

THE PARSEE VOICE

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PARSEES/IRANIS ALONE CAN CALL THEMSELVES ZOROASTRIANS/ZARTHOSHTIS!

BACK-DOOR ENTRANTS ARE IMPOSTERS!

**"Declining Parsi Population" – An Excuse By FPZAI & BPP
To Join The World Body of Zoroastrians!
All Eyes On Federation Meet In December.**

**Right-Thinking Anjumans/Punchayets Must Do Their Duty
& Stop The FPZAI From Joining The World Body!**

**"The London Times" Bungles &
A "Scholar" Tries To Be Chivalrous!**

November saw fire-crackers going off for some days during the Diwali festival. But in the Parsee community, they seemed to be going off in all directions, throughout the month.

While, on the one hand, the *dehati* bogeymen kept raising the phantom of a World Body of "Zoroastrians", most of them fakes and imposters, on the other, some Parsees, the originals, talked of forming a World Body of Parsee Zoroastrians. In between, a columnist, a topsy-turveyed Ervad Saheb, who discarded his *paghdi* and *padaan* soon after being initiated into priesthood, cannot tell a Zoroastrian from a Zebra, went to town gloating over a couple of interviews he gave to some foreign media about the decline and fall of the Parsee community, and a "scholar", who, at the turn of the century, turned over to the side of the *Deen-Dushmans*, waxed eloquent on the same "decline" in

our population and on how best to tackle it, ending up on the side of Parsee women marrying non-Parsees. Some chivalry that!

Before readers get lost in the welter of these man-made happenings, let's get our minds clear and set our sights straight by tackling each of these issues in some detail.

A Parsee/Irani, who is a Mazdayasni at birth, alone can practise the Zoroastrian Religion

It is a complete misconception to even think, as is being done today, that the term "Parsee" was coined only after our ancestors came to India from Iran. Some even conjure up fanciful explanations that because the Zoroastrian visitors spoke in *Farsi* or Persian, they were called Parsees by the Indians. Others say that because our forefathers came from the province of Pars

in south-west Iran, we came to be called Parsees in India.

The hard fact is that the term Parsee or 'Pārsā' was used by the Achaemenian emperors Darius the Great and his son, Xerxes, in the cuneiform inscriptions at Naqsh-i-Rustam, Suez and Persepolis, nearly 2500 years ago!

The very pertinent lines proudly proclaimed by Darius, which every single Parsee today must engrave in his mind till his dying day, are: "Pārsa Pārsahyā Pucha (Avesta: Puthra), Ariya, Ariya Chicha (Avesta: Chithra)" = **"(I am Darius the Great King), a Parsee, son of a Parsee, an Aryan, having Aryan lineage"**.

So, the word Parsee indicates the Aeiri Chithra Aryans, who staunchly adhered to and practised the Mazdayasni Zarthoshti Deen or religion and who followed the upright path of Ashoi, besides having an impeccable character. Today's Parsees/Iranis, who have descended from these Mazdayasni Zarthoshtis, alone are the practitioners of the Zoroastrian religion.

A child born of Parsee-Zoroastrian parents is a Mazdayasni, who alone can be invested with the Sudreh and the Kusti, after which he becomes a Mazdayasni Zarthoshti. **THERE JUST CANNOT BE A ZOROASTRIAN, WHO IS NOT BORN A MAZDAYASNI!**

The Mazdayasni Deen is more ancient than the Zarthoshti Deen and Holy Prophet Zarathushtra himself has been called the greatest friend of the Mazdayasni Deen, in the extant Avesta.

Thus, the Aeiri Chithra or the Aryan lineage always goes hand in hand with the Mazdayasni Zarthoshti Deen.

Any person outside these specific parameters simply cannot claim to be a Zoroastrian, because he/she is not born a Mazdayasni.

