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PARSI TIMES

Happy Diwali!

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Let There Be Light... Please!

Dear Readers,

Just last week the community was finally relieved of the ongoing BPP hubbub, with the announcement that all five current Trustees, had, on their word, signed a consent agreement, to collectively resign and hold brand new elections for all seven trustee seats, next March. Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, one of them seems to have reneged upon his word... with the continued agenda of delaying elections.

Will this dreary saga never end? Will the community get to finally see a full board of seven Trustees by April, 2022? Why is one so obsessed with one's 'seat' of power, that one is willing to back-stab the very same community that elected him to it, in the first place? More importantly, will the same wronged community elect him yet again or have we finally learnt our lesson? I shudder to think that the answer lies in the phrase, 'Time will tell'. It is said that those who do not learn their lessons from history are doomed to repeat it.

It is also said, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness - only light can do that." That holds true also for these dark roadblocks of deceit, which need to be dispelled with the light of truth and integrity - which is now, what over five thousand community members are formally demanding from its chosen leaders.

As we head towards the most celebrated Festival of Lights, there is but one hope and plea for our blessed community... Let there be light... Please!!!

Have a good weekend! Happy Diwali!

- Anahita
anahita@parsi-times.com



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BPP Trustee Viraf Dinshaw Mehta Wriggles Out Of Signing Consent Terms In The High Court

- Joint Statement issued by BPP Trustees Noshir Dadrawala and Kersi Randeria -

On 20th October, 2021, two sitting Trustees of the Bombay Parsi Panchayet (BPP) - Noshir Dadrawala and Kersi Randeria broke their hunger fast on the solemn assurance given by their three colleague trustees - Armaity Tirandaz, Xerxes Dastur and Viraf Mehta, that all five trustees will resign on 27th March, 2022 and elections will be held for all seven seats on the BPP Board.

Advocate Berjis Desai drafted the Consent Terms, which all five trustees unanimously and willingly signed in the Board Room, on the letter-head of the BPP, on 20th October evening (refer: Consent Terms copy). Each trustee also signed an undertaking the same evening (refer: Viraf Mehta signed undertaking).

On 20th October evening itself, Viraf said that he was "not happy" (there is an audio-visual clip) and from virtually the next day onward, there were a series of 'ifs', 'buts' and so called 'concerns' that Viraf began to bring up.

The consent terms had to be redone in the legal format required by the High Court and that gave Viraf the leeway to have his way - the wrong way of course! To buy time and delay.

He wanted changes in the Consent Terms, but his excuse was, his counsel was busy in arbitrations in Pune. The changes suggested by his counsel after a few days were accepted in the larger interest of taking things forward.

After all the four trustees had signed the consent terms (modified at least three times), Viraf was allegedly busy in meetings on 28th October and could not find even a minute to sign at just two places in the Consent Terms, as modified to his counsel's requirement!

The BPP peon went on 29th October morning to obtain Viraf's signature, but Viraf did not sign it, knowing fully well that the High Court will be on vacation for two weeks after 29th October. He maintained a stoic silence to several emails and WhatsApp messages.

THIS HAS INDEED BEEN A SORDID SAGA OF BETRAYAL AND DECEIT.

On 9th March, 2021, Viraf Dinshaw Mehta engineered the move to postpone the elections scheduled to be held on 14th March 2021.

Fast forward to October, 2021 - when Kersi Randeria and Noshir Dadrawala demanded that elections for the two vacant seats on the seven-member Board of BPP should be held by December, 2021, so that a full Board of seven trustees can start functioning at the start of year 2022. The Chairman Armaity Tirandaz (exercising her casting vote) and Viraf Dinshaw Mehta passed a Resolution on 12th October, 2021 that the elections be postponed to October, 2022. This was unbelievably unacceptable!

In protest, Noshir Dadrawala and Kersi Randeria went on a hunger fast at the BPP office from Monday, 18th October. Viraf Mehta claimed he too was fasting since Sunday 17th (but not at the BPP) and yet Viraf has the audacity to lie that he was 'emotionally black mailed' and signed under duress!! Really!!!!???

We don't know whether to cry over his excuses or laugh over his immaturity.


