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PARSI JUNCTION

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Committed to Transparency and Accountability

WE MUST FIGHT THIS DEMON TOGETHER



Dear Community members,

Lately there have been messages floating around regarding the trouble community members have

faced during this time due to unavailability of vaccines.

Last year, when Lockdown 1.0 was announced people panicked because they did not know what to expect. This time around, the COVID wave had a huge impact in Mumbai crippling our city. The first wave taught us all what to expect and how to handle it which has made us better prepared for the second wave. But regardless of how prepared you could have been, no one could have prepared us for what we went through.

The BPP has done a lot since the start of the second wave.

1. The first thing the BPP did, **in conjunction with the Iranian Zoroastrian Anjuman, was step forward to pay for the vaccine for the entire community.**
2. Once vaccines were made available to the public in March 2021, the BPP and Iranian Zoroastrian Anjuman once again stepped up and **set up a vaccination drive** to ensure every

eligible member of our community was vaccinated on priority.

We had cars and buses lined up to take the beneficiaries to vaccination centres but the community response was to wait and watch at that time and very few members would come for vaccination. By April 2021, the Covid infection had increased ten times and there was a immense rush to get vaccinated, but unfortunately vaccines by then were out of stock.

Even today the BPP's AND IRANI ANJUMAN'S COMMITMENT TO PAY FOR THE VACCINE FOR OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS STANDS.

3. The **BPP set up a hotline** to help its community members in any and every way possible during this pandemic. We provided financial assistance, medical aid and tiffin service to those in need, who requested our help on the Hotline.
4. We **have written to Mr. Adar Poonawalla and Dr. Cyrus Poonawalla for purchasing** vaccines for the community. Since the supply of vaccines is controlled by the Central Government of India, they have been expressed regret and we have been requested to contact Parsi General Hospital for the same.
5. We have also written to the BMC for **permission to have vaccination drives/centers in our colonies.**

We are informed that permission for vaccination drives may be given shortly. We are already in discussion with a vendor to provide this service once the Government grants permission. (More below)

6. For those in need of separate **quarantine facilities** due to shortage of space in their own homes, the BPP has been providing the vacant flats in its possession for the same.
7. We are trying to **open up the Parsi Lying in Hospital as Quarantine facility** for which we need to ascertain the Structural Stability of PLIH structure. For that purpose with the co-operation of Dinshaw Tamboly and Maneck Engineer, Trustees Viraf Mehta & Kersi Randeria along with Ex-Chairman Dinshaw Mehta and Maneck Engineer visited the site and had a detailed round of the 25000 sq.ft. hospital structure on Friday 30th April 2021 with Structural Consultant Nitin Doshi. The Consultant report is awaited on the feasibility of bringing PLIH structure to a reasonably sound condition for community use and obtaining BMC approval for its use as a Covid Quarantine centre.
8. **The Trustees are in preliminary discussions with the Trustees of Petit Sanatorium and its President Sir Dinshaw Petit too on the possibility of using the vacant Sanatorium Premises for community use as a Quarantine**

centre. However the Sanatorium also being in a state of non-use since last over twenty years, the cost of repairs has to be considered.

9. The BPP is purchasing oxygen concentrators for the residents of its colonies.

I must congratulate Dadar Parsi Colony Gymkhana for the newly set up vaccination center and wish them all the best. We are hoping more centers are opened in the city which can assist community members.

Many have asked why the BPP cannot do the same. Let me clarify that there is a difference in holding a vaccination drive in our colony and setting up a vaccination center. While a vaccination drive can be for a particular society or colony and only its residents, a vaccination center would be open to everyone, not just Parsis from that colony. Some residents have

raised concerns for colonies becoming Vaccination Centres as it may bring in an influx of people from outside into our colony. After seeing the pictures of the long lines at Parsi General Hospital, this reservation grew. We are awaiting the BMC's reply on our request and will update you accordingly.

By the grace of Ahura Mazda, Covid cases in Mumbai have come off significantly from its highs of 11,000 cases per day in April. However, until every member of the community is fully vaccinated there lies a risk. The Government is already gearing up for the third wave expected in July –August 2021.

We are keeping in constant touch with the Parsi General Hospital and the Poonawala family on the availability of vaccines and we are informed that the situation should hopefully improve soon.

Please consult your family doctor and he will tell you that you can still get Covid

even if you've had both your shots, but the symptoms may be mild. If you've already had Covid you could still be a carrier so maintaining proper social distancing is essential.

The first wave hit the elderly, the second hit the middle-aged and the third is predicted to hit the youth, the toddlers and teenagers. We need to keep vigil and not drop our guard.

The BPP has been and will always be here to help our community members any way it can. Our helpline numbers are Jimmy 9004385510, Ronny 9867946384, Burzin 9930956811 and Behzad 8369933487.

I am personally available to help 24x7 as well. Do not hesitate to call.

