

Mrs. Pervin Mistry then read out a letter by the Iranian Zoroastrian Anjuman addressed to the Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Iran which contained a Resolution, unanimously passed, mentioning that no conversion was permitted of persons following different faiths into the Zoroastrian religion. She thereafter read out the message of Dastur Khurshed Dastur Kaikobad Dastoor supporting the meeting.

K.N. Dastoor's Summing Up

Ervad Kaikhushroo Navroze Dastoor then read out the Gujarati message of Dasturji Meherji Dastur Meherjirana extending wholehearted support to the cause of the meeting.

He said that Nature had made arrangements for different religions and for the religions that would follow. Zarathushtra had used the word 'Daenao' in the Gathas. All religions had one basic truth which was man's spiritual journey on this earth towards God, for which different religions, faith, and prophets were given. Unfortunately, Antia used these as references in favour of conversion!

Parsees had respect for other religions and hence were held in high esteem by others, he said.

Conversions necessarily entailed denigrating the religion of the convert. **Conversion by force or persuasion necessarily involved blaspheming another Prophet. Did man have the capacity to decide which Prophet was better than the other?, he questioned.**

He stressed that Navjote was not a conversion ceremony. This farce had crept into the community in recent times. He commended Pervin Mistry for holding this meeting.

He averred that every community had a constitutional right to conduct its religious affairs in a certain manner and no court of law/judge had the right to intervene in that. He believed that the Resolution passed at this meeting would stand up in a court of law to prove that the Parsee community did not accept the principle of conversion.

Adi Doctor thanked Mrs Mistry for organising this meeting for which all the orthodox groups had united to make it a success.

Mrs. Pervin Mistry then offered a vote of thanks.

H M Mistry

THINK PARSEES, THINK!! WHY THIS DEATH WISH???

While most Parsees of today have a penchant for dashing off to Udvada at the drop of a hat to pay obeisance to Holy Iranshah, the spiritual monarch of the Zarathushtis, sadly 95% have no idea of who He actually is and what His role in nature is!

Holy Iranshah is a living, throbbing, vibrant entity having an aura and magnetic circuits (Kash). He receives the divine blessings of the Ameshaspands and the Yazatas and passes them on to His devotees. He also transmits the divine vibrations of the Manthravani recited by devotees to the spiritual realms. He radiates divine energy over long distances. He is a Ratheshtar (a warrior) of Dadaar Ahura Mazda in the fight against evil forces which attempt to overpower all creation. He is the Lord of our destiny. He has guided the destiny of this community for over 1300 years. His blessings have seen the community safely throughout its existence in India. If the Parsees have prospered, it is because of His

spiritual prowess. Hence, we owe a great debt of gratitude to this Holy Padshah Saheb.

A visit to Udvada, home of our Holy Iranshah, always evokes mixed feelings within me. While there is the profound inner satisfaction of being in His holy presence, there is also the sadness for the insensitivity exhibited by many of my fellow humdeens who happen to do all sorts of crazy things in His divine presence.

Scourge of mobile phones

In spite of large notices being put outside and facilities thoughtfully provided to deposit the same in safe custody boxes, devotees mindlessly carry their mobiles into the precincts of Iranshah and the Petit Daremeher which houses the Holy Dadgah Saheb. And invariably you hear a ringtone inside! The poor Boiwalla sahebs, who are striving to maintain the holiness and dignity of Iranshah, have to actually chastise people and chase out the errant devotee. Dear Humdins, we are supposed to be a

highly educated community. Yet we behave like stubborn school kids, defying discipline. Please pause for a moment and think WHY the entry of mobiles into the precincts of any Atash Behram/Agiary is not permissible, even in the off mode.

