THE PARSEE VOICE

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The Present Man-Made Crisis:

(continued from last issue)

Are the BPP Trustees Hell-Bent On Committing A Breach Of Trust?

How Many Counsels Do They Want The Trust-Deed To Be Examined By?

Trustees' Indifference Mainly Responsible For The Deterioration Of The Dakhmas!

Mother Nature Not Allowed To Perform
Her Role Unhindered

Artificial Props Not The Answer To The "Malfunctioning" Of The Dakhmas

Dhanmai Baria — A Pawn In The Hands Of Vested Interests Including A Couple Of BPP Trustees?!

In a most bizarre and awesome development, the trustees of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet have written a letter dated May 15/16, 2006 to Nadir A. Modi, Senior Counsel, regarding "Alternative (sic) method of disposal of bodies outside Doongerwadi – aspects regarding the four days' prayers (sic) being performed at Doongerwadi"

The BPP trustees are the querists. They want to know if the Trust Deed(s) permit the trustees to allow "the four days' obsequial ceremonies, enjoined under the Zoroastrian faith at Doongerwadi in cases in which the bodies of the deceased are disposed of

outside Doongerwadi, under any alternative method of disposal of bodies, i.e. other than the conventional method of being consigned to the Tower of Silence."

Before proceeding further, notice some of the words used. While the ceremonies are rightly said to be "enjoined under the Zoroastrian faith", what about the **Dakhmas** and **Dokhmenashini?** Aren't they equally enjoined in the Zoroastrian religion, particularly in the Vendidad? On what grounds do the BPP trustees, on whose behalf B.T. Dastur has signed the letter, talk of some "alternative (sic) method of disposal"? **This is nothing but rank**

hypocrisy on the part of the BPP trustees. Who has given them the right to segregate the obsequial 4-day rituals from Dokhmenashini? The trustees are duty bound to stick to the Zoroastrian traditions and tenets, which have been religiously followed for more than 300 years on the Doongerwadi land, which they hold in trust. Their very letter, which talks of permitting "four days prayers(?) Doongerwadi in cases where the body of a deceased is disposed of (sic) by a method of disposal other than the conventional method of disposal under Khurshed Nagirishni", tantamounts to a breach of faith and perpetrating a fraud on the Parsee community, on whose behalf, they only ACT AS CUSTODIANS AND MANAGERS of the Doongerwadi land!!

The Supreme Irony!

To think, that just a week earlier, the BPP trustees, in their press release signed by Minoo Shroff and published in the Parsee press, on the 7th May, 2006, had that pontifically proclaimed "we are (unanimously) committed to maintain and strengthen the Dokhmenashini system"! How? By asking a legal eagle if 4 days ceremonies for those who opt for other methods could be performed at Doongerwadi? Aren't the BPP trustees guilty of torpedoeing their own commitment? Imagine, Minoo Shroff telling us on the one hand, "We seek the understanding and support of all well-meaning Parsi Zoroastrians in our efforts to strengthen and maintain the Dokhmenashini system", and on the other, his CEO Dastur, tells Nadir Modi, "for and on behalf of the Trustees of the BPP" that "The question has assumed considerable importance of late in the light of a view being expressed in several quarters of the Zoroastrian Community(?) to the effect that the Trustees should permit the four days prayers at Doongerwadi in cases where the body of a deceased is disposed of by a method of disposal other than the conventional method of disposal..."

How many Mumbai Parsees have informed the BPP trustees orally or in writing that they want to go for a method other than Dokhmenashini?

The note by B.T. Dastur mentions the words, "the question has assumed considerable importance of late..." How many Parsee journals or

organisations have raised this question of late? The answer, as everyone knows, is that only one woman, who was emotionally charged and high-strung, was used as a pawn by those who had been waiting in the wings since 2001, including at least one trustee of the BPP. The hysterics and histrionics of Dhanmai Baria, were then thoroughly and shamelessly exploited by the PTA columnist in The Bombay Samachar!!

A Conspiracy

All this clearly points to a conspiracy, a *saazish*, in which right from the top, different people are involved in scuttling, nay, destroying the consecrated **Dakhmas!!** The trustees of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet are guilty of neglecting or worse still, gradually destroying the **Dakhmas**, through the years!

Some of our readers may ask, but what would any trustee gain by doing so? The answer has been blowing in the wind, for the last at least eight years! Since 1998, some of us have been requesting the BPP trustees to take certain preliminary measures, like opening up the **pavis** not in use, making use of at least part of the fourth disused **Dakhma**, etc. **but all this has fallen on deaf ears.**

In our public meetings in 2001, we had made it very clear that at least one trustee and a top staffer seem to be keen on making the **Dakhmas** unworkable. It's a very subtle but cunning gameplan. A facade is always created to show that the trustees are deeply concerned about the proper functioning of Dokhmenashini.

On 31st October 2000, a round-table meeting was held at the Khareghat Hall. The BPP trustees had invited high priests, priests, scholars, etc., to discuss ways and means to counter the ill-effects of the disappearance of vultures at Doongerwadi. In that meeting, options and devices to stifle the stench and methods to "dehydrate the bodies" fast, were discussed. A couple of experts were specially invited, who suggested blowing ozone in the **Dakhmas** and pouring herbal powder on the corpses!!

