

ZOROASTRIAN RELIGION DOES NOT PREACH CONVERSION

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There is scriptural evidence from the Gathas and other Holy Scriptures establishing the truth that Zoroastrian Religion does not and cannot preach conversion. This can be very briefly set out as under :

- (i) In the Holy Scriptures throughout, Zarathushtra's emphasis is on the RESISTANCE AGAINST EVIL within and without man. 'Daenao' — different religions are different ways of life and the weapons to resist EVIL. (Gatha Ha 46-6; 31-6; 31-81; Jamyad Yashta 84).
- (ii) Ahura has a Divine Plan to send different Religions ('Daenao') for different groups of humanity. (Gatha Ha 31-11; 46-6; Yasna Ha 19).
- (iii) Every human has to resist evil by following the path prescribed by the Religion of his birth (Gatha Ha 46-6; 30-10; 33-13; 31-11).
- (iv) Every human can attain salvation if he arrives at the central point of the Religion of his birth (Gatha Ha 34-13).

The whole idea of conversion is contrary to and inconsistent with the aforesaid Truths.

When Ahura (God) Himself has ordained different religions, each human should follow the religion of his birth. Any conversion from one to another is against the Divine Plan and therefore, a sin. Not only the religious exercises and yogas of different religions are different but also their devotions (Daenao; Vasao; Shyothnao — in Ha 31-11). Each human has a certain wave-length of devotion towards his own Prophet and Religion; and that wave-length is embedded in his gene. This wave-length should not be disturbed either by conversion or by a marriage mix-up. That is why

Parsis are anxious to preserve their racial gene, which has the Religious germ of Zarathushtra embedded in it and which is the nucleus of all outstanding qualities and virtues.

The alleged evidence for conversion from religious writings, relied on by some Parsis, is highly twisted and tortured. When Zarathushtra calls upon his disciples to **fight evil**, these evidence-twisters read fighting to convert; When Zarathushtra commands to **convert evil into good**, they read conversion of a Mohammedan to a Parsi! For instance, **Dr. Dhalla, the champion of conversion**, says on Page 198 of his **Zoroastrian Theology**, "**The Dinkart sanctions even the use of force for the conversion of the aliens.**" Thank God, Parsis in India never dreamt of conversion, or use of force for conversion!

The conversion fanatics of the Community greatly rely on the late Dr. Dhalla and his book. "**Zoroastrian Theology.**" This book was written with the sole intention of encouraging conversion and genetic mix-ups. It contained twisted versions of religious scriptures and writings and advocated even force to convert. One brilliant Scholar Ervad Phiroze Masani has written a book "**Zoroastrianism, Ancient and Modern,**" which is a complete answer to Dr. Dhalla's advocacy of conversion and mix-up. Ervad Phiroze was encouraged to write this book by the same Justice Davar whose judgement is quoted as laying down conversion and mix-ups! This book is dedicated to Justice Davar. It refutes all the arguments of Dr. Dhalla in a scholarly style and with convincing evidence. The active association of Justice Davar with this book clearly indicates that he was alive to this truth that no

conversion or genetic mix-up is permitted in Zoroastrian Religion.

In addition to Justice Davar, the late Jehangir Vimadlal and most of the renowned Scholars of their time and our time were and are against conversion and mix-up. (Jehangir Vimadlal has written a 'Foreword' to Ervad Masani's said Book "Zoroastrianism Ancient and Modern").

There is another book refuting in a scholarly and convincing manner several arguments advanced in support of conversion. That is Dastoorji Dr. Hormazdiyar Mirza's Book "Conversion Caucus". It depicts the colossal ignorance and monstrous illogicity of the conversion fanatics.

Dr. Faramroz Chinivala's "Vatlavavana Saval Babeyno Vadvivad" sets out the Zoroastrian Doctrines on the Divine Plan of Religions, quoting chapter and verse from the Scriptures and also refutes the arguments of conversion champions including those advanced by some scholars in the first decade of this century.

Advocating conversion is fanaticism. A Christian trying to convert a Hindu will have to say, "My religion is better than yours" or "Christ is superior to Krishna". A Parsi cannot say that because he is taught by his Prophet that all religions emanate from Ahura's Divine Plan and for every man the religion of his birth is prescribed as a path to his salvation. If this Truth is appreciated in our country, there can never be a communal riot.

Zoroastrian Kings of Persia were the believers in this Truth. For instance, Cyrus the Great delivered the Jews from captivity in Babylon, allowed them to return to their country and helped them to rebuild the famous temple of King So'omon. For this magnanimity, Cyrus is remembered with reverence and praise in Old Testament (Isaiah: 24-28; 45-1; Ezra: 1, 1-2; 6. 3-4, 6, 14-15).

(Extracts from the Booklet: "Adoption of children Bill 1980" — "Parsi Zoroastrian Point of view". — Published by Bombay Zoroastrian Jashan Committee).