Viraf D. Mehta
Trustee, BPP
9820146244
viraf@viraf.com

Newly inaugurated vaccine center at Dadar Parsi Colony Gymkhana





BPP BOL

VADA DASTURJI KHURSHED DASTUR OF UDVADA PLEADS FOR DOKHMENASHINI FOR COVID 19 HUMDINS



Vada Dasturji Khurshed Dastur

Vada Dasturji Khurshed Dastur has approached the BPP regarding Dokhmenashini for those Zoroastrians who died of Covid-19. With almost 200 of our community members having died of this deadly disease, an alternate arrangement is the need of the hour to

help consign the bodies of Covid 19 patients to Dokhmenashini.

It has been more than a year and numbers of Parsis who have passed away from Covid has increased exponentially. Vada Dasturji has asked the BPP to consider the possibility of consigning these unfortunate victims to the Dokhma. An unused Dokhma

can be looked at only for Covid victims with specific Khandiyas chosen specifically for entry into this Dokhma only. If this is not possible to due BMC permission or safety of Doongerwadi staff, then the possibility of Aaram ghar can be considered at Doongerwadi only for Covid victims just as is being done in other cities that do not have a Doongerwadi.

At the unprecedented time, an out of the box solution is required that will allow for the last rites of these individuals and give dignity and respect to the dead and offer some respite and sympathy to the survivors. Given the urgency of the matter, he suggested the BPP consult all the High Priests on the same and make a collective decision. The BPP Trustees along with the High Priests and learned scholars are having a conference call later today to discuss the same find a solution to this plaguing issue.

BPP RENT COLLECTION IN DOLDRUMS

Ever since the lockdown started in April 2021, the BPP offices are closed and even the Custodians are told not attend their colonies to collect rent, etc. Obviously BPP is going to face a desperate financial crisis if rent cannot be collected for an extended period.

In this situation Trustee Xerxes Dastur sought advice from Rent Act expert, Advocate Kersi Bhot who advised the Trustees to start collecting Rent Online. He further advised that before doing so the Board should issue a Public Notice in Jame-Jamshed about acceptance of rent Online and should clarify that such of the amounts shall be accepted by us purely "On Account And without Prejudice To Our Rights and Contentions and subject to our verification of the accounts."

Bhot's Public Notice was discussed in Board meeting of 11-5-21 when certain lacunas were pointed out by Randeria about how such

Online acceptance could be abused especially by those facing litigation on various counts in the Courts. Though pending cases on all fronts are only around 300 as against 4500 to 5000 rent paying occupants which in effect means less than 1% can abuse this Online collection, but Randeria was insistent not to allow Online rent collection.

In view of this difference of opinion of possible mis-use the best option would be to instruct custodians to attend only two days in a week to their allocated colony to collect rent by rotation with prior notice to the residents. This would fit in well with the 15% staff allowed to attend offices.

However by way of abundant caution, the views of the Custodians/managers should be first elicited whether they are agreeable to this proposal and thereafter implement the decision if all agree.



BPP Trustee - Please Ensure Dokhmenashini is Available to Parsi Covid Victims

LAST WEEK TZML HAD POSTED THE BELOW MAIL IN BLACK EXHORTING THE TRUSTEES OF BPPTOENSUREDOKHMENASHINI IS AVAILABLE TO PARSI COVID VICTIMS. WE NOW GIVE THE RESPONSE OF TRUSTEE NOSHIR DADRAWALA TO THE SAID MAIL IN RED BELOW EVERY ISSUE TAKEN UP BY TZML ADMINS.

My brief comments- OF NOSHIR DADRAWALA IN RED.

BPP TRUSTEES MUST RISE TO THE OCCASION PLEASE GET THE PERMISSION FOR COVID-19 PARSI VICTIMS TO AVAIL OF DOKHMENASHINI

Dear BPP trustees,

As has been discussed again in a Jame Weekly article (25 April 2021 titled "Why Are We Denying Doongerwadi to Covid-19 Related Deaths" by R. Dadachanji), this matter has now become the most urgent priority for our small community. This write-up in Jame is a real eye-opener.

Agree.

As it is, a lot many Parsis have passed away in 2021 due to Covid. That itself is a tragedy for the distressed families, but then not being able to perform the soul-satisfying last rites at Doongerwadi is compounding their grief.

Agree.

Last year, the BPP trustees expressed their inability to do anything. Fair enough. But this year, circumstances have changed for the better by a modest degree, and hence it is the community members' heartfelt wish that the matter be re-looked into with more sympathy,

enthusiasm, determination and a sense of urgency. **Yes, the key factor is that BPP should not take things lying down but with sufficient brainstorming involving community stalwarts, should devise ways to counter any objections. The BMC should be approached (once again) with proper homework and with a solid legal case.**

Please help us with preparing a "solid legal case".

Let us revisit some past objections:

1. Infection will spread in handling a dead Covid body: Scientific proof mentioning that a dead body cannot spread Covid has been in the press for quite some time.