Both, the solar concentrators and the DDD-AG were a few months away! Your Editor argued very forcefully that these artificial props are absolutely anti-Zoroastrian and that a conducive atmosphere should be created for Khurshed Yazad and the consecrated **Dakhmas** to function naturally. The trustees never bothered about these suggestions.

DDD-AG which came thereafter, is recent history. The bogey raised by some doctors and lawyers was that at Doongerwadi, there was a health hazard, in the absence of vultures. Who instigated them? Someone was pulling the strings from behind them – someone very much connected with the BPP!!

It took three public meetings in 2001 and the WHO opinion that corpses/cadavers lying in the sun did not constitute a health hazard, for the BPP, some of whose trustees were in league with DDD-AG, to hold in abeyance a "decision" to allow facility for rituals at Doongerwadi, for those who opted for cremation or burial!

As we had thought, the issue was simmering and just kept on the back-burner. This year, most unexpectedly, one Dhanmai Baria came in extremely handy for the vested interests, who were biding their time. Meanwhile, the ozone and herbal powder experiments had failed miserably and hundreds of thousands of rupees had gone down the drain! What remained were the solar concentrators - the last vestige of refuge both for those in favour and those against Dokhmenashini. The latter were just waiting for the simmering pot to boil over. They were the ones who latched on to the highstrung Dhanmai Baria. They include: the PTA columnist of the Bombay Samachar, one or two trustees of the BPP and their henchmen, whether in AZA or ARZ!

- Who gave Baria the illegal photographs of the insides of a Dakhma, which were taken five years ago?
- Why did the BPP trustees not nip in the bud, the high-octane *kaqlat* of Dhanmai, right in the beginning?
- ❖ On the contrary, why did the BPP trustees completely acquiesce in the loony shenanigans of the PTA columnist and Baria's bawls?
- ❖ No sensible human being could say that the deliberately orchestrated campaigns against Dokhmenashini by just two individuals can be construed as that "need to be addressed" issues... of grave importance", as Minoo Shroff

did in his letter of 26th April, 2006, inviting high priests, scholars, etc. for a meeting. **Doesn't** this gesture of acting post-haste, only because two persons made some noises, clearly show where the needle of suspicion points?

♦ Why did the trustees not take any legal action against Baria, as she had in her possession photographs which were **illegally taken.** Boards put up by the trustees themselves outside the Dakhmas, prohibit any photography in the environs. Then, how come these pictures brazenly taken inside the Dakhmas, where Dhanmai Baria's mother was also placed, were allowed to be distributed freely in Parsee baugs, which are held under trust by the BPP trustees!! Some readers of **The Parsee Voice** will recall that at the time of his re-election, a sitting trustee showed some of the same photographs to a few of his friends who called on him at his office! What does one make of all this? THAT THERE IS A DIRTY, MURKY GAME-PLAN OF VESTED INTERESTS BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE **BOMBAY** THE **PARSI** PUNCHAYET! THEY JUST DON'T WANT THE DAKHMAS TO FUNCTION IN THE NATURAL WAY!

The vital question that then arises is: Why don't the BPP trustees step aside, for a year or two, and entrust the responsibility of the administration and management of the day-to-day functioning of the **Dakhmas** to an ad-hoc committee of individuals, who will **religiously** and **faithfully** look after them as the Zoroastrian religion enjoins them to? Let this committee be given a free-hand to make **Dokhmenashini** workable, even in the present adverse circumstances, provided it operates within reasonable parameters, fixed by all genuinely concerned. **Ultimately**, **these committee members will be answerable to the BPP trustees**, say, every six months or annually.

If such an ad-hoc committee is formed, naturally the present Doongerwadi Advisory Committee, with a plethora of members who are only interested in car-parks, or flora and fauna at Doongerwadi, will have to be disbanded. The proposed ad-hoc committee can then immediately take up remedial measures, which are the need of the hour, like: open up more **pavis** lying unused (almost 50%!!) today; build a new unconsecrated **Dakhma** or **chotra** inside the vast expanse of Doongerwadi, clean and open up all the **nikoris** (channels) and gutters near the **pavis** and outside, so that, all the muckish fluid can flow through them freely. And, above all, at least over one **Dakhma**, stop all the solar panels/concentrators from functioning. Let the magnetic circuits of that **Dakhma** (or whatever remains of them) function freely, alongwith the direct rays of the Sun, i.e. let **Khurshed Nagirishni** function on

its own, as enjoined in the oldest **Nasks** of the Zoroastrians – **Vendidad** or the Law against the Demons

The Parsee Voice is ready to take full responsibility in forming this ad-hoc committee of just 4-5 individuals, who would be able to turn round **Dokhmenashini** to almost its original glory, of course, minus the vultures. We are prepared to devote all our time and energy for this laudable purpose, as we firmly believe that to cure an acne or a carbuncle on one's face, one doesn't have to chop off one's whole body!

Any takers?

Our Mailbag

Diclofenac & BPP Trustees

Sir, When the vultures were there in abundance at Doongerwadi, some of our friends cribbed about their dead bodies being devoured by these birds. Today, when Nature's scavengers have disappeared, because of a drug called Diclofenac given to cattle to protect them from fever and infection, which the vultures in turn, ingested from the carcasses, some of our fellow-religionists argue that the **Dokhmenashini** system is not functioning! You have rightly pointed out that vultures constitute only the third factor, the other two being **Khurshed Nargishini**, as spelt out in detail in the Vendidad and the sacred, consecrated **Dakhma** itself with its own **shakti** and propelling force!

