

# WHO ARE WE, THE PARSIS?

## ONLY THE DIN AND ITS AGE-LONG TENETS AND TRADITIONS CAN MAKE US SURVIVE.

### "PARSI AVAZ" DECLARES ITS POLICY IN ITS FIRST ISSUE

BY : JEHANGIR CHINIWALLA

[On **6th July 1947**, the 20th "Sirojaa" day of Ustad Saheb Baheramshah Shroff. Jehangir Chiniwalla presented to the Parsis, a brilliantly shining diamond: **the Parsi Avaz Weekly**. In the first issue, Jehangir declared its policy and programme in the following words. They contain the gems of the worldly as well as the spiritual wisdom. After reading them, you are going to exclaim, "How True? How beautiful? And how alerting?" - **KND**]

"As every human being has its own destiny, so also the nations and countries which form particular groups of men, have their own collective destiny; and therefore whatever is destined to happen, happens at the destined time. So, it is Time that has Force and Power and not the man. (Samay Balvan Chae, Purush Balvan Nathi.) In the same way our small community has its own destiny, and its own Future (Sarjat); and the Faithful (Dindar) of the Community do believe in this, with great faith, since centuries. This belief is not only current in the Parsis of India, but also, the Zarthoshtis of Iran, and even the converted Iranis have cherished some such sentiments since centuries. Such good and pleasant future will arrive only at its destined time; but that great ordained task is not to be executed by our handful community. There are one to numerous secret protecting Anjumans on Iran "Sar-Zamin", about which we have not the slightest idea; but by the time that remote event takes place, it is the holy duty of the faithful men and women of the Community to preserve and protect the present form and the Institutions of the Zarthoshti Dharma, which have the divine blessings from such secret and spiritual sources.

For twelve centuries our forefathers have discharged that duty successfully and it is now our turn to carry it out. **Our community is passing through more fragile circumstances at present than the previous times, and more delicate time will come. During such periods, whoever gives his or her contribution to the arduous task of the protection of the Community and its Dharma, will earn great Savab ane Punya - spiritual award.**

For centuries, the Parsi Community has, in most difficult and impossible circumstances, protected its ancient Dharma and its Mazdayasni gene and nobility (Khandani). If the Parsi Community has generated its own name and fame, the solid reasons for this are our unflinching faith on our traditional religious beliefs, the preservation of our racial blood and gene, our true Zarthoshti religious life and our lofty character founded on it. Thanks to the Zarthoshti Din and the unique Parsi racial qualities, that the Community has been able to survive in the vast human ocean of 33 Crores of people and even shine out. Whatever spiritual Institutions of the Zarthoshti Din we have current to-day, they have come down to us from the times of the Zarthoshti Irani Empires. The Civilisation and Culture of Zarthoshti Irani nations were founded on the dictates and tenets of the Zarthoshti Din, and to pervert the present day spiritual Institutions of the Zarthoshti Din is equivalent to the preserving of that great Zarthoshti Civilisation and Culture.

As the English rule arrived in India and the Parsi Community started taking advantage of the English education, then, because of the glitters of the modern European civilisation polluted with the Western materialism and the wrong materialistic beliefs, a section of our Community has developed doubts and distrust towards our ancient religious beliefs; and scholars and Dastooris of the same materialistic psyche have put forth many a idiosyncrasies (Fatvaao) and poured oil on fire. But the faith of the previous Parsi men and women was very strong, and therefore those fault-finders of religion could not have their way. **BUT THE TIMES ARE APPEARING TO CHANGE.**

In the present times, newspapers are the need for the human societies. They have a great effect. For about a century, the old daily newspaper Jame Jamshed had greatly favoured the orthodox beliefs on religious questions and thereby preserve the religious Faith of the Community. Many other daily, weekly, monthly, trimonthly newspapers with the so called reformist policy were born, but they could not do much damage, and the only reason was this old daily newspaper Jame Jamshed, which resisted the so called reformists. **But that policy of Jame Jamshed no more survives and it has now become the organ of the so called scholars and Dastooris who are revolting against the age-long tenets and traditions of Religion and community and it appears to have adopted a policy of destroying orthodoxy.**

There is a Persian Proverb : Mushak aansat ke khud bae guyad, Nahean kae atrar me guyad - The real musk is that which speaks for itself and not that which a perfumery expert says.

That way, Parsi Avaz will reveal itself by the fragrance of its good work. This weekly is floated with the sold aim of giving the right religious and social lead to the Community. It comes into existence with the support of the large congregation of the good noble men and women of the orthodox views and we have complete trust that it will fill in the vacuum created in the cultural and faithful Anjuman who craves to live an ideal religious life.....

We pray to Daadaar Ahuramazda with a sincere heart that may He bestow on us the ultimate victory in the arduous adventure we have taken up in the service of our Din and Comm, and may we be fortunate to receive the divine blessings of the great "Gof-e-nashin" Abed sahebs, who are protecting the Zarthoshti Din secretly. Amen!!!"

[**These were the words of Jehangir**, as he entered the arena of service to the Community, which was showing the signs of spiritual as well as physical decay, due to the Satanic onslaught of faithlessness. Please mark his words about the then policies of Jame Jamshed, and compare them with Jame's present stance. Jehangir's Prayer in the very first Issue of Parsi Avaz was gracefully granted. As Lord Buddha says:

**"The scent of the flowers or sandalwood cannot travel against the wind; but the fragrance of the good spreads everywhere. Neither sandalwood nor the tangra flower, neither lotus nor jasmine, can come near the fragrance of the good."**

(Dhammapad 4 - 54, 55)

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## EXTINCTION? NO!! BUT WHAT TO DO?

It was the spirituality of the Zarthoshti Din, its Yasna, its Tarikat, that has kept up an infinitesimally small community of a lac of humans as a separate entity, without being absorbed in the millions of people of India. When these landmarks of the Mazdayasni Din are over-ridden then certainly the existence of the Parsis as a separate Zarathoshti clan and entity will be dissolved to be merged in the ocean of millions of people. **But that is not going to happen.....**

- Framroze Chiniwalla in *Sequel to Essentials of Zoroastrianism* p. 36-37.

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