

THOSE WELL MEANING BUT THOROUGHLY MISGUIDED "ARZ" PEOPLE.

DO YOU KNOW, FRIENDS, WHAT IS RELIGION AND WHY ARE THERE MORE THAN ONE RELIGIONS?

A PAID ADVERTISEMENT IS NOT AN ANSWER TO THESE PROFOUNDLY DEEP QUESTIONS!

A group of persons calling themselves "Association for Revival of Zoroastrianism" is publishing paid advertisements in Jame Jamshed since several weeks, under a title "Zoroastrianism for All Mankind." A space of 5.5" by 3.75" contains the above quoted lines and then quotes some stray sentence from the daily prayer book. The sentence purports to convey that Zoroastrianism is a "universal religion" and all mankind should adopt it.

I am presuming that the group consists of those who are dragged away into these thoughts like a light boat in a strong wind current. It is clear from their quotations that they are so thoroughly obsessed by these ideas that they would read conversion in every line of the prayer book - even in Ashem, Yatha, Yenghahey Haataam! They are looking to the world through a clouded buff coloured glass of absolute unawareness and innocence. I am presuming they are a band of sincere Parsi youths, who have not gone into even a shallow study of the grave issues involved in their thinking. Your humble writer here is journeying into the fragrant regions of such study since more than six decades, and would like these youths to realise that the subjects are not at all easy to be thought out in an organised pattern. I like and love youths, their zeal and enthusiasm, their sparkling smiles, their over flowing effervescence. I have always preferred more to go in their company than the odd oldies who look upon the world with their ego struck vision, as if the youths are to be pooh-poohed out. I would like to sit down with you in all sincerity and bring within your thinking several facts and truths, which you may not have come across in these modern times of pell mell and helter skelter.

The questions which we address ourselves are:

1. What is religion? Is it really needed in the life of the humans?

2. Why are there more than one Religions amongst humanity?

3. How come, the holy Founders of all Religions like Jesus Christ, Mohammad, Abraham, Moses, Buddha, Mahavir, Krishna, Zarathushtra, universally proclaim that They have been sent by God, that They are His Messengers, that They have dialogue with Him, that They are specially inspired by Him to teach the humans a way of life, a divine Path, which leads to Him?

4. Is it reasonable to say that only one of these Religions is the True Path and others not? And that only one of them is to be "chosen" by this weakling called man, who has not understood even a speck of dust, - vide the well known perplexing theories of quantum and relativity, both of which cannot be true at the same time and yet each behave to be true in their own particular sets of events?

5. A blunt question to my friends: are you saying that Zarathushtra is the only Prophet of Truth and other Founders are liars? (In fact, you are.)

6. How come every Religion has its own formidable list of holy Saints, Sages, Seers, Fakirs, Olias, Sufis, Dervishes, Rabais, Bhikhoos, Sadhus, Rishis, Ashavans, Saheb Delaans, Pir-e-Magans? Were all of them except Zoroastrians away from Truth?

7. What are the criteria of choice if any Tom Dick and Chhagan, Magan is to 'choose' a Prophet for

himself out of so many?

8. What is the meaning of universality?

9. If all Religions emanate from God and all of them lead to Him, how can just one of them be universal? Are not all Religions equally universal when their beginning and end are the same?

10. Has the intellect of man capacity and capability to "choose", by himself, a Prophet from amongst so many?

Is it easy, my friends, to think out the answers to these questions? Please forgive me if I ask you, have these questions at all occurred to you? If so, have you arrived at the answers? If not, your expending good money is a waste, a futile and raw exercise. Let us face answers to the ten questions.

"Why are there more than one Religions?" - was a question asked to the great Hindu saint of 19th century Ramkrishna Paramhans (18-2-1836 - 16-8-1886) His answer was to this effect: A mother has four children. One is an athlete; he has to be given mutton and protein. Another has diarrhea, he cannot be given milk and heavy food; curd should be given often. The third is a weakling; he is to be given moderately substantial balanced food. The fourth is a gastric; careful! Avoid potato and pulses....

Get the point? The mother has the anxiety of maintaining her children's health. Different food for each.

