

INTER-MARRIAGES

BY MINOO IRANI

For our forefathers, religion was a way of life. They recognised that, considering our status as a microscopic community in this century, it was necessary to curb inter-communal marriages because if such inter-marriages were not prohibited, in a few generations, the community would cease to exist as a separate entity. This foresighted decision is borne out by what did actually happen and is even now happening in various parts of the world to other minority immigrant groups, who permitted such inter-marriages, such groups have CEASED TO EXIST!

It is for this reason that time and again our community has resolved at its different Anjuman Meetings that our community is opposed to inter-religion marriages and that the simplest formula of our forefathers for the preservation and perpetuation of the race and religion is in following the tenets of "**Bunяд Pasbani**" (conservation of the hereditary characteristics).

Ahura Mazda's best creation is Man, and as such Man has essentially his part to play towards ushering in the final goal of Frashogard.

It is the commandment and wish of Ahura that we walk only on the path of Asha and Asha alone. But, unfortunately the present day generations love for the opposite sex is more important than love for Ahura - his/her creator. Those who marry outside the community are just too-self-centered to bother about the effect of their marriage upon the community. These

self-centered people forget, that they should be in love with Ahuras Teachings, together with the Laws of Nature, and being in love with Ahura, they cannot but please Ahura in every way.

One of the important functions of humanity here, is to procreate, and our purpose in this life is to protect and perpetuate our religion, its traditions, its rituals, its tenets, its practices and its customs.

Vandidad (7-V) states that purity is the best thing for men. And the best way of preserving this purity is by keeping our genes pure.

Ahura Mazda has a definite plan behind his creations which is beyond our understanding at present.

A microbiologist insists upon having a pure culture for microbiological assays of enzymes, antibiotics and vitamins. To identify a causative agent of a certain disease it is very important to isolate that organism to study its characteristics and compare it with that particular pure culture.

Remember, if a zoo in a particular city has a rare animal, it will try to acquire the opposite sex of the SAM SPECIES, so that their number could increase. If cross breeding was the answer to increase the population, then to increase the population of white tigers, there would be no difficulty because there are hundreds of other tigers available for being mated with the white tiger. But knowledgeable men will never

do that because they know that the **ONLY WAY** to increase the population of white tigers is to in breed them in captivity or otherwise.

No one in their senses, would suggest mating a Champion Doberman with a Champion Alsatian though both are dogs, both are German and both are champions. And, if anyone forcefully cross breeds, the offspring is neither an Alsatian nor a Doberman. In fact, among champion horses there is tremendous amount of in-breeding and the offspring still has the same characteristics of the champion, and here also a race-horse would never be mated with an ordinary horse or a donkey, because if that is done the result would be a carriage horse or a mule.

We will never be able to understand fully His Supreme Power and His wish through book knowledge. It is impossible for us to understand beyond the physical. Here, it is best for us to accept our human limitations and have a supreme strong faith in our creator, Dadaar Ahura Mazda.

The baseless argument of the reformist that all men are equal and hence there should be no difference between one man from another shows only their ignorance in the biological concepts viz. the uniqueness of the individual and the influence of heredity and genes.

Today modern science acknowledges that while all humans are alike in terms of number of organs, bones and their general functions, yet not two persons are alike in all respects.

Every individual is unique in size, shape, emotional, mental and spiritual make-ups.

And this uniqueness of every individual is a result of the hereditary characteristics funneled into him from the **total genetic content spanning about nine generations** on the sides of each parent.

While detailed mapping of the genes is still in a very infant stage, it is known without a doubt that we are what we are because of those genes and that preservation of the hereditary characteristics is very vital.

Modern medicine and science are increasingly realising the extreme importance of heredity in determining the physical, mental and emotional traits in an individual and how these traits are transmitted from generation to generation and how mere nurture i.e. upbringing **CAN NOT** alter these to any appreciable extent.

This knowledge of genetics is relatively new to science, though the ancients particularly our ancestors knew a lot about heredity and maintenance of pure culture and therefore took care to ensure genetic purity, which now science has begun to applaud.

Mankind has been blessed with wisdom and the sagacity to understand this unique aspect of heredity and therefore avoid mixed marriages (we are foolish enough not to use these God given faculties) whereas, the silent co-workers of Ahura, namely other animals birds and insects, even without this knowledge are always in tune with nature and its Laws.

Nature abhors and is against mixed marriages between various sub-groups of even the same species and **DISCOURAGES** them in every way, thereby

taking elaborate precautions to preserve the uniqueness of the species. The other Kingdoms are not blessed with the ability to may be think and reason but are really blessed by the instinct of their own.

Therefore it is not too late even now, for the member of our community to stop this mad practice of intercommunal marriages, in the name of love, reformation, modernisation or sophistication. The present day youth need to be explained this Immutable Law of Nature, by all concerned starting from parents to school teachers, to others who can influence their minds and who they consider their Mantor and friends. This training requires to be imparted at the tender age, when the mind can be moulded, so that when they grow upto be teens, his doctrin would have been ingrained in their character. They would then hesitate to take the wrong step and falling a prey to the temptation that may come in their lives in the form of superior creative **comforts & wealth & false show of affection shown & exhibited by the youths** of the sister communities. It is only the right type of knowledge and strong character and self discipline that will help them to resist and stand up to these temptation. Therefore it is now or never, and hence an earnest appeal to all concerned to start making concentrated efforts to reverse this mad and unholy trend or else Mother Nature will never ever forgive us and the future generations will curse themselves for all the evil consequences which may befall them according to **DIVINE LAW OF KARMA.**

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MYSTICISM IN ZOROASTRIANISM

In Zoroastrianism, we have tons of mysticism like the sadra, kushti, prayers, yasnas, the boi-devani ceremony and dokhme-nashini which guide a person's vital breath (or atma or unseen life-current) in the Getiyan (physical world) as well as Minoan (Spiritual Realms).

We, being totally ignorant of Cosmic Laws, don't know what the vital-breath is, it's made of, how it leaves a dead body, where it travels in spiritual-realms, what is its final destination, what is its connection with the manner in which the dead body was disposed, what was the relationship between the vital breath and the physical body before re-incarnating, during life and the physical body before re-incarnating, during life and at death. When God put our vital-breath seed in a Zoroastrian womb, we should return that seed back to Nature thro' Daham Yazad via Dokhmenashini - this is my humble view.

- Ruby Lilaowala