

Sahebji! My dear Readers!

As you well know, on 30th, 31st December 2006 and 1st January 2007, we, the Ilm-e-Khshnoomists made a huge experiment. We celebrated the centenary of Khshnoom propagation initiated around 1906 by Baheramshah Shroff. He was destined to be with the Holy Zarthoshti Ashavans for about 3½ years, in their sacred abode. It is situated in the unobservable dimensions around the sacred Mount Daemavand in Iran. He learnt from them the Mystical Foundations of the Zarthoshti Din in all its spiritual, scriptural and devotional aspects. Their few glimpses were shown in our Exhibition at Palamkot Hall. Many Parsis and non-Parsis were astounded. Many who attended the lectures, skits, musical and other items, were set to serious thinking. “We never knew this”; “Is our Religion so great?” “We always wondered why our Religion did not display devotional and sacred matters like other great Religions.”

We the devotees of Ilm-e- Khshnoom do not form a cult or a fold, like the Gatha-alone-cult. Khshnoom is the divine name given to the mystical content of the Zarthoshti Din (‘Z-Din’). It is not something different from Z-Din. **Khshnoom is the Z-Din itself.** All religions are the divine formulations of God’s Truth. They are sent by God to reveal His Divine Secrets and to teach **how to attain them.** Why are there several common and universal doctrines, principles and truths in all and each of them? Where do they differ and why? These questions are dealt with in the article beginning on page 2 of this Issue.

One of the Truths taught by every Religion is that the non saintly human intellect is incapable of grasping the Religious truths beyond certain limit. He has to pass through prescribed Rules of his Religion by birth. Then only his ability to grasp the sacred spiritual Truths of God can expand step by step. Please consider how little you know of Religion. Do you understand who and what is God? Is He “Somebody” staying “upstairs”? With our highly limited sense, we treat Him as a human being. He is, in Truth, beyond our mental grasp. How can a human reside in each particle of the universe? Why is He allowing the evil to function in spite of the universal declaration of all Religions that He is all powerful? Some raw “scholars” have dabbled in a muddy reasoning that He is not all-powerful. They had even made a film on it!

Every Religious Truth is Mystical. Religion is a Mystical Science covering all subjects, from a speck of dust to God. Like every Religion, Z-Din is a treasure house of Ahura’s Truths and the spiritual disciplines to reach them. “Meher-Patet”, (the spiritual law of Morals and the way of day to day life on earth), Sudreh, Kushti, Manthra Prayers, Atash-Parasti, Dokhm-e- Nashini, Kriya-Kaam, Boonak- Paasbaani, are the main seven Foundations of Z-Din. Ilm-e-Khshnoom provides the key to have some understanding of each of them.

Taste it and walk on.

- Editor

WHY ARE THERE MORE THAN ONE RELIGIONS?

ALL RELIGIONS REVEAL SEVERAL COMMON AND UNIVERSAL TRUTHS.

The Difference Lies in the Tarikats - Procedures - to Resist the Onslaught of Evil Within.

by Dosubaba

Often do we wonder why there are different Religions amongst the man-kind on earth. Every divine Messenger, who establishes a Religion says that He is sent by God to teach the Truth to the humans. Each one of them proclaims a number of doctrines and principles. We find that many of them are common to all Religions. So we ask, why are there more than one Religions, and where do they differ and why?

The answer requires a serious exploration in the teachings of all the Religions, at least the major ones like the Christian, Islam, Jew Hindu and Zarathushtrian.

Let us first delve into the common and universal teachings contained in all the Religions.

The most prominent feature of all Religions is that they deal with "spiritual" matters. The dictionary meaning of the word is "Relating to spirit or soul and not to physical nature or matter." Soul, in turn, means some non-material part within the human personality, which survives the body after death. All the Religions proclaim that the body cannot survive without the soul. The soul is the essence of life. The human body is essentially the soul. A human 'self' is the soul and not the body. During life on earth, the soul is said to be imprisoned in the body like a bird in a cage. 'Soul' is manifestly an English term from the Christian Religion. "Aatmaa" in Hindu; "Rooh" in Islam and "Ruvaan" in the Zarthoshti Din are the corresponding terms.

