

He Did It! He Did It! We Said That He Would Do It, Would Do It, Would Do It, & Did He Do! FDU – LFDL!

In this age of acronyms, you know by now that FDU stands for a Foundation that is out to Destroy Udvada! But what's this LFDL?

Look Face, Don't Laugh!

That's exactly what happened on the 24th November, 2006 to the trustees of the FDU, led by the Chairman, Dastur Khurshed, the Managing Trustee, D.K. Tamboly and Jehangir Cama of Ahmedabad, who had spearheaded the grand event that day of declaring Udvada a Tourist Centre and opening of a Museum by the Chief Minister of Gujarat.

In our June 2006 issue (Vol. III. 10), we had stated that Udvada was to be declared a "Tourist" Centre, as announced by the Valsad collector. Therein, we had rued the new scenario that would be created there, which would destroy the sanctity of Holy Iranshah and the "placid serene ambience around Him". As a last resort, we had pleaded, "Over to you, Holy Iranshah saheb show your glory and spiritual power!"

Well, that day, on His **Salgreh** – 24th November, 2006 – when the Chairman & Co. had booked nearly 50 buses from Mumbai to carry Parsees to the venue, which would have impressed Narendra Modi and his entourage that thousands of Parsees support the FDU's work, Holy Iranshah had other plans. Parsees did come to Udvada in large numbers, but at a different venue – where Iranshah stands. To bow before Him and offer thanksgiving for the quiet miracle that he had worked!

In the opposite building, the FDU Chairman, with his **mai-baap** trustee Tamboly and their satellites sat with long, drawn faces. They just didn't know who or what hit them! Till the

13th November, they were all cock-a-hoop for the extravaganza that they had planned to unfold. That very day – less than a fortnight before the event – came the shattering news for them: the CM won't be coming. Postpone the event!

The Sunday thereafter saw both Dastur Khurshed and Tamboly vent their spleen against **The Parsee Voice** in *Jame Weekly* of 19th November, 2006. While "Khurshed", on the one hand, wrote that because of the Gram Panchayet elections in Gujarat and the Code of Conduct being enforced, the Chief Minister could not come for the inauguration, on the other, under the guise of the "Udvada Samast Anjuman" (no such meeting of the said Anjuman was at all called!) he had a swipe at this journal by making the honourable **boiwalas** of Holy Iranshah sign the letter dated 16th November, 2006!!

Not to be left behind, the FDU Managing Trustee, at whom the needle of suspicion points, as stated by us umpteen times in the past, hiding behind that two-lettered abbreviation, "Ed.," spewed venom on **The Parsee Voice** and its Editors!!

Of course, all faithful Zoroastrians know that He did it! Just a subtle tick-off and 24th November, His **Salgreh** day, instead of all kinds of hordes rushing to Udvada, the usual Parsee worshippers paid their obeisance to the Mighty Spiritual Emperor! A huge hosanna is called for!

Just a Thought: The gram panchayet elections must have been decided at least a couple of months ago. Then, how come the CM cancelled the inauguration virtually at the last minute? **There are Higher Powers that rule our destinies!**

Community Capers

[Correction: In our last issue, the name of the President of the Indore Parsi Zoroastrian Anjuman, was erroneously mentioned as Bomi Kavina instead of Bomi Hirji. The error is regretted. – Ed.]

(1) Farcical “Navjotes” In Central Asia!

A 13-page essay, entitled “Aryan Revival in Tajikistan September 2006”, by Meher Master-Moos, landed on our desk, the other day. The write-up is littered with fallacies, concocted by interested parties to suit their purpose. For example, on page 2, we have this specimen: “After his (Shah Behram Varjavand) period of spiritual training in Demavand Kuh and Chaechast var, he is carrying out his work in many countries since 1981, working through many groups and organisations, many persons. The Zoroastrian College was established on planet Earth under his direct guidance, in order to enable him to carry out his work worldwide. Since January 2001 he is seated on his spiritual throne in Chaechast Var, and directing the work of the revival of the ancient faith in its original Aryana Vaeja homeland... And where is this “Aryana Vaeja”, according to Ms. Master Moos? The answer is Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, etc!!