When science or a scientist tells us that a dead body does not spread infection it's because a corpse neither breathes, nor coughs, nor sneezes! But, it does not mean that the corpse is free of pathogens. If it was, why is a covid corpse zipped in a protective bag?

In 1918, there was a Spanish Flu throughout the country and Bombay too. Also, there have been Bubonic plague infections in Mumbai. In all these instances, the Doongerwadi was not closed but was fully functional.

One must not forget that in 1918 more vultures than human beings hovered over Malabar Hill and corpses were disposed by these scavenging birds in a matter of a few hours.

This cannot be said about 2021. Today all we have are rodents at night and by day kites and crows pecking at the body which inflates and bursts open around the third or fourth day, oozing inner liquids. Sunlight too is scarce.

2. Infection of the nasslessars : This has

been covered from many angles and all major objections had been previously addressed. People have rightly pointed out that the nasslessars do not live in a biological bubble, but they move out and intermingle with other humdins and hence they could get infected in several other ways. So why single out their contact with a Covid infected body as the only possible way to catch infection, rare as it is.

Sure they mingle with the outside world. But, it's not the same as mingling with corpses in different stages of decompositions and fluid from infected lungs and the gut oozing all over the pavi.

In fact, there can be a solid SOP built specifying exactly how they handle any Covid victim's body. They should also be provided disposable PPE kits to wear for such cases.

Could you please elaborate on those SOP.

The Government and Health Department's SOP is either burn or bury without opening the bag.

Lastly the dozen or so nasslessars should be all given vaccinations on a top priority at the PGH or elsewhere.

AGREE 100%. Though as we all know, vaccination still does not provide full immunity. Regardless, agree!

3. BMC says cremations only: At the start, the BMC had permitted only cremation for all Covid victims, but then the Muslims and Christians lobbied for burial to be included too. The BPP too should similarly lobby for Dokhmenashini to be included. Our efforts should be strong, persistent and robust and fact-filled with the proposed SOPs explained very well.



Surely we could try.

But, please understand that burning and burying is not the same as:

a) Keeping a corpse covered in a body bag on a pavi of an in-use or unused dokhma and

b) certainly not the same as keeping a covid cadaver exposed with crows, kits and rodents that move between doongerwadi and surrounding neighbourhoods.

We really need to build as you stated earlier a "SOLID LEGAL CASE".

A separate dokhma especially earmarked for Covid victims should be considered too.

Possible

We are sure that the BPP can rope in some consulting or PR firm which specialises in making such presentations to the BMC. Good lawyers, Vada Dasturjis, doctors like Dasturji JamaspAsa and scholar priests like Dr. R. Peer and Dr. P. Bajan too could complement their efforts. All it requires is a firm resolve and half the battle is won.

Sam Bulsara and Madison comes immediately to mind and of course all our learned and revered Vada Dasturjis and Scholar Priests.

4. Fresh objections raised by The Parsi Junction (PJ) : Whilst we thank PJ for carrying our letter in their journal, there has been some misunderstanding. Firstly, we have not suggested moving the Courts or necessarily take a hard-core legal approach. We have favoured BPP putting up a team "Dokhmenashini For Parsi Covid Victims" and coordinate and tap into the vast talent and wisdom available within the community – and then make a proper presentation to the BMC. Please rope in legal and PR consultants if need be. It is very important that BPP take the lead since they are the custodians of the Doongerwadi.

Noted

Covid is here to stay in the country for quite some time now. Today it could be

an acquaintance of ours who has been a victim, but God forbid tomorrow it could be someone close to us. Hence we must look and plan in advance for our community's spiritual needs. A decent funeral ceremony in line with the teachings of the religion would not be asking too much.

Agree.

However it must be mentioned that the Towers Of Silence are earmarked for the Dokhmenashini ritual only - burial as advocated by Dasturji Khurshed (even if it is on a very temporary basis) or cremation - are religiously prohibited in these consecrated and sacred premises.

Noted.

Last year when this topic was discussed with the BPP trustees, we were very disappointed with a trustee for the brusque manner in which he raised objections. Let bygones be bygones, we request this Go-Getter trustee too to set the ball rolling.

That trustee remains the same. If honest, straightforward, to the face talk is brusque, so be it.

I am not a trustee with an eye on the next elections or to protect my seat.

I speak my mind and after careful thought. I am here to do my duty not to please any faction of the community or shout populist slogans.

Chairperson Mrs Armaity R. Tirandaz we are sure you will recall the zealous manner in which the late Mr. Rustom Tirandaz had protected Dokhmenashini throughout his stint as a BPP trustee and taking inspiration from his achievements we hope you too will lead the community out of this current predicament with a touch of healing, wisdom and a firm resolve.

I also recollect his graphic description of what he saw inside the dokhma. Many will recollect it.

Trustees have to work in a bi-partisan way by dissolving the "majority-minority"

camp mind-set and get Dokhmenashini approved for our Parsi covid victims. That would be a lot achieved in these trying and stressful times.

Totally in agreement with your sage advice. Well taken Sir!

Thank you.

