

GOD, OUR BEST FRIEND! HIS BEAUTY AND OUR DUTY.

by Silloo Mehta

[Note:

Here comes Silloo!

Who is she?

A Parsi lady residing in California (U.S.A.)

What is she doing there?

Ask: What is she NOT doing there?

She does that which you and I are not doing.

Any problem, where Din can be of help? Refer to Silloo!

Any doubt in any matter connected with Din? Ask Silloo!

Want to know about Zarthoshti Din in general or about any point in particular? Try Silloo! Read her **"Mazdayasni Connection", a periodical published since 18 years, free of any subscription charge or even postage!** She and her husband Phiroz can send you powerful materials from which you can find your answer.

And no ill-feeling for anybody; no bitterness towards anybody, even if he or she harms. Love for every one. "It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness", is the logo of Mazdayasni Connection.

And mind! That is not just a periodical. It is also a non-profit organisation, which organises lectures, dramas, seminars, camps, retreats, and now-a-days, Iran tours too! That organisation does exist, yet the equation is: Mazdayasni Connection is equal to Silloo.

All the drive in her comes from Ilm-e-Khshnoom. But her ways of propagating Khshnoom are full of love and not at all of hatred. She tries to convince not with heat. She lights the candle; and is, therefore, grossly misunderstood in some quarters. Her method works and succeeds. Khshnoom is a matter of service with sincerity and not of egoistic bombasts.

Here is an article written by Silloo and published in Summer 1998 - Issue of her Mazdayasni Connection - a piece of divine beauty.

Read it, practise it.

God's Beauty is everywhere. Develop your eyes to see it and heart to receive it. That is Silloo's message.

Welcome, Silloo, in this humble Parsi Pukar. - **KND]**

Love is the cementing force in any kind of relationship. We have all experienced the warmth of a mother's love, had affectionate bonds with family members, come across 'made for each other' couples, heard wonderful stories of true friends, read about the Guru-disciple rapport and have known other kinds of strong relationships, in which the bond has enriched the lives of both partners and enhanced their happiness. The partners stake their all on such relationships and try to build their happiness on ideal expectations.

And yet we come to learn that some of the hottest friends have cooled off and that real solid marriages have cracked. People madly in love with each other, even those married to each other for forty to fifty years, get separated, mothers refuse to see their sons' face for years and vice versa, children desert their parents, the best of friends deceive each other, disciples become disloyal and rebel against their Gurus and so on it happens.

Is there then, such a thing as a perfect relationship? One which never fails? Yes, there is. Our relationship with God! Make Him your Parent, Lover, Friend, Guide, Teacher, Partner, your Everything!

When burdened with grief or sad memories, you experience helplessness in your numerous limitations; when a personal challenge has caused you feelings of desperation; when the endless struggle of life leaves you tired.....**run to Him, as a child does to his mother, and weep in his lap. He will not only walk with you, but carry you! He is always there, watching and taking care of you.** Wherever you are, dear friend, God is! His Presence is more real than the outstretched hands of your worldly father. Embrace Him, choose to live a God-centered life and establish a rich and rewarding relationship with God; stake your all, because He never fails. **As your faith deepens and you grow spiritually mature, you will realize more and more, that He is always with you.**

"To the ignorant, God seems to be nowhere. To the wise, He is 'Now here!' And He is everywhere - present in every atom in the Universe, within us and outside us as well. He is **OMNIPRESENT**.

A teacher once gave each of his students a banana and asked them to eat the fruit in a place where no one could see them. Everyone, except one child, found a secret place. The child returned with the banana still in his hand saying, "I could not find a place where God was not watching me".