By merely donning a white garment and tying a girdle over it does not make anyone anywhere in the world, a Zoroastrian. On the contrary he/she is making a complete mockery of the primeval religion in the world, whose natural followers recite daily in their Kusti prayers that the religion of Ahura's Zarthushtia

is the greatest, the best and the most exalted! Today's imposters, the fake, pseudo-Zoroastrians in parts of North America, Latin America, Scandinavia, the states of Central Asia, Africa, etc., and their equally fake, fraudulent prelates, who have helped them don their fictitious accoutrements are making a cruel mockery, not only of the Zoroastrian faith, but of the very religion in which they themselves were born!

'Parsee' in Pahlavi Books

Apart from the Achaemenians, who used the word 'Parsee' in the 6th and 5th centuries B.C., the Pahlavi writers of the Sassanian and post-Sassanian periods, used this word. In the *Kārnāmak ī Artakshîr ī Pāpakān* (The exploits of Ardeshir Babakan), an Indian astrologer refers to the founder of the Sassanian Empire as, *Khvatāy pārsikān* (the king or lord of the Parsis). So also, in the Pahlavi text, *Drakht ī Asurîk*, the word, *pārsîk* is used.

In the ancient past, the word Parsee was an ethnic term, applicable to all the people of Pars province in Iran. **But later, it was used only for the Zoroastrian residents of Pars.**

Dastur Dr. Hormazdyar Dastur Kayoji Mirza, in his "Outlines of Parsi History", says, "After the downfall of the Sassanian Empire and the Arab conquest of Iran, the term 'Parsi' was used for those residents of Iran who remained faithful to their ancestral faith, namely Zoroastrian Religion. **The term was specially used for the Zoroastrians of Iran to distinguish them from those Iranians who discarded their ancestral faith and embraced Islam.**"

Why, some Western and Parsee scholars of our religion in the 19th century, used the terms Zoroastrian and Parsi Religion, interchangeably.

All this gives the complete lie to two statements being bandied about today: (1) that 'Parsi' is an ethnic term, denoting only the race; and (2) that the word 'Parsi' was used by the Indians when the Zoroastrians first landed in India.

Before we leave the Achaemenians and the Pahlavi writers, a friend reminds us that, thank God, the likes of Shroff and Tamboly were not there in the Achaemenian times, otherwise they would have made the Jews also "Zarthoshtis"!

Declining Parsi Population & The World Body Of Zoroastrians

The Government of India's Census Report on Religions couldn't have come a day sooner. It was just what the "Smooth Operator" ordered! Any wonder that the Census Commissioner, Mr. J.K. Banthia was invited by the Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India (also the BPP) to speak at the Federation Meet in November 2003, at Bardoli?

The game plan of Shroff, Tamboly and now, even Homi Dhalla is quite simple: use the decennial Parsee Population plunge to first advocate that children of Parsee women who have not married Parsees be accepted as Parsee Zoroastrians, which will later on be followed by accepting all those fuddy-duddy "Zarthushtis", who claim to be multiplying faster than rabbits worldwide!

According to them, if one allows the children of the abovementioned Parsee women to be counted as Parsees, the population of the community will go up! Which community? We shall take up Dr. Dhalla's write-up elsewhere in this issue (see "Vested Interests And Their Morbid Picture Of The Community"), but M/s. Shroff, Tamboly and other trustees, who may be supporting them, should be told in no uncertain terms that they are just nobodies to decide a purely religious issue!

These days, they think they are the super bosses of the community and have such inflated egos, that they forget the simple fact that they are only the managers and administrators of the funds and properties vested in them as trustees!

The Parsee community has so far coddled and respected them. But it's high time that all right-thinking members of the community show them their place and tell them bluntly that they have no business dabbling in purely religious matters, which should be decided only by High Priests and Parsee scholars.

And what do they aim to achieve? An increase in numbers! Of whom? Don't these "chivalrous" advocates realise the simple fact that by allowing the "intermarried" women as well as their children into the fold of the Parsee community, they will throw the floodgates open and give an open licence to Parsee

girls to marry outside uninhibitedly? Paradoxically, these very champions of intermarried women complain that nearly 33% of Parsees marry outside, and yet they want unmarried Parsee girls to freely "marry" any Ithu, Paul or Aslam?! Their stupid thinking is, first do one wrong, then do a second wrong and the third wrong will be right!!