Thank you as well!

Noshir H. Dadrawala

Sincerely,
TZML Admins
(tzmladmn@gmail.com)
Dated : 7 May 2021"

FROM THE COMMENTS OF TZML AND NOSHIR DADRAWALA THE ONLY THING THAT COMES OUT IS THAT WE HAVE TO PREPARE A STRONG LEGAL CASE BEFORE WE CAN APPROACH THE STATUTORY AUTHORITIES.

FROM OUR PAST EXPERIENCE BMC AND GOVT. ARE BOUND BY THEIR SOPs AND HENCE JUSTICE CAN BE GOT ONLY FROM THE COURTS AS WE HAD OBTAINED COURT PERMISSION FOR 200 PARSI FAMILIES TO PRAY AT DOONGERWADI. WE HAVE TO BE READY TO MOVE THE COURT JUST AS MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS GOT BURIAL PERMISSION ONLY FROM THE COURTS AND NOT THE BMC.

BUT MORE IMPORTANT IS THAT ALL THE KHANDYAS AND DOONGERWADI STAFF NEED TO BE GIVEN THEIR DOUBLE DOSE OF VACCINES ON PRIORITY BASIS AND TILL THAT IS DONE THE COMMUNITY CANNOT EVEN CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL EVEN WITH ALL PPE AND SAFETY KITS.

SINCE THE DOUBLE JABS IS TO TAKE AT LEAST 12 WEEKS, THE COMMUNITY IN GENERAL AND COVID VICTIM FAMILIES WILL ANYHOW HAVE TO WAIT TILL THEN.



CAN BURIAL BE ALLOWED ON DOONGERWADI DURING COVID TIMES AS A TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENT?

Ques:

Can burial be allowed on Doongerwadi lands across Anjumams in India during Covid times as a temporary arrangement?

Answer:

These are extremely challenging and testing times, wherein the humdeens who lose their battle against Covid, are deprived of Dokhmenashini. Equally challenging decisions are in front of the deceased family members, relatives, trustees of Anjumans, Panthakis of fire temples and all associated community members who are part of this system. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those who have been deprived for Dakhma.

Thank you for asking my opinion about Burial method and its implications of allowing it temporarily at Dakhmas. I would like to pen down my thoughts as below:

As per Zoroastrian scriptures, Dakhma is an Alat, a spiritual instrument to facilitate soul's onwards journey in the most efficient manner as prescribed in our doctrines. Avesta refers to the system as "hvare-daresana", Pahlavi "khorshed nigarashni", i.e., exposure to the Sun.

Doongerwadis are no ordinary lands merely meant for disposal of dead bodies. If it was so, members of any community could have used it. But it is not so. Dakhmas are Sacred religious & spiritual institutions, consecrated much as an Atash Behram or an Agiary. The detailed method of construction and consecration of Dakhmas proves its religious significance. One can go through the book by Erv. Dr. Jivanji Mody's book on Zoroastrian ceremonies to get an idea of the immense time and effort it takes to construct and consecrate a single dokhma.

The physical construction of the dokhma is such that it takes care of various aspects. First it deals with the physical aspect of the disposal of a body. The ceremony of "tana" which is done prior to the construction of the dakhma, in its foundation pit, ensures that the semi-physical bodies are properly dealt with, those are keherp, ushtan and tevishi. The consecration ceremonies and the various Bajs performed prior to opening the dakhma ensure the onward journey of the immortal parts - ruvan, baodangh and fravashi.

Hence it is very clear from the above, the Consecrated Dakhmas, which are prepared through various ceremonies and Bajs can only be used to dispose the dead body as per Dokhmenashini system and no other system, be it cremation or burial. We mortals do not have the mandate and the authority to change these systems, at our own discretion and convenience, despite of best intentions.

Mixing religious practices of allowing cremation & burials on Doongerwadi lands, would knowingly & unknowingly hamper the spiritual progress of the humdeen, whom we are trying to help. Our intervention would also desecrate the Dakhmas for the future use. Instead, those who choose burial or cremation should organize such practices somewhere else, but definitely not on Doongerwadi lands anywhere.

Secondly, on your query about the implications of Burial system, I would like to highlight that Burial is not mandated in the Zarathushti religion. It is a fact that when Leelo Naso (wet putrefaction) is buried in the ground it defiles the earth, and generates the demon of putrefaction which is Nasa-Druj. When a corpse is buried underground it pollutes the ground and spreads contagion. The burial leaves the ground useless for nearly 50 years. Burial grounds have been known as the centres of epidemics. There are innumerable examples. One is cited in The Handbook of Public Health by Dr Parks, where he has proved in an earlier case, that the grave diggers in Paris were overcome by nausea when they opened up a grave. This sealed-in contamination comes to the living and is harmful.

