or qualities of God. The "Gatha" says so. Treating the Ameshaspendis and Yazats as divine beings is like treating them as "Daeva's" and "Devi's" of the polytheistic Hindu Religion. "A comparative and critical study" of the word "Daeva" shows that the Gods of Hindus are the devils of the Parsis.

ZARATHUSHTRA OF PASTORAL AGE

3. "Zoroaster", the so called prophet of ancient Iran, lived in the agricultural and pastoral age. He was a highly intelligent common-sense man, cleverer than his contemporaries. He introduced "the concept" of one God, as also the dual concept of God and Devil - Ahura Mazda and Ahariman. He introduced Manashni, Gavashni, Kunashni (MGK) calling them Humata, Hukhta, Havrashta, the great moral principles. Max Muller went to the extent of calling Zarathushtra as "a mythical name."

HUMAN INTELLECT, KEY TO THE TRUTH

4. The most important doctrines he presented were the supremacy of human intellect, the free will and choice given to man and his ability to arrive at God's truth through the sheer process of intellectual reasoning. That is the famous Gatha - Yasna Ha 30-2.

PRE-ZOROASTER MAGIS, THE MAGICIAN DRUG ADDICTS

5. The said "Zoroaster" was preceded by former 'magi's, the magicians and followed by the latter 'mobed's, the priests. Those preceding people were drug addicts. Their main drug was from a plant named "Haoma". He also discarded those intoxicated magis along with their intoxicant, Haoma. He also discarded their magic-like rituals and ceremonies. He was a great reformer. He gave a simple gulpable religion with MGK as its banner, and the liberty to think out the truth by the supreme human intellect, as its prime doctrine. What a surprise? An old prophet teaching des-Cartes! Verily, Verily, this was the simplest and most scientific monotheistic religion!

THE GATHA - ALONE - PARADIGM.

6. The said Zoroaster gave his message through his five Gathas - Five chapters, seventeen sub-chapters, 238 strophies (passages). Gathas are his only genuine message. The rest of the Avesta is later, fabricated by "the later priests." Max Muller wrote that even Gathas were not written by Zoroaster; they were written much later - somewhere around the first century.

THE FRAUDULENT LATER PRIESTS

7. After the death of Zoroaster, a cult of priests slowly developed. These "later priests" (as they are named by WZS), prompted by their selfish motives, tried to twist the original message of Zoroaster, by fabricating their own Avesta scriptures. Their Avesta language differed greatly in the content and substance from the Gathas. These later priests were so fraudulent that they wrote in their later scriptural Avesta, the alleged dialogues between Ahura Mazda and Zoroaster. They thrust therein their own twisted Zoroastrianism far different from the original Gathic Zoroastrianism, as if it is the spoken by Ahura Mazda in answer to Zoroaster's questions! What a fraud! (Illaya Gertiwitch). Many chapters in Vendidad and 'Yasht's, read "Peresat Zarathushtro Ahurem Mazdam... thus asked Zoroaster to Ahura Mazda" - all in later Avesta. What deceivers, these "later priests!!"

GRAMMAR AND CORRUPT AVESTA

8. The WZS exerted much to develop a grammar of Avesta, treating it as the sister language of Sanskrit. It was a very difficult task. There were numerous obstacles in the way. The hurdles still persist. Not all of them are solved. Yet whatever rules of grammar WZS have framed do show that

the later Avesta violates the rules. Several textual passages are "corrupt" i.e. tainted with errors.

The Avesta of Khordad Yasht was corrupt. At several places in the later scriptures the grammar was wrong. Singular noun was connected to plural verb and vice versa. There were similar grammatical distortions at many places. The Avesta texts were not purely original.