Before we continue, let's get our facts straight: if we understand right, the Government of India, the Minorities Commission (Member: Adi Sethna), the FPZAI and the BPP are all keen, apparently, at least, to boost the population of the **Parsee community**. Fine. According to the numbers game that BPP, *et al* are playing, 33% of the Parsees today "marry" outside the community, another 33% are senior citizens (60+). That leaves about another 33% of which quite a few would be children and young boys and girls below the age of 17-18. So then, what is the actual percentage of eligible Parsee men and women? Just about 16-20%?! Of these, again, according to the numbers-game players, nearly 50% do not marry at all!! So, that leaves just about 10% of Parsees only who actually marry at the right age?!!

Obviously somebody somewhere has got his figures all wrong! If Parsees, in the last 1200 years in India had been obsessed with their numbers, they would have committed the same kind of racial harakiri long ago, like the one some hare-brained Parsees today, who don't know a thing about their history, their culture, their religion and their future, are on the verge of committing!

"The Parsee Voice", in its issue of 16-31 January 2004, did a lead article on the reduced numbers of our community. Therein we had talked of "Nature's Mysterious Ways" and asked two questions: "(1) In the last about 1300 years' stay in India, have we really declined drastically in numbers? (2) If not, what is the secret of the tiny Parsee community surviving and prospering in a vast ocean of humanity for these 13 centuries?"

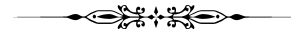
Ten months have passed, yet, none of these "intelligentsia" have bothered to give any satisfactory reply. Instead, they have once again started beating the war drums about a Parsee apocalypse!

Any sensible person would ponder how and why Nature has maintained a peculiar balance as far as our community's numbers through the centuries are concerned. The highest number of about 1,15,000 was in the undivided India in 1941, when emigration to foreign shores was also negligible. Further comments on this topic in our rejoinder to Homi Dhalla's essay (in futility) on page 5 in this issue.

To conclude, we charge a couple of BPP trustees, led by that "smooth operator" that this hullabaloo about a rapidly declining Parsee population, has been deliberately engineered by them and their cronies, who first want the children of Parsee women "married" to aliens to be taken in the fold, just like that: you issue a diktat and hundreds of such kids will boost up the population figures. Which or whose population? By what stretch of imagination can children of Hindu, Muslim, Christian, etc. fathers be counted by any government in the Parsee population?

But the vested interests in the BPP and their allies think that once this hurdle of accepting children of fathers of other religions by their Parsee wives are accepted, the coast will be clear for the acceptance of complete aliens from any part of the world!!

To cap it all, now we have some advocates and editors, who know nothing at all about the history of the Parsee community, nor about the Zoroastrian religion giving interviews to foreign media, about how the Parsee race is dying!! One such in the London 'Times' gloated about his interview. And when the interview was published by that paper, it committed an unpardonable gaffe by stating repeatedly that Parsees are those who left Iran for India, after Alexander's conquest!!! Surely, we can do without such nut cakes and sponge cakes?!



World Body of Zoroastrians Opens Its Branch In Mumbai?

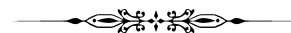
Gimmicks galore! Has the still-to-be-formed World Body of Zoroastrians already opened a branch in Mumbai? The new-fangled "Association For Revival Of Zoroastrianism" (ARZ), a registered trust in Mumbai, asks us a question every Sunday, "What is more important – the Parsi race(?) or the Zoroastrian religion?" We are not at all surprised. When the hand of that master craft(s or y) man is behind it, such a naive unintelligent question is bound to be asked. So now, that, even before the Brazilians, Venezuelans, Norwegians or Swedes come to India and claim they are "Zoroastrians", some of our own folks are trying to lay the foundation for the unholy structure that they want to create.

All ARZ members are requested to go through the above lead article with a fine toothcomb,

particularly where that fallacy, "'Parsee' is a race, Zoroastrianism is a religion," is concerned.