Even in the Houses of Parliament in London, there have been cases of people in the borough suffering from various throat diseases near where the cemeteries were. These, therefore, in modern medical sciences, are recognized as centres of epidemics. There are other numerous examples where the burial grounds are unfit for use and for human habitation. **It is for this reason that Dr Parks in his Hygiene and Public Health, 7th Edn, has written that burial causes pollution of both soil and air, it should be discontinued within the borders or in the neighborhood of towns and thickly populated districts. On page 732 of**

his book, he goes on to say that the other methods of disposal like the exposure of the dead body in the sun and open air, a method followed by the Parsis in India, is very commendable. This is a scientific explanation. Hence it is clear that burial is not a speedy disposal system and also has a high amount of pollution.

Keeping all of the above points in mind, it is imperative, **we should continue to use Dakhmas *ONLY* for the intended use of Khorshed Nigarashni, disposal of bodies through exposure to the SUN (Khorshed Yazad). Allowing Doongerwadi lands even temporarily for burial or cremation should not be done, with an objective of retaining consecration & ceremonial effects and spiritual benefits, for our future generations.**

The spiritual reasons are similar to not performing a Hindu Aarti, a Christian Mass or a Muslim Namaz in an Atash Behram or Agiary. Every religious ceremony has its own right place and correct methods. Let us Respect all religions equally, Follow the one in which we are born, as per tenets.

Jointly as a community, a viable solution needs to be considered to save unfortunate Covid infected Zarthoshtis from the incinerator or decaying in the ground. And the best solution is Dokhmenashini itself.

The Anjuman Trustees all over India with the support of other influential people should petition the local authorities to permit Covid infected bodies to be interred in our Dakhmas. Earlier we were afraid of the safety of our doongerwadi staff. But now with vaccination available, the risks in the future could be minimal once they are vaccinated, along with appropriate usage of PPE and following right protocols. I am sure if the leaders of the community take up this mission with resonating conviction, it is definitely achievable.

May Ahura Mazda show our community the right path, through Good Mind and enable us to perform the tasks with Righteousness.

Best Wishes

Yashan Jokhi

#StaySafeStayEnriched



DR. RAIMALWALLA SUMMARISES COVID DISCUSSIONS WITH CM

I got the opportunity to be a part of discussion about the COVID crisis in Mumbai. It was addressed by our Chief Minister Mr Uddhav Thackrey, Dr Shashank Joshi, Dr Rahul Pandit and Dr Sanjay Oak and attended by more than 700 doctors all over from Mumbai.

Some useful insights from the meeting as stated by Dr Shashank Joshi:

2nd wave: faster spread but with faster recovery

Test:

If you have flu like symptoms then you should go for Rapid Antigen Test (RAT)

If Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) is positive-, no need to do RT-PCR or HRCT unless advised by a health care professional.

If RAT is negative, and if the patient has flu like symptoms then do RT PCR

If RT PCR is negative, and patient still has symptoms then only do HRCT

There is no need to directly go for RT-PCR or HRCT.

Nearly, 80% of the patients who are tested positive are asymptomatic.

Try to manage asymptomatic and milder cases at home or at quarantine centers

Regularly monitor Pulse rate, Blood Pressure, SpO2, Respiratory rate, Temperature.

Monitor SpO2, twice a day for 14 days
Perform 6-minute walk test 2 times in a day

COVID time span is 14-21 days and there are cases where delayed cytokine storm has been observed.

Don't do HRCT and Don't give steroid from day one if asymptomatic

Don't start steroids in first 7-10 days for asymptomatic cases. Mortality rate can increase if steroids are given early when it is not severe.

Doxycycline and Ivermectin will work only in first 4-5 days and after that it is not that effective. We don't have enough data on the efficacy of these drugs as yet.

Steroids and COVID:

- We discourage the use of steroids orally for COVID cases, in case the patient needs steroids it is advised to take it in a hospital set up.
- Only patient who require O2 support should be given steroids,
- Steroids reduce inflammation in the lungs for Covid-19 and appear to help stop some of the damage but they also reduce

immunity and push up blood sugar levels in both diabetics and non-diabetic Covid-19 patients.

Remdesivir:

- Remdesivir doesn't impact mortality (death rate)
- It is to be given within 1st 10 days of infection and usually for five days only.
- Given to patients only when O2 goes below 93. It is if no use if given otherwise.
- When given to asymptomatic or mild patients it has little or no effect.

Vaccine:

When the 2nd dose of vaccine is to be taken?

- After 1 month for COVAXIN (78% efficacy) and SPUTNIK (91% efficacy)
- After 2 months COVISHEILD (70-75% efficacy)

For COVID infected patient, they can take the vaccine after 3 months of being tested negative

No vaccines to be given to people below 18 years for now. Zyduz vaccine, which will be in the market soon, can be given to 12-18years, as they are doing trial in the same age group.

Vaccines are to prevent or reduce mortality and not to prevent infection.

COVID and Hospital admission: Dr. Rahul Pandit

Don't block hospital beds if you are asymptomatic or have mild infection.

Don't get admitted in the hospital just because you are anxious, as there are more needy patients who require hospital care and are not getting beds.