Let us have another analogy. Varied patients are collected in a hospital. One has T.B., other has malaria, third has pneumonia, fourth has mad-cow disease; fifth has a sophisticated HIV or HPS. Each patient is treated by a specialised doctor. Some of them meet in a common hall. The T. B. patient starts praising his doctor Temulji and tells the malaria patient that he must switch to that doctor. The Malaria patient is angry; "you fool! **you** change **to my** doctor Muncherji." What fools! Each doctor is a specialist in his own line of a particular disease. Dr. Muncherji's remedy may cause severe allergy to Dr. Temulji's patient! You get the point? That is why Lord Krishna in His Gita 3-35 says:

"One's own Dharma, though imperfect is better than the dharma of another well performed. Better death in one's own dharma; the dharma of another is full of fear." (...Savdharam nidhn shrae: Pardharmo Bhaivah)

And the great saint Ramkrishna Paramhans elaborate in his Masterly style:

"A professional farmer does not loose courage and continues to cultivate even if there be a terrible drought for twelve long years. But a weaver who takes to tiling for a change of occupation gets disheartened if rain fails for just one season. A true devotee does not deviate from his Path of devotion...."

So let Theresa Newman and all the crores of Christians shed tears of devotion on Lord Jesus Christ. And let Mira with the crores of Krishna devotees shed tears on their Baal Gopaal. And let Rabia-al-Adawiyya with all the Sufi Lovers of Khodaa shed their tears of Ishq. My ARZ friends! How dry and dull and droll your in "Khoyaa bad...." and "Nemo Vohu...." sound! Not that your quotations are dry and dull; they are the pearls of spiritual wisdom. But the meaning you assign and interpretation you put forth is really droll, in true sense of the word: comical, grotesquely amusing, laughable, pieces of waggery.

Look at Lord Krishna's above passage He says: death in another Dharma is full of fear. Why does He say so? It is like a saying amongst us : Gujarya pachi ravan rakhdi jashe. This is not just a colloquial saying. There are scriptural evidences to show that the Ruvan does loiter in certain circumstances.

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Now I feel, you ARZ with your apparent conversion fanaticism, may not like me to quote from other Religions (although you should know that God's Truth is scattered every where and does not have any monopoly.) So, let me switch you from Gita to Gatha.

At about five places, the Gatha refers to the word "Daenao." This is the plural of "Daenaa." Daenaa means Religion-Dharma. Gatha: Yasna Ha 31-11 proclaims that different Religions are according to the Divine Plan of Mazda. They are ordained for different groups of humanity. The undercurrent is common, but the tarikats, tenets, devotions, doctrines are different. But that difference is not meant to quarrel with each other. Because Ha 34-13 declares that the Daenao - Religions are brought by Saoshyant's i.e. Prophets and Avatar's of Ahura and each Din can by itself lead man to Mukti, Salvation, Nirvaan, Mokhsha, Frashogard. This is proclaimed subject to man following the commands and tarikats of his own Religion. The word used in 34-13 is "Hookeyreyt" which conveys the work of sticking to the Din, as also center i.e. being at the center of one's own Din.

Ha 46-6 declares that the Paths of all Dins are against the path of druj i.e. the evil. And Ha 49-9 says every Din is a gift from Ahura leading to the breaking of the bonds of evil.

You, my dear ARZ's, may please now reread the questions propounded above, and ponder on them in the light of the aforesaid Truths. A lakh of Parsis telling 5 billion people on earth that ours is the only Religion of Truth, is not only ridiculous but highly dangerous. It is heavily inflammable material. If Osama bin Laden comes to know, or much worse, the current wave of religious fanaticism is made to take notice, Parsis may have to run away, God knows where.

Since hundred years, Parsi conversion fanatics are searching for scriptural evidence in support of conversion. The references offered by them are so absurd, ridiculous and preposterous that they look like the attempt to twist out a drop of water from a thoroughly dry garment. Khodabux Poonegar, Phiroze Masani, Framroze Chiniwalla, Dasturji Hormazdiyar Mirza and a number of other Scholars and Pundits have torn arguments of the fanatics to rags. And now you ARIZ with your "In doyaya baad.....!"

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Remember please, Religion is not an intellectual and argumentative exercise. Religion is a way of life to be lived on every moment of our existence on earth. It is a way leading us on the Path of God. Each Religion is God-sent and a Path towards Him. It is not a simple easy pill. It has three main phases: Knowledge, Practice and Devotion.

Knowledge is the quest for truth, an investigative divine Science, which is learnt from spiritual experience in the laboratory of Life.

Practice is the practical way of dealing with ourselves and our surrounding creations: animal, vegetable, mineral and human. The banner of this practice is Armaiti : i.e. dissolution of ego; humility, love and service towards all the four creations; renouncing of all hatred; truth on the tongue; sincere attempt to avoid sins (goonah) and adopt Kerfeh i.e. thoughts words and deeds as ordained by the Din; Patet i.e. repentance for sins.