A friend of mine, who knows the present lot of BPP trustees, occasionally reminds me that none of them is interested or bothered about the regular functioning of the consecrated **dakhmas**.

I didn't believe him. But, now, when we have had it from the horse's mouth of course, put euphemistically, "The general state of bodies in the Dokhmas is not as is sought to be made out," we know that almost everything is rotten in the state of BPP's goldmine at Malabar Hill.

Which brings me to the main purpose of writing this letter. The other day, I had been to a public meeting of the Bombay Natural History Society. The experts on vultures there regretted the public apathy in

taking up with the Government of India, the banning of Diclofenac with immediate effect.

That is what set me thinking. In the past, say 60-70 years ago, the BPP trustees were always alert and quick on the up-take in taking up any matter pertaining to our community with the Government of the day. The present lot of trustees knew more than two years ago, that the culprit that caused the death of vultures was definitely Diclofenac. Yet, to this day, none of them has wagged a little finger to tell the powers that be that the whole Parsee community suffers because of the absence of vultures! The shame of it!

Armeen X. Bulsara

[Editor's Note: Reader Armeen has hit the nail on the head! Don't ever expect the BPP trustees to take up any such issue with the authorities. Try sending them a draft of the letter to be sent to the Prime Minister. You should realise that they are frightfully busy with boosting their own egos and self-esteems. That is, when they are not pre-occupied with a World Body or that notorious FDU or posing for pictures to be published in Jame Weekly or the BPP Review. And, of course, how can anyone forget the rampant politics inside the Board Room and the toppling game being shamefully played therein? Do you still think the Dakhmas have any chance of being even considered for a passing thought? Forget it!]

How Would You Like Your Corpse, Sir? Baked Or Deep Fried?

Or... May Be..., Spiked With Bacteria, Microbes etc.?

The other day, the CEO of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet, B.T. Dastur, flatly denied that Nassasalars gave a choice to the relatives to select between solar concentrators and the direct rays of the sun.

If the BPP trustees and the Parsee community do not pull up their socks now, a time may come when the questions posed in the above heading, may be asked to a Zoroastrian on his or her death bed!

But, at present, for the likes of the PTA columnist and for the tiny tribe of Dhanmai Baria's, who seems to have given a P/A to him, a few salient points about the extremely adverse effects both on the soul and the etheric astral bodies of Zoroastrians if either of the two anti-Zoroastrian methods of cremation or burial is adopted, are given here.

Even without going into the nitty-gritty, a lay Parsee should ask those wayward Parsees who are not sure whether they should be baked, fried or buried after death, one simple question: show us a Muslim, Christian or Jew, who will opt for cremation; or, in the alternative, show us an average Hindu, who plumps for burial! Why? Why is it that people belonging to the four other great religions strictly adhere to the dictates and tenets of their religion, while fickle-minded Parsees fly in the face of categorical injunctions in the Vendidad and clamour for a totally alien method? Why this defiance? Why the rebellion? Because, (a) they are ignorant of the basic tenets of their religion and (b) there is no one to check or control them. In fact, we have some supine BPP trustees, who give in to their whims, instead of taking them to task.

Cremate & Be Condemned

Less than a 100 years ago, some wealthy Parsees took it into their heads to turn fashionable. Electric crematorium had just been introduced in Mumbai. In England, the Cremation Society, in its magazine, came out severely against burial, calling it "a relic of barbarism." "Grave burial," it said, "is a throwback to the days of darkness and savagery; such is

the verdict of history." Coming back to Mumbai, a small group of Parsees wanted to do the "in" thing. Though a regular colony of vultures visited the **Dakhmas**, some snooty Zoroastrians wanted to try out the new baking process.

But they did not approach the BPP trustees for any facility. Instead, they asked for land from the Bombay Municipal Corporation, for constructing a crematorium for the Parsees. But the BMC declined and there ended the pipe-dream of some crematorium-crazies of the early 20th century.

Thereafter, from time to time, some ignorant Parsees did propagate the idea of cremation. But it remained just an idea. A Parsee here and there did opt for it as a novel way of kicking the bucket. But what he did not know was, to what extent he was going to condemn his soul!

(1) In the Zoroastrian religion, like the other three basic elements, air or atmosphere, for which the Avesta word is Vayu, plays a very important role. On this Vayu, the presiding Deities are Minō Rām and Guvad Yazad. It is they who help the Asar-e-Roshni, = benevolent cosmic currents to come down freely through the different layers of the atmosphere. "Ramno Khastrahe, Vayaosh Uparo-Kairyahe, taradato anyaish daman, aetat te Vayo, yat te asti spento mainyaom." The Khastra (etheric electricity) which belongs to the surrounding rarified atmosphere of Minō Rām, is of a very high grade among all creations; it belongs to (the creation) of Spenta Mainyu"

There are many kinds of electrical energies operating in Nature (compare the electricity of lightning with the lowliest/densest of electricity generated by mankind on earth). When these different electricities operate on different planes sanctioned for or allotted to them by Nature, there is spiritual bliss all round. Zoroastrians are enjoined to help all these electro-magnetic forces in Nature to function, in the line of **Asar-e-Roshni.**

When a corpse is burnt by conventional method or

scorched in an electric crematorium, a Zoroastrian throws a spanner in the works of **Mino Ram.**

Moreover, because of the emanations from the $Nas\overline{a}$ Druj of a corpse, what the Pahlavi writers called Baad-e-Saritar = putrid atmosphere and electrical energies are manifested there. All this gives rise to Asar-e-Tariqui or malevolent currents and vibes in the environment.