One wonders why some of our young and not-so-young men and women are carried away by empty rhetoric of their elders. They should realise that all concerned with the 'Parsee-Zoroastrian' controversy know neither anything about their past history nor about the future destiny of our community, which has been specially brought from Iran to India, 1200 years ago, **to survive with their priceless religion till the good times come.**

The "Revival" of Zoroastrianism is simply not the prerogative of ordinary mortals, governed completely by their five senses and hopelessly restricted by their 3-dimensional intellect!



Vested Interests & Their Morbid Picture Of The Parsee Community

Dr. Homi Dhalla Deserves To Do A Crash Course In The Basics Of The Zoroastrian Religion & In The Invincibility Of The Parsee Community!

An avalanche of words have been let loose in the erstwhile *gulābyun* and the present *kālyun* of the Parsee community, Jame Weekly.

The mischief-maker extraordinaire or the *de-facto* editor of the paper has roped in a few henchmen to create panic in the rank and file of the community. The latest, or one of the latest to join the Domsday bandwagon is Homi Dhalla, who has been warned by his new-found godfather, that there will be criticism from some mindless persons against his attempt and that he should not be bothered about it.

Homi Dhalla pompously titles his essay, "Survival of the Parsi Community: Urgent Need for a Multi-Dimensional Approach".

He divides his paper into three sections: in the first, he bamboozles us by statistics of the declining Parsee population, through the last 100 years, and the excess of deaths over births in the last 50 years.

The all-India figures for the Parsee population in the last 60 years show a very strange trend: it does NOT show a continuous decline. For instance, there was a big drop of 11,000 between 1951 and 1961. The drop was reduced to 9000 between 1961 and 1971. But suddenly in the next decade, the drop was a phenomenal 20000!! Then comes the funny part. Between 1981 and 1991, the Parsee population actually INCREASED by 5000!! Was there some sort of a goof-up as happened in the latest census figures of the Muslims? Even stranger are the figures of birth and deaths between the years 1985 and 1995, which can be compared with the actual increase in the population between 1981 and 1991:

between 1985 and 1995, the births in our community are shown to have **crashed** from 601 to 367 but the deaths are more or less the same! The excess of deaths over births shows a whopping figure of 569, which is the highest in the last 50 years!

So, if nearly 234 less babies were born in 1995 as against 1985 and deaths were almost the same, how did our population figure actually rise by about 5000?!?

And yet, Dr. Dhalla, who has now switched loyalty from Spena to Angra, tells us that the situation is "critical"! Really? A hypothetical projection of the population in future poses a question about the figure in 2050! At this rate, instead of such wild conjectures, we can certainly quote with a great deal of authority, what a venerable Parsee seer had predicted about the Parsees nearly 80 years ago! But, at present, it's best for Dr. Dhalla and his supporters not to potter with make-believe statistics, which like a bikini, conceal what is vital!

Dr. Dhalla then talks of "Ghost Towns and Villages" which "depict Demographic Disaster". Quite a few places have been cited, where there is only one Parsee family or even none!

So what? Whom is Dr. Dhalla trying to fool? As in most communities, the exodus of Parsees from small towns to metros like Mumbai, because of the glamour and glitter or better job opportunities, has been inevitable.

So, in all these years, instead of making it attractive and economical to pursue their vocations, what have you and your godfather and his associates done to stem this exodus?

Instead of boo-hooing over empty villages and towns and making strange assertions like, "the noose of extinction is gradually tightening", Dr. Dhalla and his 'friends', who are wilfully trying to portray a dismal picture of the community, so that they can have their say, should concentrate all their time and energy on stopping further exodus of Parsees **from Indian cities and metros to Western countries**. Otherwise, merely trotting out grim statistics is the handiwork of only those who shed crocodile tears after the horses have bolted!

The Coming Saviour

The writer then talks of the advent of Shah Varzavand. He says that he would "like to throw some light". His light is so dim that all he ends up by telling us is, that the future Saviour was probably a Zoroastrian concept, later accepted by other religions!