Sadly, we have in our midst an elected trustee of the BPP, who claims to be religious but does not practice what he prays. To lie comes easy to Viraf. To cheat the electorate out of its rights comes even more easy.

To go back on a commitment made and not honor one's own solemn undertaking is neither a Parsi trait nor a Zoroastrian value.

Viraf Dinshaw Mehta may think he has scored a minor victory through deceit and foul play. But we find solace in knowing that truth is on our side and we are doing what is right. Nature will be the ultimate judge for all.

As for Viraf, he should know that facts are threatening to those invested in fraud. This has indeed been a fraud played on the community.

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FUNDS & PROPERTIES OF THE PARSI PUNCHAYET BOMBAY
209, Dr. Dadabhai Naoroji Road, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001.

Ref. No.


CONSENT TERMS

- The Parties agree that elections for all seven trustees will be held on 27th March 2022.
- The Parties agree to file a petition to amend the Election Scheme (including but not limited to, limiting the term of office of a Trustee to five years (from the present seven years) and a maximum of two terms during the lifetime of a trustee ; as also a suitable mechanism to prevent frequent mid – term elections).
- The term of office of the present five trustees namely, Mrs. Armaity Tirandaz, Mr. Noshir H. Dadrawala, Mr. Kersi J. Randeria, Mr. Viraf D. Mehta & Mr. Xerxes V. Dastur will be deemed to have expired on the date upon which the seven new trustees assume office, after the elections under Clause (1) above.
- Notwithstanding anything contained herein, the timetable for holding the elections (27th March, 2022) as stated in Clause (1) above, shall not under any circumstances be delayed/derailed/postponed/extended, save and except if the holding of such elections becomes impossible on account of a government/municipality ordered pandemic lockdown.

Dated 20th October, 2021

Mrs. Armaity R. Tirandaz : A.R. Tirandaz

Reg. # C-416 (BOM)



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FUNDS & PROPERTIES OF THE PARSI PUNCHAYET BOMBAY
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Ref. No.

Mr. Noshir H. Dadrawala : [Signature]

Mr. Kersi J. Randeria : [Signature]

Mr. Viraf D. Mehta : [Signature]

Mr. Xerxes V. Dastur : [Signature]

Consent Terms - Page 2

Dear Sir,

I hereby irrevocably authorise you to tender the enclosed consent terms signed by me in the High Court Bombay at the first available opportunity.

Yours sincerely,
[Signature]

Viraf Mehta's signed undertaking

Ava Roj Jashan At Bhikha Behram Well



24th October, 2021 - Ava Roj of Mah Khordad, marked the twelfth anniversary of the initiative started by Hoshang Gotla and Perzon Zend, to hold a Jashan and Humbandagi on Ava roj every month throughout the year (except during the lock down) at the Holy Bhikhabebram well.



With places of worship now open to the public, a Jashan was performed in the morning, followed by a humbandagi and a brief talk by Noshir Dadrawala, on the importance of prayers in day-to-day life. Ervad Aspandiar Dadachanji was remembered fondly by both, Hoshang Gotla and Noshir Dadrawala.

Kapadia and to Hoshang Gotla - for sustaining the effort initiated twelve years ago. Rohitan Elavia of Bandra donated a 'setranji' (carpet) for mobed sahebs to perform Jashan.

Later, the congregation sang 'Chaiye Hame Zarhosty' and enjoyed the chashni and cakes, courtesy Yezdani Bakery.

Special thanks was offered to trustee of the Bhikhaehram well - Dr. Viraf

Sarosh Vandriwala Recognised For His Contributions In Developing Covid Vaccine By Zydus Cadila

Ahmedabad resident, Sarosh Parvez Vandriwala, who works in Zydus Cadila as an Associate Manager in the Research and Development of Vaccines, was recently awarded a certificate of appreciation, for his valuable contributions in the development of nCOV-19 Plasmid DNA Vaccine ZYCOV-D, by Zydus Cadila, Ahmedabad.