So that gullible Parsees need not fall for the writer’s flights of fancy, let us clarify a few points:

(1) Yes, the Central Asian states, the 4 “stans”, as the BBC put it some time back, are those, where, thousands of years ago, Zoroastrian Empires held sway.

(2) We also acknowledge that as in modern Iran, in Tajikistan, there are many people who are very much interested in the Zoroastrian religion and yearn to study the Zoroastrian scriptures and the Avesta *manthra*.

(3) But that does not give anyone a licence to have their so-called “Navjotes” performed and then say that they are Zoroastrians. Most emphatically not. Most importantly, as we have

stated many times before, a person has to be born a Mazdayasni, for his/her Navjote to be performed, and that too, latest by the age of 15!

(4) What we object to very strongly is the delegation that went to Tajikistan in August-September, 2006, that included the two Ashmogs (apostates) from Mumbai, [Framroze Mirza and Khushroo Madan], who have been ostracised by our High Priests, who are notorious here in performing ceremonies for those Parsees who are buried and cremated, as well as Juddin marriages. They performed 45 fake “Navjotes” in Khujand and Tashkent, not to speak of “jashans” all over!!

(5) All this Ms. Master Moos does in the name of Iilm-e-Khshnoom’s Ustad Saheb Behramshah N. Shroff, who, among other things, had predicted that, there will come a time when there will emerge persons who claim to be “hum bhi Nawab Bharuch ke!”
O Tempora!

(2) Shameless Parsees & Mobile Madness in Holy Iranshah

A little more than a decade ago, Parsees, like other communities in India, didn’t know what a mobile phone looked like. Today, they are flaunting these instruments everywhere, like children, who have acquired new toy guns. Except that even these kids have that much sense not to bring their toys in places of worship, let alone play with them!

But some Parsee adults have neither any sense of proportion and discipline nor any knowledge about who an Atash Padshah is, how very sensitive and delicate are his Khoreh (aura), his glory, his kash and his vibrations, and above all, about Holy Iranshah, who, with His Pav Mahal, presides over the destiny of the Parsee community.

Parsees, who pride themselves on their modernity and intelligence don’t know a thing about the extremely powerful radio waves

emanating from cell phones. Carrying these contraptions in our sacred places of worship is making a complete mockery of the Holy Fire they come to pray before and ask for boons! **The Parsee Voice** will do a complete article on this menace inside our Fire Temples. **For the moment, however, we wish to proclaim from the roof tops, as it were, that before**

you climb the steps of Holy Iranshah, where you perform padyab-kusti, there are special lockers for you to deposit your mobiles. Please, therefore, DO NOT carry these instruments inside the prayer hall. And, for God's sake, stop being rude to the boiwalla saheb, who asks you to leave your cells outside!!

OUR MAILBOX

COMING OF THE SAVIOUR

Sir,

Day after day, the infighting in the community is assuming such proportions that it is rightly questioned: "Why are we so hell bent on destroying ourselves? Have we as a community lost all sense of balance?"

The reason is that our world is now entering the **Sign of Aquarius** and we are experiencing the world-wide effects of the New Aquarian Age.

More than 500 years ago, in England, St. Theresa (a church by that name stands at Girgaum) had predicted that: (a) when ships like fish will sail under the sea (submarine); (b) when life-like pictures move about (cinema and T.V.); (c) when women shall behave like men; (d) when men shall outreach the birds in the skies; (e) when over half the world in blood shall be, that will be the time for the Saviour to come. Similar predictions have been made by American seers like Jeane Dixon and Edgar Cayce. They had all talked of radical climatic changes, sinking of cities and countries, shifting of the poles, etc.

A great astrologer, Allen Leo had declared in Bombay, 80 years ago, that because of planetary connection with the British, Parsees had achieved all-round success and glory. When the British leave India, he had predicted, the downfall of the Parsee community will begin. Today, we all know where Parsees stand!

"Where virtues are neglected
And mere vices bloom.

That individual's destiny is done
That nation's future is doom!"

Because of Parsees marrying out, illegal "adoption" and other irreligious activities, Parsees are fast disappearing, as they did in the past in N. India, China etc.

But Ahura Mazda has given an assurance that He would send a Saviour at the right time. We will have in the near future, Shah Behram Varzavand, who will take those faithful Parsees, still left over, back to Iran. May that time come soon!