SpO2 6-minute walk test is a golden test for referring the patient to hospital.

You may have masked hypoxia, patient may not have hypoxia at rest initially, and however they can develop it in next 24-48 hours. This 6-minute walk test will help us to unmask hypoxia so that we can act accordingly.

COVID and Mucormycosis:

After you are tested negative, it is important to clean your throat, nose and mouth with normal saline for 3 months as the cases of post COVID Mucormycosis are increasing. Mucormycosis is one OF the rare but serious fungal infection which is may be triggered by using steroids and has 50% mortality rate.

Stay Safe, Wear Masks

Avoid direct contact

'Prevention is Better than Cure'



A few stray thoughts and a few general observations!

The Editor,
Parsi Junction.

Dear Sirs,

My thoughts today are inspired by the week that I spent undergoing **Phiroze Amroliwalla** treatment for Covid 19 at our very own Masina Hospital. I distinctly remember that Tuesday evening last month when my wife and family who had also tested Covid +ve but were home quarantined, summoned an ambulance, and sent me to the hospital for treatment.



Initially, the virus arrived as Coronavirus which graduated and came to be better known as Covid 19 which led to the pandemic the world had not experienced thus far and which has ruined millions of lives worldwide, but has also helped a handful become billionaires!

The year 2020 started with a bang and will go down in history as the year of a war with an invisible weapon of mass destruction!

Till then one received on the instant messaging Whatsapp, greetings, and mostly unsolicited messages. But with the

advent of Covid 19, one got bombarded by medical advice and home remedies from well-meaning but unqualified folks advising as if they were Doctors, Scientists, health workers, and some even astrologers! Yes, those folks who predict events. I distinctly remember one Parsi gentleman who claimed to be trained under his "Guruji" who in early April 2020 predicted the immediate exit of our Finance Minister followed by political turmoil involving the exit of two VIP's from the ruling party at the center by July/ August 2020. The only thing that came about was the disappearance of this astrologer from any further predictions on Whatsapp! This also reminds me of the Minister at the Centre, Shri Ramdas Athavle who thought that all one had to do was to say "Go Corona Go" and the virus would disappear. Alas, this gentleman has not been heard of since!

I must proudly confess that the one person who predicted correctly and who is not an astrologer was our son Mashya: In early April when half the world had come to a halt he told me "Dad, this is for the long term." I then brushed him off thinking it could be for a couple of months at best. At that time none expected that like earlier Hindi movies viz. "Sholay " or "Dilwale Dulhaniya Leh

Jayenge", this Virus would keep running for years on end. They say that it is now in the second phase and predict the third one too!

Comparing phases to the innings in an international cricket Test match. If the first phase appeared a narrow victory for PM Modi, the second is a decisive defeat for which he as captain of the team has himself to blame. Even his ardent admirers are now having second thoughts and the best is expressed by none other than actor Anupam Kher in his words "**Government must realize there's more to life than image-building**".

We thank and salute all those who have stood out with selfless service: the doctors, nurses, healthcare and social workers, the crematorium and ambulance workers, and the Police. Our salute and thanks also to the Sikh and Jain communities and to all those who have provided meals and medication to the needy and Covid affected.

I end with sincere condolences to the families of those who have been victims of this virus and with a prayer that our world soon return to normalcy!

Phiroze Amroliwalla

★ Interesting statistics of the miniscule Parsi community:★

Q1. What's the population of Parsis in India?

Ans. 69,000 (as per 2019 Census)

Q2. Who is making and supplying the bulk of Covidshield vaccines?

Ans. Serum Institute owned by Adaar Poonawala.

Q3. Who is supplying the vials for the Vaccine?

Ans. Schott Kaisha- owned by Rishabh Dadachanji, a Parsi.

Q4. Which company is providing ground logistics supports for transport of the vaccine?

Ans. Tata Motors - Ratan Tata, has developed high density PU based Cold storage vans using its fleet of Tata 407 trucks and made available the fleet at all vaccine receiving airports as well as for Serum plant to origin airport

Q5. Which company has provided medical grade refrigerators for the vaccine?

Ans. Godrej Appliance - it seems Godrej had already started a medical refrigeration test unit 3 years back as part of Make In India

wave and provide indegenious refrigerators leveraging its expertise in household / Industrial refrigeration

Q6. Which Company provides dry ice boxes for local vaccine storage?

Ans. Farouk Dadabhoy.

Q7. Which Company provided air lift for the first batch of vaccines dispatched free of cost?

Ans. Go Air owned by Wadias.

Imagine a minuscule population of 69000 with no claims, no vote bank, no publicity hungry catch phrases, no political aspiration,
but only driven by spirit of enterprise, purpose to do good to the Society while making profits and looking at world with human eyes... can make such a difference ...

Zoroastrian philosophy humanity first always

It's a lesson for all the rest of us, isn't it?

WE ARE PROUD TO BE BORN AS PARSI.