Mobiles are carried by us everywhere. Many a times, they are in trouser/shirt pockets when a person answers nature's call. They are carried around and used by women in their menses and also touched by our hands which are not necessarily clean. **Thus, any mobile carries with it a lot of physical and spiritual pollution. Besides, vibrations emanating from the cell phone hinder the subtle pure vibrations that pervade a holy place like an Atash Behram/Agiary and tend to vitiate them.**

When so much is at stake, is it wise to carry this pollution into a Holy place and vitiate the atmosphere? After all, we are going into a Holy place to temporarily dissociate ourselves from our daily affairs and communicate with the Almighty One. Surely it is not too much to ask to give Him undivided attention and leave behind daily duties for a while. How many of us would dare to answer our cell phones while talking to the Managing Director of our Company? If not, then why do we dare to do so in the presence of Ahura Mazda's son? Think Parsees, think!

A Padshah Saheb is a Rathestar, a holy warrior continuously striving to keep the forces of evil at bay and assisting the good forces to prevail. The Boi ceremony helps to strengthen him to perform this job. As laity, it is our DUTY to strengthen him in every way which we can. Now, if bringing a mobile into the precincts hampers this very function of the holy Padshah Saheb, is it prudent on our part to do so? Are we interested in strengthening the dark forces or the good forces of nature? Think Parsees, think!

Etiquette before Iranshah

Presenting ourselves before Holy Iranshah with cleanliness and dignity is OUR DUTY. Unfortunately, many people are doing just the contrary! It is a painful sight to see people sauntering in casually dressed. Many do not even cover their heads properly, leave alone their bodies. I have seen grown up men wearing caps which are meant to fit 5 year olds or knitted caps, women wearing caps with long hair loosely flowing all over their shoulders and backs. Many women do not even bother to wear proper scarves and just drape their dupattas over their heads as if they are doing Him a favour by actually covering their heads! Some of the ladies'

outfits also leave much to be desired. Everything from shorts to stretch pants and T-shirts is worn! Dear Humdins, ask yourselves. **Is this a dignified way of presenting oneself before a King? Would we do the same if we had the opportunity of calling upon Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth-II?**

Hair emits a spiritual pollutant called Druji-e-Hariri which tends to create spiritual disturbances around our person and in the surrounding atmosphere. So it is very very important to cover our heads properly. Also, hair left loose tends to fall. Dead hair is *nasu* (putrid matter) and there is no place for such *nasu* in a holy place. Clothes, preferably **white or light coloured**, must be washed and then worn. It would be most appropriate to keep a separate set of clothes to be worn only to Atash Behrams/Agiaries. Such clothes must be worn which cover the body dignifiedly and not garments which are flimsy and revealing. If we claim to revere Iranshah and seek his blessings, are we not bound to follow the code of conduct required to present ourselves before his Holy gaze. Umpteen books and articles are available on how to present oneself before a Padshah Saheb, but to no avail!

Many people who are making a one-day trip, simply do not even bother about taking a bath before bowing to him. They rush straight from the railway station to Iranshah, offer Sandalwood, bow before a few photoframes and rush back to their hotels to return home in the first available train after a quick lunch. This practice is more rampant on Behram Roj every month and on Salgreh Days and even more so when a free lunch is thrown in!

Boi Ceremony on 31st December

Every 31st December (New Year eve) in the Ushahin Geh, a respected Zarathushti offers a Machi to Iranshah of a very high monetary value. This fact is now widely known amongst community members, many of whom join in this act of devotion. **Unfortunately, this has now become a cultic ritual. People spend the evening of 31st December having fun on the beach and in their hotels. This is followed by a sumptuous dinner. Many hotels have games to keep their guests busy and awake to usher in the New Year with gaiety. After the ritual exchanging of good wishes at 12 a.m., all these people merrily flock into the holy precincts of Iranshah. Unfortunately, being in the middle of the night and reasonably cold, most of them never bother to bathe or wear fresh clothes. Only a perfunctory Kusti prayer is performed and**

everybody presents themselves before Iranshah for the offering of the Boi. The darkness also provides a good excuse for intermarried Parsees to slink in unnoticed. **Consequently, all the physical and spiritual pollution accumulated during the day is thoughtlessly carried in.** What are we achieving here? **On the one hand, we ask for His blessings but in turn we offer only pollution! Instead of any joy, poor Iranshah is under duress. Dear humdeens, please realize that each such attack on His spiritual person causes Him untold hardship and tends to weaken Him. This has disastrous effects on the community as a whole.**

I realize that most of this mess is not caused with malicious intent but by people who do not know better or are too lazy to be disciplined or are simply uncaring of the Padshah Saheb's spiritual stature. But that does not excuse any of us because,

intentionally or unintentionally, the damage **IS** caused to His holy person.