The long and short of it is that smoke that emerges out of a chimney of an electric crematorium pollutes the entire atmosphere in the lower layers to such an extent that the upper rarefied layers, which have much purer air (as on a mountain top), also get thoroughly polluted, thereby viciously disturbing the exalted grades of Khastra (electrical energies operating in Nature) of $Min\bar{o}~R\bar{a}m$, and creating a violent disorder in Nature! (2) In Nature, the basic rule is: Nothing is destroyed. Everything gets transformed from one lower state to another higher state if Nature is allowed to work unhindered. For example, a speck of dust (matter), one day, will be transferred to the fiery (energy) state. In between, it will pass through many transformations and processes.

Similarly, when a corpse is burnt or baked, the end visible result is ash, but the physical body, alongwith the etheric (azda) and the anasars that were trapped inside, which was burned or baked, has not been destroyed. It has been transformed into another invisible form in a slightly upper dimension. This invisible form also has the soul alongwith it, which (the soul of the Zoroastrian) was supposed to have gone on a higher plane – the threshold of Chinvat! This second 'body' or invisible form, then falls a prey to myriad of lower spirits, and

sprites that exist on that plane! This is extremely disastrous for a Zoroastrian, whose soul then starts a kind of lamentation, a dirge, that if a living Zoroastrian like the PTA columnist or Dhanmai Baria were to hear, they would go crazy! And, if it were a soul like Baria's, entrapped above there, it won't even get a chance to chortle, "Aaj Kyun Hamse Purdah hai...!"

Aafat Gah - Not Aram Gah!

Towards the end of the 19th century, when Queen Victoria ruled as the Empress of India, Parsees, as always were smitten by the British bug - both during their lifetime (mores and manners) and even after death, when, as mentioned above, some $tinchk\bar{a}$ $b\overline{a}w\overline{a}s$ were filled with revulsion that their bodies would be devoured by vultures after death. "How nice and pleasant it would be if we, too, like the progressive gora sahebs, laid to rest our dear ones in a grave, with a fancy tombstone over it and a poetic epitaph written thereon, so that from time to time, we can come and wish the corpse beneath the earth, RIP!" While in reality, the physical body with the basic elements (anasars) alongwith the very powerful druj-e-nasu, getting stronger and stronger every passing hour, lie in company of the plethora of microbes, bacteria and a host of creepy crawlies swarming all over!

And what about the soul sitting inside the astral body in that dimension where the writ of spirits and other dark forces prevails! You love your dear ones so much during lifetime. But after death, you have no compunction in tormenting their soul for almost a century – the time taken for the Zoroastrian soul to be freed, so as to reach **Chinvat!!**

Jejune Jam-e...!

Time was when, under Adi Marzban, we had a daily broadsheet 'Jam-e-Jamshed', containing all sorts of readable articles on diverse subjects written by well-known persons. At least some of these write-ups had genuine substance. They were thought-provoking. "Jam-e-Jamshed Weekly", too, in those days was read with interest in many Parsee homes.

Then came Rusi Dhondy, who, till then was a director. He took over the editorial reins from an ailing Marzban. Jam-e-Jamshed Weekly trundled along the well-beaten path for quite some time.

Soon came the turn of the century. Rusi's fortunes also

took a turn. The ownership changed hands. Splendid opportunity for the scheming, vindictive shadow-editor to fill the vacuum! Once he found his bearings, this *deen-dushman* let loose a barrage of vendatta on anyone and everyone, who crossed his path!

After six years, Jam-e... has been reduced to a pale shadow of its original form, with ghost writers (we know most of them, belittling and running down all those, who they think are a thorn in their flesh! Even a Feng Shui Dhondy must be feeling helpless. But then, all good-and-bad-things come to an end. So will the bilge published in "Jam-e..." – very shortly!

The Vendidad Text On Burial & Cremation

Pargard (Chapter) VIII. 73-78 [Gist]

What should a **Bust-e-Kustiyan**, or a Mazdayasni do if he sees a corpse (or similar putrid matter) being cooked or baked on fire?

[In the Vendidad, all the questions are raised by Holy Prophet Zarthushtra and the replies are given by Lord Ahura Mazda].

The very first step that Ahura Mazda asks a Mazdayasnan to take is to stop the fire from burning further and to scatter the logs of wood. Thereafter, instructions are given how to purify that fire and convert it into a **dadgah!**

In the same Chapter VIII, in para 7, it is enjoined that a dead body, before being taken for **Dokhmenashini**, should be kept on a dry floor, which should be at least 100 ft. away from any fire.

Pargard (Chapter) VII 45-50

Question is asked by the Prophet: If a corpse is kept on the ground under and enveloped by the direct rays of the sun, after how long can that ground be restored to its original state? Ahura Mazda replies: Such a ground takes atleast a year to return to its original state! Any nincompoop will at once realise that when a dead body lies on the floor **in the direct rays of the Sun,** it takes one whole year for the ground to be purified, how much more will the ground or earth dug up, to bury such a corpse, minus the Sun's rays, will take to be purified?!

