

# THE PARSEE VOICE

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## Pulling The *Pav Mahal* Plug - I

All You Wanted To Know About The *Pav Mahal*  
But Hardly Bothered To Ask!

### THE COSMIC POWER HOUSE & ITS EARTHLY NETWORK

In the past issues of **The Parsee Voice**, references have been made to the **Pav Mahal** created by Prophet Zarthushtra, its connection with our sacred religious institutions and how it has sustained and protected the Parsee community in India for nearly 1300 years. A couple of our readers have requested us to give details about this indispensable, vital Cosmic Power House created by our Prophet, how it has been "created" and how it has helped our community to prosper for more than a thousand years.

**NOTHING PHYSICAL ABOUT IT: Pav Mahal**, which, if loosely translated, means, "Purest of the Pure Palace", is an invisible, abstract Spiritual Power House, referred to in the Gathas, the Vendidad and the Fravardin Yasht.

**Pav Mahal In The Gathas:** In **Yasna Ha 28.5 (Ahunavad Gatha)**, the Prophet expresses a strong desire to see Sarosh Yazat and the **gatumcha Ahurayi**, i.e. the abode/residence of Ahura. It is this **gatu** of Ahura, that is called the **Pav Mahal** or the Splendorous Palace of Ahura!

**The Primeval Pav Mahal:** The original **gatu** in the evanescent planes far above the Earth, was set up by our Prophet, or to be more

precise, by his Fravashi and his Yazatic soul before his birth on this planet. A similar idea is expressed in **Fravardin yasht, Karda 23.84**. Here, reference is made to the spatial site, selected by the Prophet for the establishment of the **Pav Mahal** in the spiritual path (See diagram on page 3). In **Vendidad** Chapter 19, 31-35; a detailed reference is made to this unique phenomenon. The spiritual **Pav Mahal** there, is called **Gatwo Zaranyo-Kereto** – the **gatu** or place with the golden throne, or abode of Ahura Mazda, Ameshaspands and other immortal souls.

**The Earthly Connection:** After Prophet Zarthushtra was born in the "House of Pourushaspa", which was located above the perceived world, in the "Cosmic North", or the "heavenly pole", in the North, he had to establish the first-ever **Pav Mahal** there. He, therefore, took the connection from the above-mentioned "**Gatu**" to establish the first-ever Spiritual Power House on Earth. (See diagram on Page 3).

This is the main **Pav Mahal** from which different Saoshyants and Raenidars (Saviours), who come down on earth, from time to time, draw the power or current to establish new **Pav Mahals** or Spiritual Power Stations for the sustenance of top grade Fire Temples. No Fire

Temples can ever exist without their connection with the **Pav Mahal**.

In Zoroastrian Iran, the **Pav Mahal** existed even after the end of the Sassanian dynasty. But, after many centuries, the **Pav Mahal**, which got no support or base from any existing First Grade Atash Behram in Muslim Iran, was gradually pulled up in Nature.

**Pav Mahal** being an abstract entity, can never be destroyed or demolished. As mentioned above, in the **Pav Mahal** established by a very advanced Zoroastrian soul, who has climbed at least 48 of the 72 steps of **Ashoi**, is the abode of Ahura, with the Divine Beings and what the Avesta calls the **Vispe Ratu**, the **Vispa Rad** (lit. all or many **ratus**). They are 23 in number, the Divine Cosmic Forces or **Shaktis** inside the **Pav Mahal**.

When the **Pav Mahal** languishes for want of adequate spiritual nourishment, in the form of higher liturgies or rituals, like **Vendidad**, **Yazashne**, etc. performed regularly and lawfully, or if the **Athornans** performing these ceremonies commit mistakes and lapses or that they have not lawfully carried out the **tarikats** enjoined on them, before they perform these rituals, the Spiritual Entities and Forces inside the **Pav Mahal** begin to gradually retreat and return to the higher realms in Nature.