The second common proclamation of all Religions is the existence of God. There exists

an all powerful Creator of the whole Universe. He is the Divine Designer of all the worlds in the Universe and every particle in each one of them. "Lord my God" is a Biblican expression. He is Ishvara or Paramatma of Hinduism, Allah of Islam, Ahuramazda for Zarathushtrians.

The earth is a small part of God's Creation. So also the humans on the earth. Man is not just a physical body. He has a soul within. His temporary stay on the earth from birth to death is a part of the journey of the soul **from God to God**.

This means the soul was once upon a remote time with God and one with God. "Something" happened and the soul was separated from God and put to a long journey through God's Creation. What was that "something", is narrated by different Religions in different words and pictures. The sum and substance of all is that some impurity, some contamination became attached to the Soul. That required to be washed out and cleansed. Hence the long journey.

There is another way of expressing this. When the Soul was with God, it was all divine Light. That "something" caused a part of the light to be turned into a dark band. That darkness was required to be converted back to full Light at the end of the long journey.

The journey of the human Soul is thus a process of purification or alchemisation or reconversion of that dark band to Enlightenment. **The Earth is a temporary motel on the Soul's Path leading towards God.**

The journey is long. There are worlds beyond the earth and beyond our comprehension. The journey had begun in the world of divine (Yazatic) Light. It passed through another world of non-material and ultra physical energies. Ultimately the soul arrived on earth imprisoned in the physical body. All religions then proceed to prescribe the Rules Man should observe and follow during the life on earth. The first and foremost Rule is this: always be conscious that we are passing through a grinding mill of alchemisation. We have a good element and an evil element both woven in our body. The good are our virtues; the evil are our vices. The vices and virtues express themselves through the five bodily senses and our conscious mind. We can have bouts of both.

All Religions have declared as to what is a vice. Vices are named sins, "Paap", "Goonah", Virtues are named rectitude or rightness, "Poonya", "Kerfeh". Therefore when we Parsis go on repeating the formula "good thoughts, good words and good deeds", please remember that the good is as defined by God through His Divine Messengers and not by our own mind. All Religions including the Parsis, declare in no uncertain terms that the ordinary non-saintly humans like us are inclined more towards evil than good. We have our "enemies" within us, who lead us to sins. The great Hindu Religion has enumerated six enemies: carnal passion, anger, greed, attachment to worldly objects, ego, jealousy. The Zarathushtrian Religion has in addition to the six, enumerated four more : faithlessness, fraud, blasphemy and shamelessness!

All Religions teach that we should resist those enemies. However, made up as we are, the evil element within us prompts our mind to be carried away into the current of sins. If that happens and we fall in the pit of a sin; we should generate an intense feeling of remorse and repentance, and determine strongly not to repeat the sin. This is termed as 'Patet' in the Zarthoshti Din. The whole of

our daily Kushti Prayer is based on these teachings. Resist the evil-within, run away from the sins; if you fall, do Patet. This is the cardinal Rule, the main "tarikat" of our **life on earth**.

The Rule is so difficult to follow that we are required to generate powerful energy within us to resist the evil and to repent – do Patet – if we fall. Different Religions prescribe different procedures– 'Tarikat's' to generate this energy. Here is the point where the Religions differ. Upto this point all of them lay down the universal Truths, as glimpsed above.