Dr. Zuleika Homavazir takes up Cause of Eric Gagrat of Flat No. C-17 Jer Baug



Dr. Zuleika Homavazir

To,
The Trustees,
Bombay Parsi Panchayet

Sub: Flat no. C-17 Jer baug.

The following message has been received FOR HELP on my Facebook Messenger

by me and forwarded to you for necessary action.

Quote:

"Hi, Zuleika,
You don't know me at all but your dad does. My mom lived right behind you folks in C Block.

You were a toddler when I left India in 1990 and am proud of what all you are doing for the community and people.

Surely you heard of moms passing away and you mentioned it in some article including Behruz's name who has been a blessing in disguise.

I want to relinquish my rights to the flat if the trustees put my name on my dad's flat in E block.

I achieve 2 things, trust are happy, and stop my Masi and Masa from swallowing the flat

saying "oh I am the daughter too and have rights".

They have been a pain and are very mean nasty selfish people.

My name is second on this C-17 flat too so will be surprised if they are allowed back in by the trust.

I am working with a lawyer too, to quickly draft a letter to send to the trust and stop my masa in his tracks.

Thanksany advice. Please help"

**Eric Gagrat
C-17, Jer baug"**

Unquote
This is for your information and necessary action, in the best interest of the Trust.

Regards,
Dr. Zuleika Homavazir

YOUNG and OLD

YOUNG and OLD

When YOUNG,

I was WORRIED about MY PIMPLES.

When I am OLD,

I am WORRIED about MY WRINKLES.

When I was YOUNG,

I was WAITING to HOLD HER HAND.

When OLD,

I am WAITING for SOMEONE to HOLD MY HAND.

When YOUNG,

I wanted my parents to leave me alone

When I AM OLD

I am worried to be left alone

When I was YOUNG,

I HATED being ADVISED.

When OLD,

there is NO ONE around to TALK or ADVISE.

When YOUNG,

I ADMIRER BEAUTIFUL THINGS.

When I am OLD,

I see BEAUTY in THINGS around ME.

When I was YOUNG,

I felt I was ETERNAL.

When I am OLD,

I know SOON it will be MY TURN.

When I was YOUNG,

I CELEBRATED the MOMENTS.

When I am OLD,

I am CHERISHING MY MEMORIES.

When I was YOUNG,

I found it DIFFICULT to WAKE UP.

When OLD,

I find it DIFFICULT to SLEEP.

When I was YOUNG,

I WANTED to be a HEART - THROB.

When OLD,

I am WORRIED when will MY HEART STOP.

At EXTREME STAGES of OUR LIFE,

WE WORRY but WE DON'T REALIZE,

LIFE NEEDS to BE EXPERIENCED.

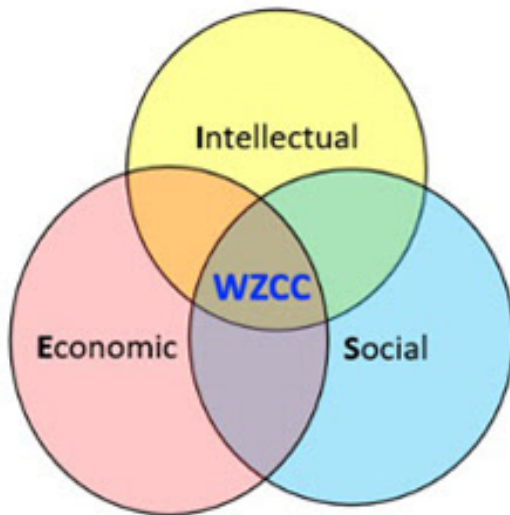
It DOESN'T MATTER whether YOUNG or OLD. LIFE needs to be LIVED and LIVED WITH LOVE & LOVED ONES on. You are surely one of these.

A Wonderful Message and a Fact too

14th May, 2021

**ZOROASTRIAN
FACULTY NETWORK** 

www.zoroastrianfacultynetwork.org



Please join us on Sunday, 16 May 2021
7 AM PT, 10 AM EST, 3 PM BST, 7.30 PM IST

Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87122131165>

Meeting ID: 871 2213 1165

Passcode: 531998



World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce

Building the Spirit of Entrepreneurship

Please join the World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce Webinar
**"A Conversation with Zoroastrian Leaders On Entrepreneurship Creating
Economic, Social and Intellectual Value."**

The speakers will discuss why and how Entrepreneurship is the key to
solving today's "impossible" problems.