9. There are extensive Pahalvi Writings, which are translations, versions, interpretations and explanations of Avesta texts. An almost violent debate was generated on the question whether, and if so how far, WZS should take the help of Pahalvi Writings to translate Avesta-texts. Some scholars believed in discarding Pahalvi altogether. Others believed, some strongly, some weakly, that Pahalvi writings should be one of the foundations for translating Avesta. The general consensus was that Pahalvi writers were not grammar-conscious and grammar trained. They were often found to be far away, in their translated versions and interpretations, from the original sense of Avesta. Yet it would be unwise and unscholarly to discard them altogether. A judicious and critical approach could be well adopted. Normally, almost all translators are on a low-key towards Pahalvi. They have an inherent bias that the Pahalvi writers were ignorant and WZS are superior.

CONVERSION, OTHER DINS UNTRUE

10. Some Parsi scholars, who were carried away wholly by WZS, quoted many passages from all Avesta, Gathic and non-Gathic, in support of the proposition that Zoroastrianism preaches, encourages and

champions conversion of a non-Parsi to a Parsi. These quotations had two classes. In one, it was allegedly declared to the effect: may the Mazdayasni Din spread all over the world. That means let us make the whole world Parsi Zoroastrians - no Hindus, no Jews, no Mohmedans, no Christians, no Shikhs (હીટલરને બી મારી ગીઆ). The other class of the quotations was more dangerous. The words Dreygvant, Dravand, Druj and all such words having the meanings : untruth, deception, impurity, evil, referred to all persons who belong to Religions other than the "Zoroastrian". (બુદ્ધડનો સામાન). Please note, these quotations came mostly not from the European Scholars, but the Parsi carried-away scholars.

BROTHERS - SISTERS MARRIAGES

11. Now the last one - the pick paradigm. (દીલ થામકે બેઠીએગા). Yasna (Yazashney) Ha 12 has a passage giving glorious tributes to Mazdayasni Zarathoshti Din. The passage starts with the words "Mazdayasno Ahmi Mazdayasno Zarathushtrish" and ends with "Aeyshaa Asti Danayao Mazdayasnoish Astooye Tish." You will remember that the passage occurs in the last part of the Kushti Prayer - Jasa mey Avanghey Mazda. The tributes to the Din are given by several words. One of such words is "Khaetvadathaam". It contains the word "Khaetvodath." The learned WZS scholars have arrived at the meaning of this word through two roots, historical and etymological. And the meaning is "**next of kin marriages.**" Mainly marriage between brother and sister and a bit further between father and daughter, mother and son. Marriage is a euphemistic term. (You know what I mean? Edipus complex?)

Sorry to hurt your feelings. But THAT is IT. One of the renowned scholars of WZS, Mary Boyce, wrote to the effect that the other tributes given to the Din in the said passage are so glowing that to call it a Din glorifying such shocking marriages is absolutely out of place; and that the word "Khaetwadathaam" deserves a strike-off from the Prayer. The word might have been thrust in by the later of the later priests.

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So, here is the feast of Zarthoshti Din placed on our Dhan-Shak table by the Western Zoroastrian Studies.

Zoroaster was a common sense man with a little more intelligence than his primitive pastoral group. Don't call him a Yazat, as the later priests did, in Yazashney Ha's 3 and 7. The original root of religion was fear of natural forces. Superstition is the root of all spirituality. Gathas constitute the only genuine Zoroastrianism. THE rest of the Avesta are the fraudulent conspiracy of the latter priests. Good thoughts, words and deeds and a moral law are the only authentic part of Zo-ism. The human intellect is capable of arriving at God's truths. Zoroaster broke his preceding group of the drug-addicts magis, the magicians and discarded their drug Haoma. The latter priests corrupted Zo-ism and thrust in fraudulent scriptures. Pahalvi writers were ignorant, WZS are superior. Zo-ism advocated conversion, all other religions are untruthful and evil. Zo-ism teaches next of kin marriages.

Each of these paradigms is false. They are responsible for breaking our faith and bringing us on the verge of extinction. We will deal with them one by one from the next issue.

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