This takes us to another Truth. All Religions are sent to the humans on earth according to the Divine plan of God. The humanity on earth is divided into different groups. The physical, mental and spiritual compositions of each group are different. Each group is therefore given a different Religion. Although all the humans are on their way to the final goal of merging with God, each group has to take its own detour of Tarikats. The energy to be generated to resist evil and to repent for the sins, require different modes and methods for the different groups. In other words, the 'tarikat's' to be followed by each group are different from the others. For example, the Christian is given a cross; the muslim is required to fast in Ramzan; Hindus have their Yogic methods; Parsis have their Sudreh-Kushti and other tarikats. Every religion has different methods of worship, and each is ordained to suit the physical, mental and spiritual composition of each group. The Religion of every person on earth is determined before his or her birth. Nobody has a right or capacity to change the Religion of birth, and his or her Prophet. Every Prophet is sent by God. Each is His Servant, Saoshyant or Son whatever you name. Each is armed with spiritual Authority and Power emanating from God. Each brings His own sacred Mantric Books meant for the group of humans in His charge.

Thus on the one hand there are the wider and universal Truths viz. (i) existence of God, (ii) existence of unobservable worlds, (iii) Soul of man imprisoned in physical body, (iv) the entwining of good and evil in the body, (v) the duty of man to alchemise evil and march towards God.

On the other hand there are: (i) individual Tarikats of every Religion, and (ii) the duty of man to follow the commands of his own Prophet. In this divine structure of God, the talk of conversion from one Religion to another by exercising the alleged freedom of choice and will and mind, is the largest misnomer that has collided with the Parsi community and shattered it.

The conversion hydra shot up its poisonous head at the end of the 19th century. Those were the days when the Western air was saturated with the craze of intellectual supremacy. The human intellect was said to be capable of fully understanding the whole universe; after all, the universe operated on just mechanical laws; no 'God' was needed. The fad of the intellectual supremacy of man pervaded all arts, sciences and human activities.

The western study of the Parsi Religion, which had begun in the 18th century, could not escape this onslaught. The scholars of Europe came out with a passage from the Gatha in support of the craze. Gatha Ha 30-2 was translated to this effect: hear with your best ears, ponder with your enlightened mind and arrive at the truth. The Parsis became very proud that the most modern scientific proposition of the superiority of human thinking, was found in their most ancient Religion. The Parsi scholars were so much carried away by this stream that the passage was well advertised to the whole scholarly world. Even Ervad Kavasji Kanga printed the Avesta passage, Ha 30-2, on the covers of his translation books!

By the end of the 20th century that craze

of modern sciences is broken to pieces. (See the last Parsi Pukar Vol 11-3-p.14 for a history of this tragedy). Supremacy of the human mind and Godlessness are facing grave doubts from the scientists themselves.

And yet the so called Parsi intellectuals are continuing their gibberish on conversion! Their banner is : "Zoroastrianism is a universal Religion".

But which Religion is not universal? Every religion and every holy scripture, be it the Holy Koran, Gita, Bible, Avesta, is the Voice of God spoken through the Mantric compositions of the Prophets and Avataars. The first principles of every Religion are the same and universal, as we have seen. The tarikats of different Religions are different within the ambit of the first principles.

Religion is a spiritual and mystical subject. There is no intellectual proof for the existence of God, the creator. You have to experience Him to know Him. Many other mystical Truths also defy the intellect. They are embedded in the Mantric scriptures of all Religions. A holy scripture is not to be read like a newspaper or a piece of literature. The subject matter of Religion ranges from a speck of dust to God. Every Scripture is therefore a revelation of Nature's Truths which are manifestly mystical, i.e. beyond the grasp of a non-saintly human mind. The Holy Avesta is full of mystical terms, which require to be deciphered by the authorised Zarthoshti Saints, Sages and Seers.

We do have a master key to open the lock of our ignorance, namely Ilm-e-Khshnoom. But those Parsi intellectual savants bubbling with ego, arrogance and ignorance are too unfortunate even to cast a glance to the open divinity presented to the Parsis by the higher Forces of our Prophet-Yashta Farohar-e-Zarathrushttra Spitmaan. May He gift to our egoistic personalia, a dose of Divinity.