I know that some clever by half person will immediately retort by saying that if there is devotion in the heart, then everything is just fine and it is better to go to Iranshah rather than spending time in a liquor bar ... blah blah blah. But is it??? Think Parsees, think!

Dear humdeens, our Holy Iranshah has been in existence for over 1300 years thanks to the tremendous efforts and sacrifices of our forefathers. Let us not wipe out their hard work by sheer negligence and carelessness. Iranshah is a spiritual heritage we MUST pass on to future generations of Parsees. It would be a grave sin if we failed in this duty and Nature would never forgive us for the same.

H M Mistry

Mobile Phone Radiation Wrecks Your Sleep

Phone makers' own scientists discover that bedtime use can lead to headaches, confusion and depression

By Geoffrey Lean, Environment Editor

Radiation from mobile phones delays and reduces sleep, and causes headaches and confusion, according to a new study.

The research, sponsored by the mobile phone companies themselves, shows that using the handsets before bed causes people to take longer to reach the deeper stages of sleep and to spend less time in them, interfering with the body's ability to repair damage suffered during the day.

The findings are especially alarming for children and teenagers, most of whom – surveys suggest – use their phones late at night and who especially need sleep. Their failure to get enough can lead to mood and personality changes. ADHD – like symptoms, depression, lack of concentration and poor academic performance.

The study – carried out by scientists from the blue-chip Karolinska Institute and Uppsala University in Sweden and from Wayne State University in Michigan, USA – is thought to be the most comprehensive of its kind.

Published by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Progress in Electromagnetic Research Symposium and funded by the Mobile Manufacturers Forum, representing the main handset companies, it has caused serious concern among the top sleep experts, one of whom said that there was now "more than sufficient evidence" to show that the radiation "affects deep sleep".

The scientists studied 35 men and 36 women aged between 18 and 45. Some were exposed to radiation that exactly mimicked what is received when using mobile phones; others were placed in precisely the same conditions, but were given only "sham" exposure, receiving no radiation at all.

The people who had received the radiation took longer to enter the first of the deeper states of sleep, and spent less time in the deepest one. The scientists concluded: "The study indicates that during laboratory exposure to 884 MHz wireless signals components of sleep believed to be important for recovery from daily wear and tear are adversely affected."

The embarrassed Mobile Manufacturers Forum played down the results, insisting – at apparent variance with this published conclusion – that its “results were inconclusive” and that “the researchers did not claim that exposure caused sleep disturbance”.

But Professor Bengt Arnets, who led the study, says: “We did find an effect from mobile phones from exposure scenarios that were realistic. This suggests that they have measurable effects on the brain.”

He believes that the radiation may activate the brain’s stress system, “making people more alert and more focussed, and decreasing their ability to wind down and fall asleep”.

About half of the people studied believed themselves to be “electrosensitive”, reporting symptoms such as headaches and impaired cognitive function from mobile phone use. But they proved to be unable to tell if they had been exposed to the radiation in the test.

This strengthens the conclusion of the study, as it disposed off any suggestion that knowledge of exposure influenced sleeping patterns. Even more significantly, it throws into doubt the relevance of studies that industry relies on to maintain that the radiation has no measurable effects.

Critics have attacked the studies’ methodology, but the new findings deal them a serious blow. For they

show that the radiation did have an effect, even though people could not tell when they were exposed.

It also complements other recent research. A massive study, following 1,656 Belgian teenagers for a year, found most of them used their phones after going to bed. It concluded that those who did this once a week were more than three times – and those who used them more than five times – as likely to be “very tired”.

Dr. Chris Idzikowski, the director of the Edinburgh Sleep Centre, says: “There is now more than sufficient evidence, from a large number of reputable investigators who are finding that mobile phone exposure an hour before sleep adversely affects deep sleep”.

