

"IRAN HAS THE SEEDS OF UNITY IN DIVERSITY AMONG DIFFERENT RELIGIONS."

Says Bruce Feiler, an author-Journalist in the PARADE Weekly of U.S.A. (11-9-2005).

Why is the Great Parsi Achaemenian King Cyrus Mentioned in the Hebrew Bible 25 times?

Your humble servant was in USA from 10-8 to 5-10-2005. For five weeks, I intensely studied Nikiz II of my Master Dr. Framroz Chiniwalla, in the beautiful home of my daughter at Cincinnati. This was the preparation for the Khshnoom Camp 2005 held from 19-9 to 25-9-2005 near San-Diego at my friends, Perin and Mehli Bhagalia's charming home. The subject at the Camp was Seven Ameshaspends, and their Humata, Hukhta, Havareshta. As usual, the camp (or the retreat) was organised by Silloo Mehta of Mazdayasni Connection actively assisted by Malcolm Bhesania. The talks and discussions spread over about 5 hours a day for 7 days, are audio recorded in 21 tapes. The Khshnoomic treatment was slightly on an advanced level.

On 2-10-2005, a lecture on "Meherengaan" was arranged at Cypress, Silloo's neighbourhood near Los Angeles. At the function, a quiz programme was arranged where children took part. All questions were on Zarthoshti Din and Khshnoom oriented, and it was amazing to see them answering swiftly and intelligently. These children are being trained by Silloo and Malcolm Bhesania. My heart filled with Ushtaa at their performance. At the same time I felt sad for two things. First was: Alas! Nobody in India trains children in this way, where simple and yet elaborate explanations are presented on every spiritual Institution of our Din to the absorbing minds of children who are on their way to the storming youth. And the second streak of sadness was: Ah! Would these highly intelligent Parsi children of USA be able to nourish the seeds of faith implanted in them and withstand the onslaught of the ego-centred and sex-entangled atmosphere of their country? May Maher and Sarosh, the Yazat's of Thought and Consciousness, help them to have the strength and may their parents encourage them to cultivate it.

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At the function of 2-10-2005, Mr. Tehmton Aresh, the well known Philanthropist and staunch orthodox Irani Zarthoshti of California and his gracious wife, Goordafriid, were present. They distributed amongst the audience copies of an Article by Bruce Feiler in the American weekly PARADE of September 11, 2005 bearing the title, "**What We Must Learn From Iran.**" It is a piece of excellent writing, very relevant to the present times when humanoids are killing each other in the name of Religions. The amazing theme of the Article is that **it is Iran which has the seeds of unity in diversity amongst different Religions!** Iran, of all the places?

When Feiler and his wife Linda entered Iran, their stomach had a "scarry tightening." Here was country who had some time back hoary signs like "America, the Great Satan"; and "Death to Israel"

But when they left Iran, the scar was alchemised to hope.

The golden touch stone was their visit to Pasargadae north of Shiraz. It was a garden paradise built by the Achaemenid (Hakhamani) King Cyrus the Great (559-529 B.C.).

How is it that this great King Cyrus is mentioned in the Hebrew Bible 25 times? He is called a "Mashiah," the anointed one "whose right hand I have grasped," says the Lord in Isaiah 45-1. Cyrus conquered Babylone in 539 B.C. and delivered the Jews from their captivity. He allowed them to return to their country and helped them to rebuild the famous temple of King Solomon, which was destroyed by Nabuchedrezzer. Feiler is immensely surprised to find that Cyrus respected the religions of other people and bowed down to his subject's Gods. Feiler quotes from Cyrus's Proclamation (named by historians as "the first declaration of

human rights")

"I respect the traditions, customs and religions of the nations of my empire, and never let any of my governors and subordinates to look down on or insult them".

Feiler writes that he caught the message when he visited Persipolis, built by Darius I, a successor of Cyrus. He was heavily impressed by the centerpiece staircase, which looked "like the opening ceremony of the Olympics". Shahrokh Razmjou, the curator of the place told him,

"In this staircase, you can see that the main idea for the Persians was unification. While other ancient sculptures were violent here everyone is smiling. They are walking holding hands. The Persians emphasized personal happiness. In these inscriptions their God created heaven, He created the earth, He created man and He created happiness for man."

What a statement Shahrokh! My Khshnoom friends will surely appreciate it. Unification is the other name for Ham-Mithra. We Parsis, whether a King or a poor man, will love to smile and hold hands. Our God is not different. It is Ahuramazda the Creator, "Daaterey Gaethanaam Astavitinaam Ashaaoom", and our Paigamber proclaimed that the real happiness is Ushtaa, the divine bliss, the ecstasy of love, Ishque-Hakiki, Aaakhshti, Hamvainti; that Ushtaa is such a wealth which enhances by giving. "Ushtaa Ahmaai Yehmaai Ushta Kahammaichit" and it is that wealth that leads us to the blessings of Vohumano, the wise intellect, which loves to give away, to be loving, selfless and ego-less, to have its eyes up towards Him and down to the earth in abject humility - Aarmati. ("Tat moi Daaoo Armaitey, Rayo Ashish Vangha-ehoosh Gaem Manangh-ho")

That is Gatha 43-1, the key-note paragraph of Ushtavad Gatha.

And when the curator Shahrokh says the "Persians", he means any Parsi whether a king or a common-human. Achameaneans were no doubt Parsi Zarthoshti Kings. Many of their Inscriptions refer specifically to Ahura Mazda. They declared themselves to be the servants of Ahura Mazda. They respected and encouraged all Religions and their followers even though they might be enemies. They knew the secrets of Jiram, Daenaao and Pancha-Tekeysh.

Shahrokh said to Bruce Feiler that **the Persians believed they could draw strength from the diversity**, and at that moment a chord was struck in Feiler; **"I grasped the most poignant lesson from Iran: I realised that in embracing Cyrus, the Bible was also embracing pluralism and diversity"**. For us this is obvious because all Religions come under Ahura's Plan, as Gatha 31-11 proclaims and Khshnoom has revealed to us that Ahso Zarathushtra as the first historical Prophet in the present time cycle was assigned the divine task of preparing for other Religions. Why did the three Magis come to see the newly born Jesus? Why was there a Salmaan-e-Farsi with the holy Prophet Mahammud? What was the Atash, in which Prophet Moses saw God? Why has the Rig Veda more than two hundred shlokas devoted to the Holy Agni, revealing the same truths as in Atash Niyash?

And look to the descendants of those Persians, the paid-advertisements-wala's, who ridicule other Religions in their imbecile newspapers. Does a community who does this deserves to be survived? Nothing less than the Saviours' scepter will thrust sense in them. Before that day arrives, let them chant Patet Pasheymani every day.

Our gratitude to Mr. Tehmtan Aaresh for drawing attention to Feiler's article in Parade.

Bruce Feiler is the author of "Walking the Bible" and "Abraham". His new book is **"Where God was Born: A Journey by Land to the Roots of Religion"**. "It describes his 10000 mile journey through Israel, Iraq and Iran, retracing the Bible while examining the question: Is religion tearing us apart..... or can it bring us back together". So says the Note appended to the article. The book is the outcome of his decade long journeys to the Middle East Countries.

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