Then he asks a question, which even a primary school Parsee child wouldn't dream of asking. He says, "But my question is simple, if this were so, why have Parsis died out in so many of our towns and villages... why are we on the verge of extinction (sic) in many other cities and towns where we lived in large numbers?" Come, come, sir, you have yet to learn the rudiments of the Zoroastrian religion: **it is only when a situation becomes desperate or hopeless as happened before the advent of our Holy Prophet, that a Saviour comes to redeem us!** Got it?

Immediately thereafter, comes the statement that we should remove the "stumbling blocks, which hamper reform." The cat is out of the bag! Finally, he avers, betraying a complete ignorance of extant scriptures and an extremely dubious faith in our religion: 'I believe that there are no keys to the magic kingdom and it does not help us in clinging to a shaky theory!' 'Shaky theory?! What are you a 'Doctor' of? Philosophy or *Phackology*, Dr. Dhalla? Or, is it that now that you have found your new godfather is it a case of His Master's Voice?

Parsee Women Married To Non-Parsees

Then comes that part of Dr. Dhalla's paper, which was circulated to the BPP board a few months ago.

This is just what the doctor, or rather the "sitting trustee" ordered! Littered with gaffes, distortions and selective quotes, it is that part of the paper, which reminds us of what an elderly solicitor, who met us a few days ago, exclaimed: "*Dhallo be vatlayi gayo?*"

First, that poppycock about being "a pragmatist" – again HMV – can be summarily dismissed by affirming that long-standing *religious* traditions and customs (*darêghanām upayanām*) are based on eternal truths, and, even if fickle-minded *bāwās* tend to make their own subjective statements, these religious traditions are an indispensable part of our Prophet's injunctions!

Then comes that logic which flies at anything and everything under the sun, except the main point at issue.

His stand through the years was, he says, "not in favour of intermarriage and (he) would not encourage it." But because, "today when 35% of our youth in Mumbai intermarry and we have not been able to arrest this trend, we ought to examine this situation in a new light and with great discretion. Are we to discard the children of such marriages?" Really? Have you or your new-found gurus ever tried "to arrest this trend", and how? They, at least, have always chuckled over and even endorsed "this trend". Once again that same way of thinking mentioned elsewhere in this issue: if two wrongs do not make a right, the third will!! Is this a new version of the Goebbelesian theory?

"The Magna Carta" of The Prophet

Thereafter, there is Dhalla's special understanding of the Zoroastrian religion, where his scholarship hits the pits. 13th century British King John did not seem to be aware of a Charter brought out by the Iranian Prophet, thousands of years ago!

Says Dhalla in the very first line: "Although he lived in a patriarchal society, he emphasised the idea of gender equity" (some buzzword that!) Hereafter Dhalla seems to be on a roller coaster ride to the nadir of Zoroastrian scholarship!

(to be continued)

Our Offer To The BPP Receives No Response

THE PARSEE VOICE, in order to try and resolve the controversy about the World Body of 'Zoroastrians', made a sporting offer to the Chairman of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet for a frank discussion at a public meeting, to be hosted by The Parsee Voice. But, either because of lack of guts or courtesy, the BPP chose not to respond!

We, therefore, publish below the said letter for the benefit of our readers.

21st November 2004

Mr. M.R. Shroff
Chairman, Bombay Parsi Punchayet
Chairman, Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans
of India
Dr. D.N. Road, Mumbai 400 001.

Dear Sir,

As you are aware, the formation of the new World Body of Zoroastrians is a cause of great concern to many Parsees in India. The undersigned, along with other concerned community members, had meetings with you in this regard wherein you sought to allay our fears with explanations which were at complete variance with documents/information received by us from other quarters.

Unfortunately, a certain section of the Parsee press has sought to add confusion to chaos by resorting to misrepresenting and poohpoohing the legitimate concerns raised by many community members, thus confusing community members further!