He is **OMNIPOTENT** - all powerful. "Even a blade of grass does not move without His Power." **He is the Power behind the white milk which comes out of a brown cow who eats green grass!** He is the Spirit behind the veins of a leaf, the blossoming of a flower, the flight of birds, the gaze of a shepherd, the colors of a rainbow, the sunset and the sunrise. **Can you not hear him in the lashing of the waves, in the echo of the wind sweeping through the majestic mountains, in the words of prayers sincerely uttered, in the melting notes of a harp?** Can you not smell Him in the fragrance of a rose or the pinewoods, in the fresh aroma, burning of incense on Fire? Can you not feel His presence in the changes of Seasons, in true love of humans, in the warmth of a fire, in the hands that heal, at the break of Dawn?

He is **OMNISCIENT** - all knowing. He knows what is good for us and what to give us. Trustingly we say Thy will be done. Once there was a wise minister who always maintained that "whatever happened, happened for the best, even when his king accidentally cut his finger. The king was infuriated and imprisoned him. A few days later, the king went hunting and got lost in the forest. A group of tribal people looking for a victim to be sacrificed in their ritual, took him away but released him because of his cut finger. For the sacrifice, they needed somebody without bodily defects. The King was grateful that his life was saved on account of his cut finger and at once realized the truth of his minister's words. He released the minister and asked "I know that my cut finger saved my life, but tell me, O wise one, what was the good result of your imprisonment?" "Ah", said the minister, "it saved my life too! If I were not in the prison, I would have been with you and they would have taken me as the victim of sacrifice, when they discovered your cut finger!"

So, Ahura Mazda is the Ultimate, the Supreme. The good news is that we all have a spark of God in us. Some call it 'God-head'. We call it Farohar or Fravashi. He is in you, me, everyone. Once we establish and carve this in our mind, we may begin to see the 'good' in all and sympathize with their faults. **"Faults become thick when love is thin"; so love others and "Hate the deed, not the doer" as Gandhiji said.** As we walk the path of Devotion, we recognize the good in every body and view things through 'God-awareness' - spectacles. Only then we learn to appreciate His Nature and Power everywhere.

It takes two to tango. In any relationship, both parties must make commitments. 'God has promised to be your eternal companion, to be a strength to meet the tasks of your day, a Light to shine before you on the pathway of life, an Anchor to hold you steady on the changing seas you cross. He walks with you.'

What is our role and duty then? How shall we place Him? By treading the Spiritual Path. How? Steeped in material pleasures, can we ever attain it? "Can a lotus ever grow on rocks? Or hair on tortoise shells?"

For the aspirant on the spiritual path, three doors open up before him for him to march forth - Wisdom, Worship, Work. We may as well compare them with Knowledge, Devotion and Deeds. These time-tested disciplines will work for us if we work for them.

Drawing knowledge from our Scriptures and teachings of Asho Zarathushtra, we should incorporate them in our consciousness and form ideas and good thoughts in our minds. Thus, we acquire not only the right knowledge but also wisdom.

Hot, warm or lukewarm, we all have some Faith and Devotion in our hearts. Let the flickering flame burst into blazes. Light a deevo regularly, feed the fire with sukhad loban, visit Fire Temples, sing Monajats, recite Avesta, read and learn the Scriptures. Invest in practical ways to deepen your devotion and then harvest the health of a sound, spiritual mind. Mere study of books will lead you nowhere.

Service to God in man or through the prescribed disciplines in your religion....such actions are all good deeds. Serving people above personal desires, above wanting something for self in pleasure, profit, power or prestige, is true service. Observing a 'tarikati', say performing a simple Kushti is also so - because the effect you create thereby benefits all humanity and helps Nature in her functions.

These three doors correspond to our "Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds" - Hu Manashni, Hu Gavashni, Hu Kunashni the 'Hu' meaning good. Humata, Hukhata, Huvarashta are the Thoughts, Words and Deeds of Ahoo-raa and His Divine Cabinet. We can only aspire and aim to attain these by following the dictates of religion and establishing the Best Relationship with our Creator; by being actively conscious of Him in each thought, word and deed, throughout each day.

* * * * *

(Parsi Pukar February-March 2000 - Vol. 5; No. 8-9)