And the exact answers are given by Lord Ahura Mazda Himself in paras. 48-50. Therein, it is very specifically and categorically stated that if a body is directly buried in the earth, it will take atleast 50 years for that earth to be purified! Worse still, if a tomb is raised over the body and then sealed, it will take as many years for the earth to be purified, till the dust of the body mingles with the earth!

Then, in the same para 50, comes the masterstroke from Lord Ahura Mazda: "O Spitaman Zarthosht! Thou shouldst guide the people to destroy all such tombs and dig up the graves!

So much for D.D. Baria's aram gah!!

300000

Surprise, Surprise! The Joint Honorary Secretary Of FPZAI Turns Traditional!

In May, **The Parsee Voice** wrote a letter to the BPP and asked them why no invitation was sent to it to cover the FPZAI meeting in Thane, end-March 2006.

In his letter to the Editor, "Parsee Voice", written a month later and sent through Mumbai's Vichare Courier, in a "Machine Tools (India) Ltd. New Delhi" cover, Keki J. Gandhi, who has signed only as "Hon. Secretary" (Dinshaw Mehta, the BPP trustee, who has been appointed the Jt. Hon. Secretary, to note, please), states: "This has reference to your letter dated 10th May, 2006. At all previous meetings of the Federation representatives of only Mumbai

Samachar, Jam-e-Jamshed and Parsiana have been invited and this tradition was followed and will continue to be followed at all meetings of the Federation."

Wonders never cease! At least the guy who, once upon a time was "ashamed to be a Parsi", now talks of "tradition". Shall we say "2½ Cheers!" to that?

[The imp in us wonders if, at this rate, the new Mumbai publications like "DNA" or "Mumbai Mirror" disqualify themselves from any public meeting or press conference?]

મુંબઈની ડુંગરવાડી પર ફરીથી શરૂ થયેલું ઘમસાણ! શું મુંબઈની પારસી પંચાયત પારસી કોમને હથેળીમાં ચાંદ બતાવવા માંગે છે?

કોમની કમનસીબી છે કે ધનમાય બારિયા જેવાં ભૂલાવામાં પડેલાં બાનુ દોળીનું નારિયેળ બનવા તૈયાર થઈ જાય છે! સ્થાપિત દિતોને દવે દમેંશનાં ડામવાની તાતી જરૂર! કીમેટ કરવાથી કે દાટવાથી, જરથોશ્તી દીનની ક્રિયાઓ રવાનને પદોંચતીજ નથી!

પારસી કોમમાં અભાગ્યાઓની કોઈ કમી નથી! જયારે આપણાં વડીલો અને પૂર્વજો જે શહેર યા ગામમાં વસવાટ કરવા જાએ, ત્યારે પહેલે ત્યાં એક દખ્મું ઊભું કરવાની તજવીજ કરતા હતા, ત્યારે આજે કયામત કે કળિયુગની બલિહારી જુઓ, કે તેઓનાંજ વંશજો, ગીદ્યો નહિં હોવાને કારણે, દોખ્મેનશીની ની વિરૂધ્ધ પ્રચાર કરવા જરાએ અચકાતા નથી!

છેલ્લા છ વર્ષમાં મુંબઈની ડુંગરવાડી, જયાં પાંચ દખ્માઓ અને એક "ચોતરો" સેંકડો વર્ષોથી છે, અને જેમાંથી મુંબઈની પારસી પંચાયત ફકત સવા બે(!) દખ્માઓનોજ વર્ષોથી ઉપ્યોગ કરે છે, ત્યાં ગીધો નહિં આવવાથી, કેટલાક સ્થાપિત દિતો બુમરાણ અને તોફાન મચાવી રહ્યા છે.

થોડાક મહિના થયા વળી પાછું એક મોટા ભૂલાવામાં પડેલાં એક બાનુ, ધનમાય બારિયાએ, એવું બુમરાણ કરી મુકયું છે કે દખ્માઓમાં લાશો સડતી, કોઠવાતી પડી રહે છે, તેના ઢગલાઓ ભંડારમાં મુકવામાં આવે છે, અને છેવટે, દખ્માની બહાર ખાડો ખોડી, તેઓને દાટવામાં આવે છે! વળી તેના ફોટાઓ પણ પાડી/પડાવી, તેઓ ફતાંઉ બની, પારસી ઘરોમાં તેમનાં લખાણ સાથે મોકલાવે છે!

એટલુંજ નહિં હોય તેમ એઓ પ્રચાર કરે છે કે પારસીઓએ દટાવાની યા ભૂજાવાની રૂઢી અપનાવી જોઈએ.

આ બધામાં તેઓને મુંબઈ સમાચાર ના "પારસી તારી

આરસી" નાં કટાર લેખકનો ભાંગા વાંસનો ટેકો દર રવિવારે મળ્યાજ કરે છે! એઓ પેલી કહેવત, "નાદાનની દોસ્તી ને જાનનું જોખમ" ભૂલી જતાં લાગે છે.

ઘણાં સવાલો ઊભા થાય છે, જે મોટે ભાગે અમો યોગ્ય સ્થળે અને વખતે આ ભાનભૂલા બાનુને અને તેમનો મળતિયાઓને પૂછીશું.