Dr. William Kohler of the Florida Sleep Institute added: “Anything that disrupts the integrity of your sleep will potentially have adverse consequences in functioning during the day, such as grouchiness, difficulty concentrating, and in children hyper activity and behaviours problems.”

David Schick, the chief executive of Extradia, which manufactures protective devices against the radiation, called on ministers to conduct “a formal public inquiry” into the effects of mobile phones.

Courtesy: Independent News and Media Limited



Only The Almighty Can Save Holy Iranshah Now!

Sir, More than a year ago, you had very aptly pointed out the “atrocities” perpetrated on Holy Iranshah, by all those who are supposed to preserve and protect him. At that time, I felt your account was exaggerated. But, on a recent visit to Udvada, I was simply appalled to see what I did.

The main building housing Iranshah is supposed to be under repairs. The outer gate has been demolished. Locals say that parts of it were so strong, that a bulldozer had to ultimately break it. I cannot vouch for that. The compound wall is being raised, but the gate is being widened. What for, I know not.

However, it is only when one goes inside the building that one gets a rude shock! What’s happened to the walls and the flooring? They are all broken down!

Outside, masons are seen cutting huge marble slabs! One can put two and two together.

The building housing Holy Iranshah belongs to the Wadia Trust, where one of the main trustees is Mr. Burjor Antia. He also happens to be a trustee on the notorious FDU board! The administration and management of Holy Iranshah vests in the Udvada Anjuman, whose Dastur Khurshed K. Dastoor is the Chairman of the FDU!

I was told by acquaintances in Mumbai that Dastur Khurshed constantly rang up Parsees he knew and asked them to go inside the original sanctum sanctorum, as the Padshah had been shifted to the Petit Daremeher building! It is learned that some non-Parsees, who happened

to be spouses of Parsee men and women, also visited the sacred area, with the permission of the said Dastur!!

One just fails to understand the radical structural changes being carried out by non-Zoroastrian masons and helpers – both men and women, inside the main building, unless ofcourse, it is being done at the behest of the big bosses of FDU!

Where will we all be, without an effective **Pav Mahal** and without the original power of Holy Iranshah?

Fali S. Behramji

[For the last four years, we have said more than enough on this subject. If walls and floorings are destroyed, all vibratory colours and images (**Staota**) of the hundreds of thousands of **Atash Nyaishes** recited in the last century are destroyed, too.

We are only reminded of the stanza in the **Ushtavad Gatha (Yasna Ha 46)**, which talks of **Gao Froretoish** = "Gao (White Side of Nature) moving about" the Holy Fire. Anyone who stops or prevents this White Side circumambulating the **Atash Padshahs** are the murderers of Life itself and will be dealt with accordingly. – Editor]

નપસારીના વડા દસ્તુરજી મહેરજીરાણાનો આંટિયા અને એ.આર.ઝેડ. વિરુદ્ધનો સંદેશો તા. ૧૫મી ફેબ્રુઆરી, ૨૦૦૮ ને દીને મુંબઈમાં મળેલી દસ્તુર સાહેબો, અથોરનાનો અને પારસી કોમની જાહેર સભામાં નપસારીનાં વડા દસ્તુરજી મહેરજી દ. કેકોબાદ મહેરજીરાણા નાં પ્રેરક સંદેશમાંથી કેટલાંક અગત્યનાં ટાંચનો)

“સભામાં અમેરીકાનાં કહેવાતા દસ્તુર મી. કેરસી આંત્યાનાં અધાર્મિક પ્રચારનો જોરદાર વિરોધ નોંધાવાનો છે, તેને મારો સંપૂર્ણ ટેકો જાહેર કરું છું”.