Though the BPP Trustees have a penchant for using terms like 'transparency' and 'accountability',

strangely there is a deafening silence on a grave issue like this. Instead, the BPP is going full steam ahead with the formation of this World Body **in spite of the community resolving otherwise** at a Public Meeting held on 21st November 2003.

To enable the community to ascertain firsthand the pros and cons of this issue, we invite any two BPP Trustees or their authorised representatives to participate in a public discussion with two of our representatives in the presence of other members of the community at a mutually convenient time and venue. We shall be happy to host this event.

We look forward to a prompt and positive response from you.

Yours sincerely,
The Parsee Voice
Sd/-
(A.F. Doctor)
Editor

"Lalbaug Leviathan"

The Editor
The Parsee Voice

Sir,

I have read one of the lead articles – The Lalbaug Leviathan – and a letter by Dali J. Gundevia in The Parsee Voice, October 2004.

In case you have missed it, I enclose a photocopy of a letter by V.S. Iyer, The Fire Within – published in The Times of India, dated October 8, 2004.

Three things stand out in this letter by V.S. Iyer.

- (i) That he, a non-Parsi, was moved to write about desecration of our Lalbaug Fire Temple by Parsis themselves, should make our heads bow down in shame;
- (ii) That he, being a student of architecture, knows how different laws were brazenly flouted by the trustees

of the Fire Temple, the builder and the architect, who happen to be all Parsis.

- (iii) That how he fears that, God forbid, in case of a fire, a fire engine would not be able to enter from the southern side, making the temple, a fire trap and may perhaps result in loss of human lives, thanks to the gross violation of the fire safety norms listed in the National Building Code, by the concerned Parsis responsible for the construction of a 22-storey building in the Fire Temple compound
- (iv) The letter of S.V. Iyer should make other Parsi trustees of our Atash Behrams/Agiaries pause and ponder not to repeat another Hilla Towers.

Yours sincerely
Bhikhaji M. Adenwalla

માઝદયસ્ની જરથોશ્તી દીન કાંઈ ઉકરડો કે બોડી બામાગુનું ખેતર નથી,
કે જ્યાં દુનિયાનાં બનાવટખોરોનો કચરો આવીને પડે!

હિંદુસ્તાનની તમામ પારસી અંજુમનોને આવતી ફેડરેશનની મીટિંગમાં
પોતાનો તીવ્ર વિરોધ દર્શાવવાની છેલ્લીજ તક!

પેલું કહેવાતું “વર્લ્ડ બોડી ઑફ ‘ઝોરાસ્ત્રિયન્ઝ’” ને અત્યારેજ દફનાવી દો!
ફેડરેશનનાં સભ્યોએ કુદરતમાં પોતાની ફરજ બજાવવીજ રહી!