**HOW THE PAV MAHAL OF IRAN SHAH WAS ESTABLISHED:** **Kisseh Sanjan**, the only historical record we have of the Parsees landing in India from Iran, mentions that when the congregation, after their 19 years stay in Diu, was told by their leader, Mobedan Mobed Nairyosangh Dhaval, that they had to go to a new place, the people were overjoyed! Why? Because, they knew that in that new place, which subsequently was named Sanjan, the first Atash Behram along with his **Pav Mahal** would be established. The well-known story of a severe storm erupting at sea, occurred after the Parsees had left Diu. The translation of the relevant Persian lines in the poem (**Kisseh Sanjan** is written in a poetic form) is that they prayed that the storm would subside, as they

had to consecrate the highest grade **Atash Behram** and establish the **Pav Mahal** thereon!

**THE INITIAL PROCEDURE:** Once on the soil of Sanjan, and once the Rajput ruler had given the go-ahead for the consecration of the highest grade Atash Behram, the initial steps were to make the vast land free of all putridities, for which **gospands** were given a free play for about six months, to live and graze thereon.

Then the elaborate **tana** ceremony (as they do in modern **dakhmas**) was performed. Thereafter, the construction of the building that would house the **Padshah** was carried out.

In the meanwhile, **Ashavan** Nairyosangh selected an **athornan**, whose **karmic** obligations were very few, and he was made to pass through difficult and delicate spiritual exercises. In this **amal**, a special invocation is made to **Sared Yazad**, the co-worker of **Khordad Ameshaspand**.

The selected **athravan** has to prove the spiritual power of **Ashoi** that he possesses. This he does by lighting a fire merely by the recitation of **Manthra** (prayers). **It is on this foundation of this uniquely lit fire, that the Pav Mahal would be established.**

**Nar Ashavan** Nairyosangh also had with him the top grade **Atash Dadgah**, he had brought from Iran. From this exalted **Dadgah**, he extracted the Natural Fire Energy and drew a circuit (**Kash**) in which the **Pav Mahal** would be established. From this mystic area, all the **druj**, putridities had to be driven out and the benign currents of **Asar-e-Roshni** were constantly attracted there.

Once the area for the **Pav Mahal** was established, the next step was to create a fiery astral form or **Kehrp**, technically called the **Dasturi Kehrp**, which would be one of the vital features of the **Pav Mahal**. This the **Nar Ashavan** does by separating the astral form from his own lustrous aura (**Khoreh**). This **Dasturi Kehrp** is first set up in the **Pav Mahal** area. Then, this **Kehrp** is made to fly straight to the **Mino Gaas** fixed by Prophet Zarthushtra, as mentioned above. From there, after

establishing contact with the Cosmic Power House of the Prophet, it returns to the new **Pav Mahal** area, with the Divine Authority it obtained from the original Power House!