સો પ્રથમ મુદદો તો આ છે કે ડુંગરવાડી ની વિશાળ જમીન અને તેની ઉપરનાં દખ્માઓ, દોઢસો, બસો, અઢીસો વર્ષો અગાઉ આપણાં મુરબ્બી ને આગેવાનોએ, મુંબઈની પારસી પંચાયતને સ્વાધીન કર્યાં હતાં. તેમાં શરત એ હતી કે દખ્માઓની વ્યવસ્થા અને તેઓનું સંચાલન પારસી જરથોશ્તીઓ માટે, તેમનાં ધર્મનાં કાયદાઓ અને પ્રણાલિકા મુજબ કરવું.

આ કામ સદીઓથી મુંબઈની પારસી પંચાયતનાં ટ્રસ્ટીઓને બાખુબી નીભાવ્યું હતું. પરંતુ, છેલ્લાં કેટલાંક વર્ષો થયાં અને ખાસ કરીની આ ૨૧મી સદીની શરૂઆતથી, પંચાયતનાં ટ્રસ્ટીઓએ દખ્માઓની બાબતમાં ચાલુ લાપરવાઠીજ બતાવી છે.

આ ભાઈઓને દખ્માની, તલેસમ તે શું, કે, તે જરથોશ્તી દીનની આતશબહેરામ/અગિઆરીઓ જેવીજ ઈજાએલી પાક સંસ્થા છે, તેના ત્રણ કશો હોય છે તેની અંદર તાણો પૂરીને ખાસ ક્રિયાઓ કરવામાં આવે છે, અને તે જમીન અને તેની નીચે કામ કરતા જાતજાતના મીનો અને યઝદોને સાથે કેવો સંબંધ ધરાવે છે, કે જેથી, વંદીદાદ પ્રમાણે, જે જમીન ઉપર આવું દખ્મુ ઊભું હોય, તે જમીન કેવી ખુશ હોય, વિ. નું ભાન કે શુદ્ધ છેજ નહિં!

વળી હમણાંનાં ટ્રસ્ટીઓને ખુરશેદ નગીરશ્નીમાં કુદરતનો કેવો કિંમતી ભંડાર પડેલો છે, તેનો પણ ખાબોખ્યાલ નથી! બલ્કે તેઓને આ બધાની કશી પડીજ નથી! એટલેજ તો તેઓ છાશવારે ભીનું સંકેલી દઈ, કોમને હાથટાળીઓ આપ્યા કરે છે!

તાજેતરમાં ફકત ઘન બારિયા અને એમને બહૂંદો ટેકો આપી, ભક્કી ચઢાવનાર મુંબઈ સમાચારનાં કટાર લેખક, બેશરમી પર ઉતરી, દખ્માઓ અંદરનાં ગેરકાનુની ફોટાઓ પાડી, કોમમાં કાગારોળ કર્યું, એટલે ટ્રસ્ટીઓએ ગભરાઈને(?) આ પવારે ગયેલાં બાઈને, બોર્ડ મીટિંગમાં બોલાવી ખોટું ઉત્તેજન આપ્યું! એટલુંજ નહિં, પણ એઓને કબ્રસ્તાન અને ક્રીમેટોરિયમ માટે પારસી કોલોનીઓમાં ખોટા પ્રચારો કરવાની ટક આપી!

આ બધું શું બતાવે છે? કે કોઈ ટ્રસ્ટીઓ આ બાબતમાં પોતેજ ખરકાયેલા છે?

વળી, ટ્રસ્ટીઓએ, આ બાઈ અને પેલા કટારલેખકનાં કહેવાથી, વરિષ્ઠ સોલિસિટર, નાદીર મોદીનો અભિપ્રાય, કે ડુંગરવાડી પર બહાર ક્રીમેટ થયેલાંઓની યા કબ્રસ્તાનમાં પડવા માંગતાઓની ૪ દિવસની ક્રિયા થઈ શકે કે, તે મંગાવ્યો છે!!

આવો વાહિયાત અને બેહુંદો પ્રશ્ન, જે જરથોશ્તી દીનનાં કાનુનોનું સરિઆમ ઉલંઘન કરે છે, તે પારસી પંચાયતનાં ટ્રસ્ટીઓને પૂછવાનો હક કોણે આપ્યો? આ બાબતમાં તમામ દીનદાર હમદીનોએ સખતમા સખત વિરોધ કરવોજ રહ્યો!

આના સંદર્ભમાં ખાસ જણાવવાનું કે કેટલાક વર્ષોથી જે સ્થાપતિ હિતો જરથોશ્તી દીન અને તેની એજમતી સંસ્થાઓની ભાંગફોડ ની પ્રવૃત્તિઓમાં અટવાએલા છે, તેઓને હવે ડામવાનો વખત પાકી ગયો છે.

દખ્માઓમાં આજે કેટલાંક કુદરતી કારણોથી અને કેટલીક લાગતાવળગતાઓની બેદરકારીથી અમુક ખામીઓ ઊભી થઈ દોય, તો તેથી એમ નથી ઠરતું કે આ દીનની એજમતી સંસ્થાઓ બંધ કરી નાંખો, યા એમ પણ નથી કે તેથી પારસીઓનાં શબોને કબ્રસ્તાનમાં યા વીજળીક ભક્કીમાં નાંખો!