Edul Daver



Ruyintan Mehta



Noshir Contractor



Moderator
Farrokh Mistree

*ENTREPRENEURSHIP IS THE PURSUIT OF OPPORTUNITY
BEYOND THE RESOURCES CURRENTLY CONTROLLED*

PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER BY VISITING WWW.WZCC.ORG
OR CONTACT YOUR REGIONAL DIRECTOR/CHAPTER CHAIR

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wzccindia@on-lyne.com



Facebook



Website



YouTube



Email

13th May, 2021

WZCC ENTREPRENEURS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



An interactive session for FOODPRENEURS Pan-India

*helpful to all those who have a home-based food
business AND for those interested in starting one.*

**Grow your business
Network with other foodpreneurs
Get your questions answered**

*Zoom session to be held on Monday, May 31, 2021 at 7.30 p.m
For WZCC members & their friends*

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81620163900>

Meeting ID: 816 2016 3900

Passcode: FOOD



*For any queries please contact the
Central Administrative Office on 9619165444*



Photography

Postcard from Heaven



One of the major attraction near Leh is the Confluence of the Indus and Zaskar rivers, also known as Sangam. Nestled amidst the grandeur of the mountains, this vivid landscape is a must-visit for anyone traveling to Ladakh. Locals here say that the Confluence keeps changing its colours during different times of the day according to the position of the sun.



Ruby B. Aderbad

Ruby B. Aderbad works with an **MNC** in Mumbai and is an avid traveler who likes to digitally capture memories. She quotes that traveling is her drug of choice and is happily addicted to it. The mountains and jungles are her go-to places to detoxify, anything that connects her with nature.

WHO ARE THE SAOSHYANTS?

- **By Ervad Dr. Ramiyar Parvez Karanjia**

Before Prophet Zarathushtra, there were 9 divinely appointed spiritual persons who guided the Mazdayasnis and directed them towards a good life. They are referred to as Saoshyants, meaning "Benefactors." They were Mazdayasnis and their teachings were incorporated in the Mazdayasni belief system. Later prophet Zarathushtra incorporated most of their teachings in the Mazdayasni Zarathushti religion. Of the 9 Saoshyants, the first 8 were Peshdadian and Kayanian kings and the last one was a Pious and Heroic Lay person. Here we will briefly see their contribution to the Mazdayasni Zarathushti religion:

(I.) **GAYOMARD**: He was the first to receive a divine message from Ahura Mazda through Sarosh Yazad. On the basis of this message, he told his people to worship one God - Mazda. The Mazdayasni (Mazda worshippers) belief system started with him.

(II.) **HOSHANG**: He taught men to consider and respect fire as the radiance of Ahura Mazda. He started the celebration of Jashan-e-Sadeh.

(III.) **TEHMURASP**: He recognized the power of evil and evolved possibilities to transmute negative into positive for the benefit of mankind. The concepts of being grateful to God and sharing one's blessings by giving charity, were introduced by him.

(IV.) **JAMSHED**: He saved the world from the Great deluge, for which Jamshedi Navroz is celebrated in his honour. He divided his subjects into 4 professional groups - THE ATHORNANS (PRIESTS), RATHESHTARS (WARRIORS), VASTRIYOSH (FARMERS) & HUTAOKHSH (ARTISANS). He introduced the practice of tying the Kasti and enthroning sacred fires.

(V.) **FARIDUN**: He taught people to fight evil in all forms. He brought an end to the wicked rule of Zohak and celebrated this and his coronation by the performance of Jashan-e-Mehrangan. He made several small prayers called Afsun. He made a special mace in the shape of the head of the cow, called GURZ to defeat Zohak. Even today, boys initiated into priesthood carry a Gurz in their Navar procession.

(VI.) **MINOCHEHER**: He introduced the importance of the virtues of peace and harmony amongst all.

He started the celebration of Jashan-e-Tirangan to celebrate the peaceful resolution of a territory dispute.

(VII.) **KAE KAUS**: He taught the use of Khvarena, divine energy, to overpower black magic, sorcery and evil men.

(VIII.) **KAE KHUSHRU**: He taught people the concept and benefits of silent contemplation and spiritual retreat.

(IX.) **HOM**: He introduced the idea of developing physical powers through spiritual practices of wearing the Kasti and performing prayers.

3. These 9 Saoshyants lived before prophet Zarathushtra. Zoroastrian religion talks about the arrival of 3 Saoshyants even after prophet Zarathushtra. Their names are HOSHEDAR, HOSHEDAR-MAH AND SAOSHYOS. (THE OTHER NAME OF SAOSHYOS IS SHAH BEHRAM VARZAVAND.)



Fashion Tips

Clothing styles for males.

For males, we need to create an illusion of broader shoulders and fill out the skinny legs.

- Wear horizontal striped t-shirts or t-shirts that have horizontal stripes on the upper torso.
- Avoid wearing tight t-shirts that exaggerate your bony structure.
- Wear blazers with heavy shoulder pads to broaden the width.
- Any kind of detailing or bright color panels across the chest and shoulders would help to add width.
- Wear a double breasted jacket.
- Slim fit pants and straight fit would be an ideal option but avoid skinny and tight fitting pants or jeans.

- Opt for light colors on top and darker at the bottom or go for light colors on top and bottom.

Knowing your body type will help you to get the best out of your clothing. You would also need to know whether you are high or low waisted.

Kash Pitha

To get the best recommendations and styles suitable for your body type get in touch with me on

Mobile: +91 9820824116

Email: kashpitha100888@gmail.com

Instagram: @kashpitha