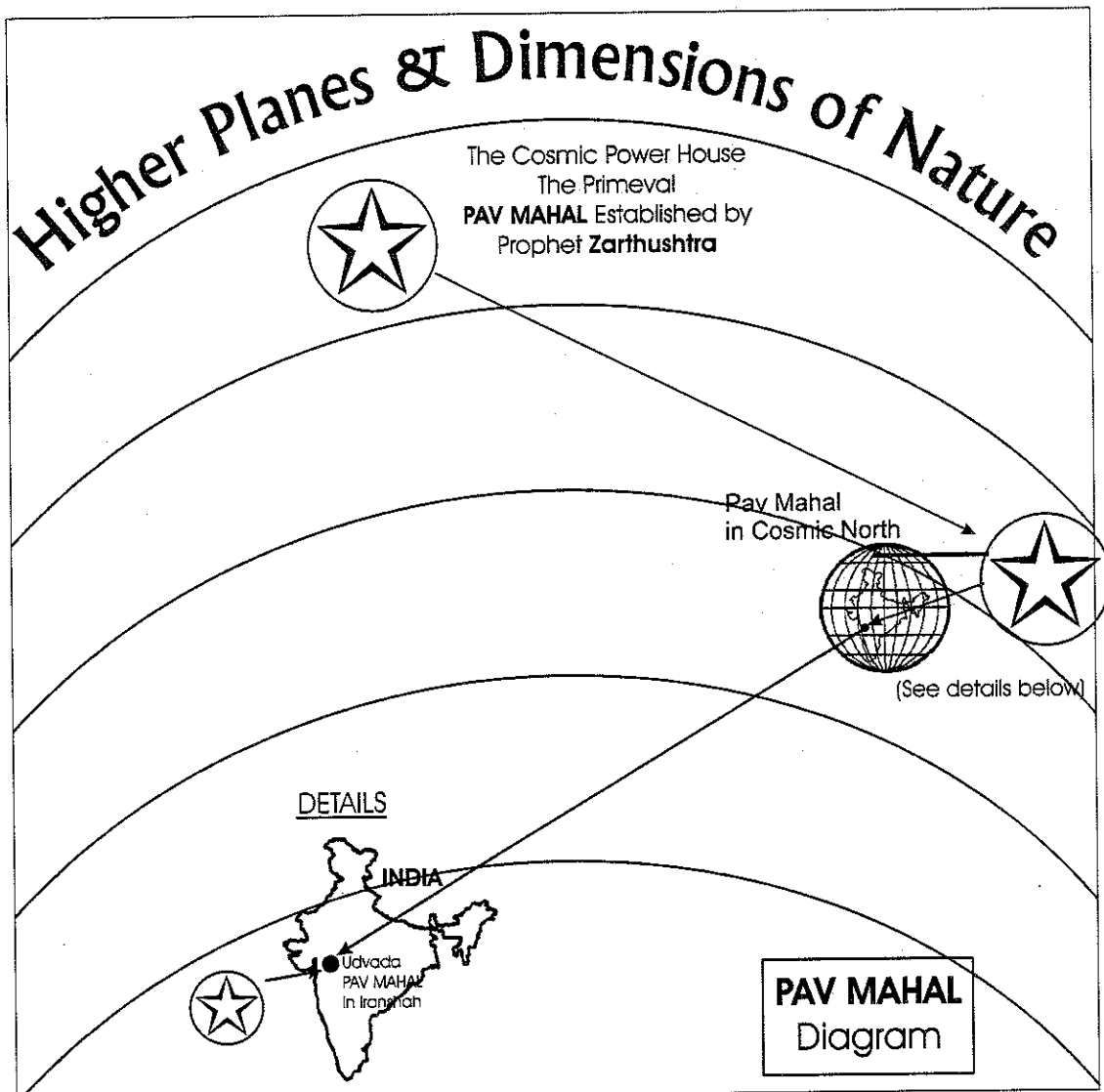
The accompanying diagram may help make things easy to understand. What one must remember is that a new **Pav Mahal** can only be created by a very highly evolved Zarthoshti soul, like that of an **Ashavan**, who excels in the Laws of Ashoi and who has been granted special Divine blessings to establish the same.

Today, **the only Pav Mahal that exists in the whole perceived world is in India, in**

**Udvada, which exists with Holy Iranshah.** It is this **Pav Mahal** that has sustained, nurtured and nourished the Parsee/Irani Zarthoshtis of India for 1300 years. In Iran, today, after 1200 years of Muslim rule, the **Pav Mahal** does not exist.

It is, therefore, the bounden duty of all Parsee/Irani Zoroastrians – the priests and the laity – to protect Holy Iranshah and his **Pav Mahal**. Strangely, the very people who are supposed to do that are chipping and gnawing at the very roots of our existence! [See next article].

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## **Pulling The *Pav Mahal* Plug - II**

### **When Holy Iranshah's Home Is Being Systematically Destroyed By Those Very Persons Who Are Supposed To Preserve & Protect Him!**

### **Marble Madness, "Majestic" Structure & FDU's "Museum" Spell The Death Knell For The Parsee Community**

Ever since Holy Iranshah was brought to Udvada in 1742, four structures have been built to house him. The last one, which stands to this day, was built in 1894 by the late Bai Motlibai M. Wadia. **Quality materials were used making the whole structure very sturdy to withstand the vicissitudes of the seasons for more than a century.** In 1896, Motlibai Wadia executed the Bai Motlibai Wadia Udvada Atash Behram Trust, today, known as the Wadia Trust. Soon thereafter one more trust, N.M. Wadia Charities (secular trust) was formed. Today, these trusts have common trustees who manage, administer, and maintain all the properties including the Atash Behram building that houses Holy Iranshah. **One of the present senior trustees is Burjor H. Antia. The custody of Holy Iranshah, however, is in the hands of the Udvada Athornan Anjuman with the two High Priests, as presidents.**

**REPAIR & RENOVATION:** From time to time, the structure, like many others of its kind, underwent repair and renovation. The **Atash Padshah** would be shifted to the smaller Petit **Dadgah** building, next door, later to be brought back to the original home, after elaborate rituals were performed.