Devotion means divine attraction towards Daadar, Yazats, Paigamber and the Din itself, and a burning desire to walk on the Path of God and to ultimately be in union with Him.

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My dear Arz's! what does Z stand for in your name. What is Zoroastrianism? What do you understand by this "-ism"? Just good thoughts, words and deeds? Which Religion and which Paigambar teach bad thoughts words and deeds? Your paid advertisements read as if except your "-ism", all others are bad. Is it not a mountainous non-sense? And a dangerous time bomb?

Try to write down an article on what you know and understand about "Zoroastrianism"; do that, instead of your "Doyaa and Khoyaa", published through purchased advertisement. Try to write. You will find yourself in thick condensed cloud of confusion. You purport to deal with a subject which is Science of all Sciences,

Experience of all Experiences and Love of all Loves, and finding yourself in the dark, you rush to a paid ad with a straw!!

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Another question to ARZ. Why are you using the word "Revival"? Do you think your Din needs a revival? 'Revive' means to bring or be brought back to life, consciousness or strength. Do you think our Din is dead or unconscious or weak? And that your paid advertisement in a lifeless weekly newspaper will revive it? If you think so, you just don't know what the Din is and who is Asho Zarathushtra.

There are a hundred references in the extant Avesta emphasising His Yazatic stature. One full Haa with 11 passages and 243 words in the Gatha is devoted to Him and depicts who HE IS. Farvardin Yashta has two passages of 211 + 38 words narrating how He discharged the Divine Duties assigned to Him by Ahura Mazda and will continue to do so till Frashogard and beyond. All Avesta sings this celestial song.

You are blissfully ignorant of the great Truths that one of the Duties of Asho Zarathushtra was to prepare for the advent of the other great Religions and their Divine Founders and that all Religions work in a Divine Brotherhood. We got the living proof of these Truths when Baheramshah Shroff (1858-1927) enlightened the Parsis on Ilm-e-Khshnoom, the Divine Science, Practice, Love and Devotion of our Din. Try to taste it, if your tongue and psyche can bear it.

You, my friends, are dying of thirst sleeping on the bank of a cool sweet spring. This is your description given by the great Sufi Poets Rumi and Hafez. It is **You** who require to be awakened and revived and not the Din. I do pray to the Almighty that may you live long to see the advent of the coming Saoshyants - Saviours of all the Dins. In the meantime **weave the Din in your life, every second to second. And if you want to know how, come to Khshnoom.**

Devotionally yours,

- K. Navroz

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WHO ARE THESE "ADVERTISING RELIGIOUS ZEALOTS" - ARZ?

All kinds of Tamasha's are going on in the Parsi Community, some childish, some oldish; some trivial, some fatal; some comic, some tragic. Some people publicly boast of their massive wealth. Some said to be very rich, go out in Parsi colonies with a begging bowl for the alleged upliftment of Parsi priests who have no idea of what they are doing. Some boast of creating Persipolis in an Agiari compound. Some organize dancing fares where the youthful Parsi ladies jump up and down apparently without Sudreh Kushti. Some arrange Parsi children's Mela, where any talk on religion induces a discouraging applause, compelling the speaker to shut up. Some repair and renovate Agiaries in a manner which murders all their spiritual requirements. Then there are intellectual Tamashas with the letter 'Z' somewhere in their name to show that they are for the betterment of "Zoroastrianism". One even goes to the extent of "revival" of Zoroastrianism, without knowing the meaning of the word 'revival' or anything about Z-ism or any other 'ism' whatsoever.

This Parsi Pukar is sometimes tempted to provide a humour-fare on the fun, frolic and farce of each of the tamashas. But let us confine for the time being to the last one bearing the name ARZ and there too to their advertising Zulu dance.

Since last few years they are publishing paid advertisements for the alleged "revival of Zoroastrianism". All that they do is to publish "quotations" from the scriptures to the effect that "Zoroastrian Religion is Universal", and therefore must be spread all over the world.

First of all, to advertise the alleged quotations from the holy Books is by itself a huge absurdity. Are you selling a product? We know, all advertisements exaggerate the merits of their products. A reader is well aware that an advertisement not only exaggerates, but contains some, if not all, untruth and he should not be just led away to buy the product. Chambers 20th Century Dictionary gives one of the meanings of the word advertisement as "any device for obtaining public favour or **notoriety**" - a very significant meaning for ARZ ads. To bring down a sublime Truth proclaimed by the Prophets in Mantric words to the level of a newspaper ad, by pouring some money in the pockets of publishers and editors, is surely a **notorious** act for the advertiser and newspaper both.