જે ભાઈઓ અને બહેનો આવો ગંદો અને દીનદુશ્મની ભરેલો પ્રચાર કરે છે, તેઓએ પોતાના મન અને જીગરમાં આ હકીકત કોતરી રાખવી જોઈએ કે એક દટાયલા યા ક્રીમેટ થયેલા જરથોશ્તી રવાનને સરોશની ક્રિયાઓ પહોંચતીજ નથી! જે આશમોદ્યો યા ઈમાન-ફરૂશ અથોરનાનો હમદીનોને ઉંઘે રસ્તે દોરવે છે, તેઓને તો પોતાનાં મર્ગઝાન ગુનાહ માટે, ભવે ભવનાં ફેરાઓ ખાવાજ પડશે! અને જે બહેદીનો આ બધા "પ્રોપગેન્ડા"થી દોરવાઈ જતા હોય, તેઓએ આપણી કોમના ર ગુજર કરી ગએલા વિઘ્વાનોનાં મતો, જે નીચે આપેલાં છે, તે પર ખૂબ ઘ્યાન આપવાની જરૂર છે:

(૧) બે.બે. એરવદ ફીરોઝ શા. મસાનીઃ

જરથોશ્તી રવાનને "ચહારૂમને દિવસે તો સરોશની પનાહ હેઠળ સરોશની મારેફતમાં રહીનેજ આગળ વધવું જોઈએ, કે જે સરોશ યઝદ સાથનો સીલસીલો અગાઉથી જોડી આપવાની તૈયારી તરીકેબી ત્રણ દિવસ દરેક ગેઠમાં સરોશની બાજ તથા ત્રણ સરોશની યઝરનેની ક્રિયાઓ કરાવવામાં આવે છે. અશો સરોશ ચઝદની પનાહમાં ઉરવન (રવાન) સંપૂર્ણ રીતે જઈ શકે તેને ખાતર તે ઉરવનને લગતાં ખાકી શરીરનાં અનુઓ છૂટાં પડી જવાં જોઈએ, અને તેનાં અનાસરો ત્યાંથી ઉચકાંવાજ જોઈએ. પણ ભૂમીદાહ કરવાથી, જમીનમાં મૂડદાંને દાટયાથી તો ખાકી શરીરનાં અણુઓ ઘણાં લાંબા વખત સુધી કોહવાટની ગતીમાં રહે છે, અને તેથી અનાસરો ઉંચકાવાનું અશક્ય થઈ પડે છે, કારણ કે જ્યાં સુધી સ્થૂળ અનુઓ એમના એમ કોઠવાટની ગતીમાં હોય છે, ત્યાં સુધી તે શરીરને લગતા અનાસરો કુદરતે નેમેલા અનાસરોના પાસ્બાન, દહ્મ ચઝદનાં હવાલામાં જઈ શકે નહીં. આ રીતે બસ્તે કુસ્તીઆનનાં રહેલત બાદ જો તેના ખાકી શરીરને દાટવામાં આવેલું હોય, તો તેના ઉરવનને ઉરવનનાં પાસ્બાન સરોશ યઝદ મદદગાર થઈ શકતા નથી, અને તેવી મદદ નહિં મળવાનું એક કારણ એ છે કે તે ઉરવનને લગતા ખાકી શરીરનાં અનાસરો ઉંચકાઈ જઈ શકતા નથી; અને ચહારૂમની બામદાદનાં ખાસ આક્રીન્ગાનની ક્રિયા કે જે દો યથા સાથનો દહમ યઝદ નાં પહેલા કરદાથીજ કરવાનો હોકમ છે, અને જે આફ્રીન્ગાનની મતલબ સ્થૂળ અનાસરોને દહ્મ ચઝદનાં હવાલામાં સોંપીને પછી તુરત સરોશનાં આફ્રીન્ગાનનાં કરદાથી ઉરવનને અશો સરોશ યઝદની પનાહમાં આગળ વધારવાની હોય છે. તે મહાન ક્રિયાની મતલબ પાર પડી શકતી નથી, કેમકે... સથૂળ અનાસરો દૃદમ યઝદનાં દૃવાલામાં જઈ શકતાજ નથી, અને ઉરવન તે ખાકી શરીર તરફજ ખેંચાતું હોવાથી..., સરોશની પનાહ લઈ શકતું નથી.

"જરથોશ્તી દીનની તમામ પવિત્ર ક્રિયાઓ તેની સાથે આપેલા દીન-આઈનનાં તમામ સંજોગો હાજર હોવા વગર કેવી ગેર-સંબંધી (inconsistent) થઈ પડે છે તે આપણે સહેલાઈથી સમજી શકીએ છીએ."

(૨) બે.બે. જહાંગીર સો. ચીનીવાલાઃ

"જે સાહેબો ક્રીમેટોરિયમમાં શબને બાળવા માંગે છે, અને પછી તેઓ ચાહરૂમની બામદાદે, દહ્યમનું આક્રીન્ગાન કરાવે,

तेनो अर्थेष होतो नथी, डारण पेला जातेन अनासरो तो हहम यऊहनां हपालामां गयेलां होतां नथी. तेष मुष्ठज्ञ प्राच्य रात षे सरोशनो डरहो, सयडारनी लोंय आगण डरपानो छे अने सरोशना पंहीहाह, ध्रष्ठनेनी, पापमहेलनी षे यार हहाडानी हिया थाय छे, तेमां उपाननी रुओषेमनी हालत जीलप्पानी मडसह होय छे. हपे षो शजने डीमेट डरो तो उपान ते आइतथी आगाह होये, तेने तेनी जजर पडे छे अने तेनी रुओषेमनी हालत जीलपाने जहते ते उपाननुं आडर्षण पेला डीमेट डीघेलां शजनी, हपामां जंधायली नपी आइति तरइ जेंयायलुं रहे छे, अने ते जुज हुःजी थाय छे.