આવતી તા. ૧૮ અને ૧૯ ડીસેમ્બર, ૨૦૦૪નાં દિવસોએ, અમદાવાદમાં મળનારી ફેડરેશન ઑફ ઝોરાસ્ત્રિયન અન્જુમઝ ઑફ ઈન્ડિયાની બેઠકમાં, આ ફેડરેશનનાં નાની-મોટી અંજુમનોની, અને ખાસ કરીને ગુજરાતની બધી અંજુમનોની નૈતિક ફરજ છે, કે આવતે વર્ષે પેલું બનાવતી તૂત નામે, “વર્લ્ડ બોડી ઑફ ‘ઝોરાસ્ત્રિયન્ઝ’” ઊભું થાય તે પહેલાંજ મક્કમ રહી, નક્કી કરીજ લે, કે, ૧૨૦૦ વર્ષ ઉપરની આપણી પારસી માઝદયસ્ની જરથોશ્તી અંજુમન એક ખાસ અલાહેદી અંજુમન તરીકે, એક ખાસ મકસુદથી હિંદભૂમી પર રહેલી છે. આ મકસુદ તે માઝદયસ્ની જરથોશ્તી દીન અને તે દીનને એકલાજ પાળનારાઓ પોતાની ઓલાદ અને ઓકાદ સાચવીને તે ભલો વખત આવે ત્યાં સુધી ટકી શકે, અને બીજા કોઈ પણ દુનિયાનાં બનાવટખોર, લેભાગુ ‘જરથોશ્તી’ઓ સાથે તેને ભેલી નાંખવા નહિં આવે. આજ મૂળ અને ભલી નેમથી મોબેદાન મોબેદ નૈરિયોસંઘ ધવળની આગેવાની હેઠળ આપણાં નેક નેયાગાનો ઈરાનથી હિંદુસ્તાન કેટલા કેટલા હાંદેસાઓ અને ઘણી મોટી તકલીફો ખમીને ખાસ આ ભારત દેશમાં, જાહેર દુનિયાનો એકળો પાવમહેલ સ્થાપ્યો હતો! આપણું આ દેશાગમન, શાહ બહેરામ વરઝાવંદ આવે ત્યાં સુધી ટકી શકે, એ હેતુથીજ ગુજરાતનાં કાંઠા ઊપર પારસીઓને તેઓની દીન અને બુનિયાદ સાથે, ચોજનાપૂર્વક અને ઈરાદાપૂર્વક, તે પાવમહેલની પોસ્તપનાહીમાં રાખ્યા છે. આવી પારસી કોમ, જે આવા નેક ઈરાદા અને હેતુથી હિંદુસ્તાનમાં ૧૩૦૦ વર્ષોથી ટકી રહી છે, તેની સાથે કોઈ પણ લેભાગુ, બનાવટખોર, કહેવાતા “જરથુશ્તી”ઓ સાથે ભેળમભેળ થઈ શકેજ નહિં. આ અગત્યનો મુદ્દો, દરેક પારસી અંજુમને, અને ખાસ કરીને, ગુજરાતની

અમદાવાદ અને સૂરત પારસી પંચાયતો જેવી મોટી અંજુમનોએ યાદ રાખવાની જરૂર છે!

ખોટી દેખાદેખી અને શરમાશરમીમાં, પારસી માઝદયસ્ની જરથોશ્તી કોમનું જે અલગ અસ્તિત્વ અને ઓળખ છે, તેને હાની પહોંચે નહિં, એ તેઓની જવાબદારી છે, એટલુંજ નહિં, પણ જો આ ફેડરેશનની સભામાં, ‘વર્લ્ડ બોડી ઑફ ઝોરાસ્ત્રિયન્ઝ’ સામે પ્રબળ પોકાર ઉઠાવ્યો નહિં તો કુદરતમાં તેઓ સાચેજ ફરજનાં ચોર તરીકે ઓળખાવાશે.

યજમાન શ્રી આરીઝ ખંબાતા, જેઓ અમદાવાદ ની પારસી પંચાયતનાં પ્રમુખ છે, તેઓને અમારી ખાસ અરજ છે કે દોસ્તી વિ. બાબુએ મૂકી, આ બાબતમાં મક્કમતાથી કામ લે!

એક મહાન જરથોશ્તી વિધ્વાનનાં આ યાદગાર શબ્દો અમો અત્રે ટાંકવાની લાલચ થોભાડી શકતા નથી:

“અંગ્રેજી વિધ્વાનો જ્યારે હિન્દમાં આવે છે, ત્યારે તેઓને Herodotus અને Ctesias બીજા ગ્રીક લેખકોના અસલ ઈરાની માઝદાયસ્ની પ્રજાનાં ગુણ અવગુણોના ચિતારોનો મોટો ભાગ પારસી પ્રજામાં ખુલ્લો દેખાઈ રહે છે. આ બલિહારી નૈરિયોસંઘ જેવા ધરુંધર દલુપત સાહેબોની અને દીન દસ્તુરો જેઓ તેવણને પગલે ચાલેલા છે, તેઓની છે. બાકી આજે પારસી પણાનો દેખાવ કંઠે થતો હોય તે કંઈ દેખી શકાતું નથી. આજે સીફ આશમોધીજ દેખાય છે કે જેથી તો અસલ ઈરાનમાંથી જરથોશ્તી દબેન ગઈ!”