The last such major repairs took place in the centenary year (1993-1994) of the Atash

Behram building. Even at that time, about 14 years ago, there were reasonably sufficient number of **yaozdathregars** to perform the minimum necessary rituals and ceremonies, like the **Ijashnes (Yasnas)** and **Vendidad**, necessary to purify and re-consecrate the **sanctum sanctorum**, the prayer hall and the outer hall. The overall repairs and renovation – the colour schemes, the tiles, etc. were done in such a way, that for decades, there would be no need for any major repairs.

Thereafter, because of the soot accumulated in the **Gumbaz**, cleaning therein was done from time to time.

**BUT NOW...** In 1994, when major repairs were done, the Wadia trust did not have the necessary funds to meet the costs. So its sister organisation, Wadia Charities bore the brunt. There were, at that time nearly 10 resident mobeds who performed the **bui** as well as the higher liturgical ceremonies.

**Today**, there are just about 2-3 resident **mobeds**. Yet, for the last year and a half, Holy Iranshah has been shifted to the smaller Petit Daremeher building, which, in turn, was "renovated" earlier, to give it a 21st century look! **The entire flooring and the walls were changed.** Yet, in just about 3-4 years, what does one find? **From the walls of the**

**Koh, the sanctum sanctorum where Iranshah is temporarily housed, plasters have fallen apart!!**

**MARBLE MADNESS OR CRAZE FOR GLOSS & SHEEN:**

The main structure of Holy Iranshah, as mentioned above, was and is rock solid. Both the walls and the tile flooring were done up just over a decade ago. However, as happens in other fire temples, if the trustees or the anjumans suddenly find themselves flushed with funds for "renovation", etc., they go virtually berserk, and, as if the holy fire is a piece of furniture or fixture, shift him to some annexe or the other, call in non-Zoroastrian labourers, masons, etc., and start banging and hammering at the walls and floors.

A worse scenario is found in Udvada today. **For the last year-and-half, the Holy of Holies has been moved to the neighbouring Petit building. The outside gate of the compound has given way to a bigger, but thoughtless and even weird twin gates with grotesque caricatures in black of Achaemenian characters!** It is marble madness inside the building, with imported (Italian, perhaps, what with Della Majestic, coming up across the road!) marble costing more than Rs.300 per square foot!!

**In ancient Zoroastrian Iran, with hundreds of Atash Behrams being of the grade of Iranshah, nobody would be able to tell even from a short distance that the modest structures housing the fires were Atash Behrams of the 1st Grade!!**

Today, we are living in such nasty, materialistic times, that for months, Khurshed Dastur Kekobad Dastoor, supposed to be one of the High Priests of Iranshah, rang up Parsees and all kinds of pseudo-Zoroastrians to come and pay obeisance to the pedestal (**Khuan**), on which a **diva** was kept to mock Holy Iranshah, when he is restored on the same pedestal after he is "re-throned". Many senseless Parsees flocked inside the original **sanctum**, bowing before the pedestal (strong strains of idol worship?!) as this was supposed to be a "once-

in-a-lifetime chance" to invade the **koh**, as one Mumbai woman put it! All this, as labourers kept banging at the windows and walls of the **koh**. While Khurshed Dastoor brazenly invited people to throng the throne of Holy Iranshah, without the Emperor himself, what did all the other responsible **jee-huzoors of Udvada do? They just looked the other way!!** Dr. Peshotan Mirza, the other High Priest, went as a Chief Guest at the inauguration of FDU's so-called "Information Centre", a stone's throw away from Iranshah's building!

We emphatically assert that both the Wadia trust on the one hand and the Sanjana **Athornans** as well as the ignorant **Behdins** are wholly responsible for chipping at the **Pav Mahal** in the manifest world today, the **Pav Mahal** that has been raised on the centre of Holy Iranshah!