"Toddler"

[As he is already way past his 2nd childhood, the writer calls himself a "Toddler". Wish we had more like him. - Ed.]

DEATH KNELL FOR DOKHMENASHINI?

Sir,

Some Thoughts on revitalising the sytem

I had an occasion to go to Doongerwadi on 14th October, 2006. Here are my observations.

Located in sylvan surroundings, the environs of the Towers of Silence reminded me of the words of the great Pesian poet Firdausi Tusi "Agar zinnat... zamin ast, hamin-ast wo hamin ast wo hamin ast". (English translation: If paradise was on earth, it would be here). Even beyond the gate where entry is prohibited, the same heavenly unpolluted atmosphere prevailed. **And here fly the dragon-flies, a sure biological indication of purity of air.** What lies still further on, is not meant for our

eyes to see, just as what lies buried a few feet underground.

An ideal system for the disposal of the dear departed would be one that makes him vanish instantaneously without the use of fire, electricity, water, soil, microbes and other scavenging creatures. Alas, we are nowhere near this utopian solution that defies the law of thermodynamics and ecology. **The system that comes close to that prevailing in nature is that of Khurshed Nigarishni, exposing the dead to the elements of nature.**

In their nearly 300-year-old history in Mumbai, the saga of the Towers of Silence remained silent till about the mid 40s of the last century. Reportedly the first murmurs came from the small towns that the vultures just pecked at the bodies and flew away. The new introduced antibiotics were supposed to be the reason for rendering the carrion unpalatable.

The problem exploded on a much larger scale 50 years later, when the vultures vanished. A recent news item of swarms of vultures in Peru posing a threat to aviation provides a ray of hope. A few birds could be imported, with the due precautions, and integrated into the aviary project that was on anvil at the Doongerwadi (Reference : Mr. Khojeste Mistry and Dr. Rishad Naoroji). However, with the widespread use of the drug Diclofenac in allopathy, the survival of the imported avians cannot be assured. **This pain killer drug is held responsible for the extinction of vultures. Any substitute for vultures?**

In spite of the raging controversy over the Dokhma system, no attempt whatsoever has been made to look for a suitable organism to replace the vulture. Vendidad makes mention of flesh-eating dogs but carnivores belonging to the dog and cat families are to be ruled out. A probable candidate is a mammal that goes by the name of "ghor-khodu" (grave digger, night raider). So fond it is of dead human flesh that it is reported to dig graves.

Of course a good deal of trials and experiments would be needed before introducing the animal in the disposal system, subject to the approval

of our High Priests and the community leaders.

As to the suitability of the Doongerwadi land as a burial site, questions do arise. The soil is shallow over the hilly terrain and erosion active over the slopes washing away the deposited soil. With an estimate of 1000 burials per year, would the land suffice to serve for two to three decades and more?

Construction of recent buildings around the dokhmas existing since centuries was not a wise step. On the other hand, citizens have a right to protest when a crematorium comes up in a crowded locality.

(Dr.) Vispy M. Meher Homji

(The writer is a former Director (Research) French Institute, Pondicherry and a former Dean of the Salim Ali School of Ecology, Pondicherry University).

NO WAY TO TREAT A VARASIAJI!

Sir,

Twice a year Varasiaji from Nargol is transported from a Farm at Saronda to Banaji Limji Agiary at Fort, where he often remains for six months in a very narrow enclosure. If this is not enough, he is tied with a four feet long rope. When devotees complained to the Panthaky, the Varasiaji was further tied up with a second rope of same size, which makes any movement impossible, showing him in a pitiable state. The enlightened Parsee community should raise its voice against such inhuman treatment of our Varasiaji. The Panthaky saheb should be well aware that the Varasiaji is one of the most exalted Gospands, having direct contact with Bahman Ameshaspand, and not an object to be used for financial gains and kept in bondage for more than six months in a year! The Varasiaji is very docile and there is no excuse for this cruel and inhuman treatment.

The Panthaki saheb may well visit the Banaji and Dadiseth Atash Behrams for a study as to how the Varasiaji there are treated with dignity and respect.

R. Zaiwala