"हियाओने होटणांनी ઉपमा शेओ आपी गया छे, तेओे अर डीमेटोरियमनी हेमायत डीधी छे, तो पछी तेपाओनी शुड़ी धार्मिंड राहजरी डजुलनार डीमेटोरियमपाटी हमटीनो, शजने डीमेट डरी डोटणां शेपी डियाओ डरापपाने शुं डाम छन्तेश्वरी धरापे छे? शुं डाम पारसी डोमने तेओ रंश्वडे छे? टीननां इरमानो माथे यहडापपांश्व होय, तो जधाश इरमानो पूर्ण अतेडाट साथे यहडाप, नहीं तो जधुंश छोडी हेपो".

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ધનમાય બારીઆને અરજ

तंत्रीश्री

પારસી વૉઈસના માર્ચ ૨૦૦૬ના અંકમાં "કોલાંમાયની કટકટ"ના લેખમાં, કોઈ ધનબાઈ બારીયાના ડુંગરવાડીમાં ગુજરેલાઓના છુપાછુપ લીઘેલા ફોટા અને ગંદા લખાણો વિષેની વિગતો વાંચી વિચાર આવે છે કે એ ધનબાઈ બારીઆએ "આરામ ગાદ"માંના ખાદાઓ ખોદાવી, કીડાઓથી ખદબદતા મુડદાઓના ફોટા પણ પાડવા જોઈએ. તે ઉપરાંત સ્મશાનમાં લાકડાની કે ઈલેકટ્રીક ચિતા ઉપર ભુંજાતા શબોના પણ ફોટા પાડી તેની જાહેરાત કરવી જોઈએ.

રમશાનમાંના ફોટાઓની જાહેરાત માટે હીંદુ ભાઈઓ ધનબાઈનુ અપમાન નહી કરે એની શું ખાત્રી? છુપા કેમેરાથી ફોટા પાડી લોકોને બ્લેકમેલ કરતા હેવાલો છાપાંઓમાં આવે છે. પોતાના બેડરૂમ કે બાથરૂમમાં પણ છુપા કેમેરા નથી એનીકાળજી ધનબાઈ રાખેતો સારૂં! આજે પણ જયાં દખમાઓ નથી ત્યાંથી દૂરવેરથી મુંબઈની કુંગરવાડી ઉપર રવાનોને લાવી, ઘટતી ક્રિયાઓ કરી દો ખ્મેનશીની થાય છે. આ બાબદમાં ઘનબાઈ બારીયા, દીલ્હીમાં બેઠેલા ફેડરેશન ના સેક્રેટરી કેકી ગાંધી (જેઓ ઘરડી ઘોડીને લાલ લગામ હાલતમાં છે) તેમનું પણ માર્ગદર્શન લેશે તો તેમને લાભ થશે.

ઘર્મ અને ઘાર્મિક રીવાજોનુ પાલન, સેંકડો વર્ષથી આપણી કોમ કરતી આવી છે. આજના કોન્વેંટ કલચર વાલા એંગ્લો પારસીઓ ઘર્મને અને કોમને નુકશાન કરી રહ્યા છે. પરદેશ જઈ વસેલા અને ત્યાં આંતરજાતીય લગ્નો કરનાર પારસીઓ આપણી કોમને કોઈ રીતે ઉપયોગી નથી. પરદેશથી આવેલા પૈસાનો પણ વેડફાટ થાય છે. આશા છે ઘનબાઈ બારીઆ હવે દોઢ ડહાપણથી દૂર રહેશે.

મર્ઝબાન ખંધાડયા

સૂર્ચનાં કિરણોનું મહાન કાર્ચ

સૂર્યનાં કિરણો ગમે તેવી પકેલી વસ્તુને કોઠવાટ અને ગેરવ્યવસ્થા કરતી અટકાવે છે. હવાને સ્વચ્છ રાખે છે અને પાણી, ઝાડપાણ વિ. ઉપર પણ તેની બુલંદ અસર થાય છે.

જેમ જીવતી જીંદગીમાં, તેમ મરણ પછી પણ આપણાં શરીર ઉપર તેની ગેબી અસરો થતી હોવાથી આપણાં મહાન પયગમ્બર સાહેબે આપણને "ખુરશેદ નગીરશ્ની" ની ઉત્તમ રૂઢી બક્ષેલી છે. "રવીનાં દીઠ અને અણદીઠ કિરણોમાં જાતજાતની કુદરતની શક્તિઓ પડેલી છે. આવા કિરણોમાં ચીજોનો નાશ કરવાની, નાશ કીધેલી ચીજોની વ્યવસ્થા કરવાની, તેના નાશમાંથી નવો ઘાટ ઊભો કરવાની, તેમ જાતજાતની તરોતાઝગી આપવાની, વિ. શક્તિઓ છે."

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