**It is interesting to note the nexus among the various personalities connected with this avoidable, abhorrent exercise. Burjor Antia, after Sam Joshi's death last year, we believe, calls the shots from the Wadia trust. Burjorji also happens to be a trustee of the FDU and the WZO. Khurshed Dastoor, the High Priest is the Chairman of FDU. In between somewhere, Della Majestic may have entered the fray for the Italian marble, perhaps... and you have a rough picture of why lakhs of rupees are spent on an already sturdy structure of Holy Iranshah!**

While we wait for the hordes of world "Zarthushtis" to come to the "Information Centre" in winter and for Khurshed Dastoor to conjure up a new date for the grandest of the grand inauguration of the new "wondrous" building that will house Iranshah, "the first marble structure in the 1300 years of Parsi history", as he may say, we offer to the readers, a brief translation of a splendid Gujarati booklet, written 70 years ago by the doyen of Zoroastrian scholars, the late Dr. Framroze S. Chiniwalla.

"Today, the most unfortunate event that takes place uninhibitedly, is the lifting of the **Atash-e-Varharan Padshah** and the entry of Juddin-craftsmen in the holy building for the sake of wordly artificial beauty.

"At present, no one realises the spiritual importance of the **Atar-e-Varharan**. If a reformed, so-called educated Parsi today, shudders to touch an unkempt, dirty person, and puts a hanky on his nose, even if there is a slight dust blowing in the wind, lest he catch the flu, why doesn't the same person understand even a bit, that **Atash Padshahs** get polluted because of the reasons mentioned above?

**THE CIRCUITS:** "The visible fire in the censer (**afarganiya**) of the **Atash Padshah** is in connection with the **16 Fire Energies operating in Nature**, which, in turn, are in contact with Ahura Mazda and the Yazats. Thus, there is the first magnetic circuit of the **Khoreh** and Life Force of these Energies, around the visible fire of the Atash Behram.

"Similarly on and around the **Khuaan (pedestal)**, there is the second circuit of **Spenta Armaiti and Her co-workers** who have virtually 'lifted' the **throne of the Padshah**. Again, inside and around the **Koh (sanctum)**, there are two other magnetic circuits (allegorically) drawn by Sarosh and Avan Yazads. So also, in the sacred building, thousands of faithfuls recite the **Manthra, alongwith the glory of the Pav Mahal as well as the vibratory effects of the Pav Mahal rituals - all of which create three more circuits (Kash).**

"In all these circuits, the 'White Side of Nature' what the **Ushtavad Gatha (Yasna Ha 46.4)** calls, the *Gao Froretoish*, moves around.

"This White Side of Nature is ably assisted by the **Atash Padshah** in controlling the Dark Side of Nature. The Padshah ably assists the **Gava**, with the Divine Wisdom to move ahead on her road. These currents of Divine Wisdom are then distributed on earth to all the **bust-e-kustians** and to the entire humanity.

"But every **Geh**, the *ahemushto*, the destroyer, Ahriman, the ill-wisher, goes on harming and injuring the glory of the **Atash Padshah**. This is when the **Yaозdathregars** offer **bui** to the Holy Fire, which restarts the benevolent currents of **Khoreh** and Divine Wisdom.

"Those who lift the **Atar-e-Varharan Padshah** from his Throne, destroy the **Kash**, the magnetic circuits inside the sanctum. They virtually make the Padshah impotent.

"Those who stop the **Gava**, the circuits from moving around freely, are the *ahemushto* = murderers of life and existence.

"Wounded and tormented **Padshahs** result in silent punishment. Today, we do not have any outside enemies of the religion. We have the Holy Fire's own worshippers, who because of ideas of wordly glamour and gloss, become the victims of greed. They then play the role of **Deen Dushmans**. To make such a statement is to speak the truth. **And when truth is spoken and that is opposed, the sin already committed gets aggravated."**

To those responsible in Udvada for making the Iranshah building "hipper", we offer the following lines:

***If wrong you do and false you play  
in summer among the bowers,  
You shall repent, you will repay  
in winter among the showers!***

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