“જરથોશતી ધર્મમાં વટલાવવાનું ફરમાન આપેલું છે એની તરફેણમાં એમને જે દલીલો અને સાહદતો રજુ કીધી છે તે બધીજ ઘણી જુની અને ચવાઈને ફૂંચો થઈ ગયેલી દલીલો છે. એ બધી સાહદતોના જડબાંતોડ જવાબો આગલા અને હાલના સ્કોલરો અને માનવંત દસ્તુરોએ આપેલા છે, તેવી જુની દલીલો પાછીને પાછી રજુ કરવામાં નથી ડહાપણ કે નથી સ્કોલરશીપ”.

આંત્યાની “આવી વાહીયાત દલીલોનાં બદલામાંજ એવણને કહેવાતું દસ્તુરપદ મળ્યું હોય... જરથોશતી ધર્મનાં રીતસરનાં અભ્યાસની એમની પાસે કોઈ ડીગ્રી નથી યા એમને કોઈ નવી

શોધખોળ કે રીસર્ચ કીધી નથી...એઓ તો ત્યાંના કલિનિકલ સાયકોલોજીસ્ટ છે!”.

“જરથોશતી ધર્મશાસ્ત્ર માં પારકાંઓને વટલાવવા માટે એક પણ શબ્દ નથી! ઉપરાંત વટલાવવું એ ક્રિયાપદ માટે અવસ્તામાં કોઈ શબ્દ મળતો નથી”. “બીજા ધર્મમાંથી જરથોશતી ધર્મમાં વટલાવવા માટે એવી કોઈવીધી કે રૂઢી નથી કે જે ઉપયોગમાં લઈ શકાય, અને આપણને એવી કોઈ સત્તા પણ અપાઈ નથી”.

“જે મુલ્કના એઓ (આંત્યા) વડા દસ્તુર પોતાને ગણાવે છે, ત્યાં નથી આતશબહેરામ કે આદરાન, નથી દખ્ખુ કે પાવમહેલ અને આલાતો, તો તેઓ ક્યા ધર્મનાં દસ્તુર છે?”.

— મહેરજી દસ્તુર કેકોબાદ મહેરજીરાણા

“જીવતી જાગતી સુરત પારસી જનરલ હોસ્પિટલોને કેમ તોડી પાડવી તેની કુનેહ હમારામાં છે” (S.P.P.)

સને ૧૯૨૦ માં સ્થપાયલી આ બેનમુન સુરત પારસી જનરલ હોસ્પિટલોની કડ્ડાજનક હાલત જોતાં આ નિષ્ઠાવાન પારસી સમાજના ઉત્સુક લાગણી ધરાવતા સંચાલકોની ભલી ચાદ આવે છે. ક્યાં પારસી સમાજને મુશ્કેલીઓમાં મદદગાર થનારા તે દૂરઅદેશ ટ્રસ્ટીઓ, અને ક્યાં આજના આ ઢોંગી વચેટીઓ!

સુરતનો પારસીસમાજ આ દંગલને જાણે છે, સમજે છે. પણ એક હત્તુ સત્તાને કોણ પડકારે? ધીમે ધીમે ચાલાકી પૂર્વક આ હોસ્પિટલોને ખેદાન-મેદાન કરી નાંખી પોતાનો ગંદો હેતુ સીધ્ધ કરવા પારસીઓ માટે આ હોસ્પિટલો ચલાવા દેતા નથી. તેના જવાબદાર આ વખતો વખતના ટ્રસ્ટીઓજ છે. ઘણીજ શરમજનક બીના છે કે ડૉ. હોમી દુધવાલા પંદર વર્ષથી (S.P.P.) માં ટ્રસ્ટી તરીકે છે. એમને પારસી હોસ્પિટલો સાચવી નથી પણ ફૂલાડી છે. સુરત મ્યુનિસિપલ કોરપોરેશન ની મસ્કટી હોસ્પિટલ અને સ્મીમેર હોસ્પિટલમાં જે કૌભાંડ કર્યા છે તે જગ જાહેર છે. આપણી હોસ્પિટલોને મેનેજમેન્ટની બેદરકારીએ ઘણું બધું ઈશદા પૂર્વક બગાડ્યું છે. લાઈટ નહીં, પંખા નહીં, ટોયલેટના દરવાજાને સ્ટોપર નહીં, બલ્બ નહીં, બધાજ ફસ્ટ ક્લાસમાં પાણી ગલે, ગોદડાં ભીના, સર્જિકલ બેડની હાલત ખરાબ, હોસ્પિટલોની પાણીની ટાંકીનું પાણી બાંધકામ કરનારા મજૂરો વાપરી નાખે, ટોયલેટમાં ગંદકી કરે, અને પેશન્ટોને હાડમારી, ઓક્સીજનના બાટલાની ગેરહાજરી!! આવી બધી કુટીલક્ષતીઓથી હોસ્પિટલો બદનામ થાય, તેનાજ કારણે કોઈ સારા ડૉ. આવવા ઈચ્છતા નથી.