All religions have declared that a Mantric composition has several levels of meanings. Each level has three ingredients: mystical knowledge (Gnyan, Ilm), a practical lesson for life (Karmic Rule, Amal) and devotion (Bhakti, Vaham) To reduce the Mantra to the market level of advertisement is like dipping a bunch of grapes into mud and then ask people to eat it.

To understand Manthra at our non-saintly level is a strenuous exercise. Gatha has scores of translations, so much divergent from each other that we just stand aghast, wondering which must be the original Message of our Prophet. (Mary Boyce has said this).

Dr. Taraporewala was so disgusted with the western dry translations that he employed 25 years of his life to provide a new translation based on spiritual foundations derived partly from the Hindu Holy Sanskrit Scriptures like 'Veda's and 'Upnishad's. He was induced to do so by a remark from a renowned scholar of Iranian history. Prof. Brown that "**I think all this is very childish**". The tiring exertions of Dr. Taraporewalla were in turn called by the Western Scholars as "subjective" i.e. not authentic - translations. (Mary Boyce wrote so). If a person carried away by ARZ ads asks the

advertiser to show him an authentic version of the Gatha, no ARZ Liliputian or no Head Priestly and scholarly Brobdnagian will be able to do so, and the questioner will say, "so after all yours was **an advertisement.**"

May Mazdayasni Daen spread in the "seven continents" (Hafta Keysvar Zamin), is one of the advertising quotation of ARZ. It is too much of a foolishness to try to explain the real crux and essence of that line to ARZ ignorantia. All that can be done is to throw questions to them: what do you know about the word Mazdayasni? Have you ever heard of "Sanaatan Dharma"?

Which are these seven continents? Were they existing in Zoroaster's time?

What do you mean by "spread"? Are you so blind as not to see the existence of several Religions on earth which are all sent by God and many Truths declared by them are common to all?

By spreading do you mean converting them? How would you do it? By force? By convincing them that our Religion is better than theirs and theirs, worse? That their Prophets were hoaxes and yours is THE one?

Are you not inviting a furore from the followers of other Religions, amongst whom your 60,000 is just a drop into the world's oceans? Would not your ads dissolve the 60000 in the fractions of a second? Should you not be prosecuted firstly for advocating to convert Hindus and Muslims to Parsis and secondly to injure the religious feelings of the Parsis themselves?

Should not the Charity Commissioner be moved, if ARZ is a registered public Trust? Should its registration be not cancelled as being dangerous to the peace of the country? **Has not your ads the potentiality of a communal riot?**

Are you not aware of the most friendly and charitable manner in which the Parsis lived in India for more than a thousand years? Are you not aware how the other communities treated us with great regard and love? Would Jadi Rana have allowed your ancestors to put a foot on Sanjan soils, had they shown your ads to him instead of the 16 Sanskrit Shlokas? Would he have given all aids and co-operation to them to establish Paak Iranshah who is showering His Holy Yazatic Light on the whole universe even today. Is it not the goodness of other Communities not to revolt against the ARZ - Jame filth?

Should 'Hindutwa' be informed? Should Shri Narendra Modi be informed about this poison being spread by some foolhardy folk? FDU in great danger? Wake up Tao Tamboli!

And what do you mean by 'universal'? Which Religion is not universal? Which Holy Prophet was sent by devil? Why are there so many Religions and so many Prophets and Saints? Did God send them to make the groups quarrel with each other and for one saying to other that mine is God's, yours is devil's?

It is clear that all these conversion fanatics are immersed in the quicksand of ignorance. This is not the way to justify the self-inflicted disease of Juddin marriages, which are fast rushing us to extinction.

What is most surprising is the silence of the Priests who relish their "high"ness. Should they not react strongly against this **Advertising Religious Zealots (ARZ)?**

And there is another 'Z' in the community - WAPIZ! They are the alleged protectors of the traditions. **What are you Sires doing against these ARZ suicide bombers?** Are you not also the same **World Advertising Parsi Zealots?** You are also paying advertisers in two languages and in two newspapers. Have you no capacity or capability to publish a good periodical news magazine of your own? The difficulty with you is that your thinking on public and religious questions is confused and dipped into arrogant politics.

- K. N. Dastoor

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