ડૉ. દુધવાલાનો ઝેરીલો પ્રહાર કરામત કરી ગયો. તા.૨૬.૯.૨૦૦૭ ના દીને મેનેજમેન્ટની બેદરકારીના પડધા ડૉ. દુધવાલાના કાન ઉપર ગયા. ઉલટાનું એઓએ રાત્રેજ ફોન ઉપર ડૉ. સ્નેહલ ગાંધી (R.M.O.) ને ખખડાવ્યા. ડૉ. શાહની

નીવૃત્તિ પછી પાંચ મહીના હોસ્પિટલો ડોક્ટર વગર રહી! સુરતના લોકોએ તમાશો જોયો. દારા મીસ્ત્રી એક જુવાન સારા ડોક્ટરને લઈ આવ્યા. તો તેમને દસજ મહીનામાં કડવો અનુભવ થયો. ઈશદાપુર્વક આવા સારા ડૉ. સાચવવાની ઈચ્છા નથી. આ છે (S.P.P.)ના સંચાલન નો ઉજળો કારભાર!

ફક્ત સુરતનાજ નહીં પરંતુ આખી પારસી કોમનાં હકમાંથી આ ઈન્સ્ટીટ્યુશન છીનવી લેવાનું આ એક ગંભીર કાવત્રું છે. આવા ટ્રસ્ટીઓ તેમની ખુરશી ને લાયક નથી. વડીલોએ સ્થાપીત કરેલી સંસ્થાનાં ભોગે પબ્લીસીટી મેલવવા જલસા કરવા છે. (S.P.P.) ના ટ્રસ્ટીઓ માટે છટક બારીના બે રસ્તા છે. એક વસ્તીનું બહાનું અને બીજું ખોટમાં જતી હોસ્પિટલો. ધર્માદા સંસ્થા હમેશા ખોટમાંજ કામ કરે, અને ખોટમાં લઈ જનારા આંકડા ગોઠવનારા પણ તમોજ છો. મુંબઈની પારસી જનરલ હોસ્પિટલ કેમ ચાલે છે? તમોએ આ સંસ્થા માટે ડોનેશન જમા કરવાની કશીજ શુદ્ધ કોશિષ કરી નથી. તમારાજ નાટ્યકાર ટ્રસ્ટી ચઢદી કરંજ્યા નાટકો કરી નામ ખાટવા બીજી સંસ્થાઓને પૈસા ભેગા કરી આપે છે. એમને પોતાનીજ પારસી જનરલ હોસ્પિટલો દેખાતી નથી. સંચાલન કરનારા તો હોસ્પિટલોને કેમ મરેલી રાખવી તેજ જાણે છે. સુરતની ચાર હજાર પારસી વસ્તીએ ૬૦થી ૧૦૦ બેડની હોસ્પિટલો ન ચાલે એ હકીકત શક્ય નથી. નરીમાન હોમના લાચાર પેશન્ટો, બોચઝ એન્ડ ગર્લઝ ઓરફનેજના માસુમ બાળકો, (S.P.P.) ના નવા બંધાતા જતા આવાસના હમદીનો નો ખ્યાલ કરો. ખુદાનો ડર રાખી કાંઈ સુધરો તો સારૂ છે.

કેરસાસ્પ મર્ઝબાન નાલ્લાદાઝ
અને દારા મીસ્ત્રી