"We are working on many different vaccines, with special focus on 'Plasmid DNA Vaccine', also known as 'ZYCOV-D', which is the first needle vaccine. ZYCOV-D comprises DNA Plasmid Vector carrying gene encoding spike protein of SARS-COV-2 virus. The 'S' protein of the virus includes receptors responsible for binding to human angiotensin converting enzyme receptor," explained Sarosh.

Sarosh worked his shift duty throughout the epidemic, even when it was at its peak during the lockdown. Kudos to his efforts and commitment!

Sarosh was also praised in the publication Vaccine Journal relevant to his work.

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'Buy Only Fresh Meat And Seafood', FreshToHome Encourages Consumers In New Campaign

FreshToHome, a fully integrated online brand in fresh fish and meat e-commerce, has launched a

campaign named 'Totally Fresh' to nudge consumers to buy only fresh, chemical-free meat, fish and seafood online.



FreshToHome, a Bengaluru-based meat, fish and fresh produce e-tailer, plans to scale up its omnichannel presence, expand across its core market India and West Asia, while focusing on deeper supply chain integration in these markets. Currently present in about 28 cities including metros, FreshToHome delivers nearly 2 million orders every month and looks to expand to 56 cities in the next 12 months... increasing from current-count of 14 physical stores to 100. It currently sells 25,000 tonnes of produce yearly and 8 million litres of milk. Meat and fish constitute 70% of its product portfolio, having entered the fresh fruits & vegetables category in 2019.

Last year, FreshToHome closed a \$121 million Series C funding round led by Investment Corporation of Dubai (ICD) - the principal investment arm of the Government of Dubai, Investcorp and Ascent Capital, DFC, the Allana Group and other investors. "Offline presence and the whole touch and feel experience is important and lends a personal touch. Our offline expansion will be a combination of both standalone as well as multi-branded stores. The second wave was harsh but unlike the first, we were operationally ready," said Shan Kadavil, Co-founder & CEO, FreshToHome.

FreshToHome, which was founded in 2015 by Shan Kadavil and Mathew Joseph, competes with BigBasket, Licious as well as smaller startups. It is the

largest player in the business in the UAE and now plans to expand to all GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) countries.

"Our ready-to-cook and ready-to-eat products comprise a sizeable portion of our offering now. We also plan to launch a completely clean label (without preservatives) in 3-6 months, where we will sell cold cuts and burger patty," Kadavil said. In UAE, the company also offers meatless chicken, mince, and meatballs in the plant-based product category. "We are doing some R&D on that front and experimenting with meatless products for India as well," he added.

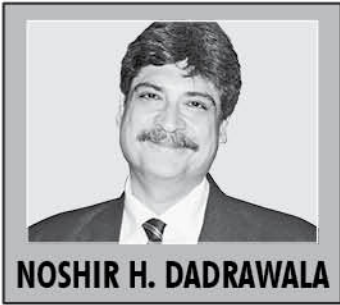
The pandemic helped accelerate online purchasing of meat products as consumers took to branded packaged items and companies improved their supplies and access to the market. A report by RedSeer earlier this year said urban Indian shoppers are increasingly taking to buying meat online, largely driven by the assurance of safety and hygiene, availability of various products under one umbrella, doorstep service provided by online meat providers. This led to a two-fold jump in gross merchandise value reported by online meat players as mapped by RedSeer during January-December last year. In 2020, online meat players saw a 10-15% jump in average revenue per user and reported a 10-15% improvement in customer retention.

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Moving From Darkness to Light



NOSHIR H. DADRAWALA

The essence of the festival of Diwali lies in the Sanskrit shloka: 'Tamaso ma jyotirgamaya' which means "Lead me from darkness to light." This verse is found in the *Brhadaranyaka Upanisad* (1.3.28): "asato ma sad gamaya. tamaso ma jyotir gamaya. mrtyor ma amrtam gamaya," which means: "From what is not, lead me to what is; from darkness, lead me to light; from death, lead me to what is undying."

This ancient verse is a self-affirmation to move from the unreal to what is real, from untruth to the truth and from all that is not good to what is good.

In like manner, when a Zoroastrian prays litany to the fire (*Atash Niyaesh*) he/she chants and affirms: "Atarsh spenta rathaeshtâra, Yazata pouru-khvarenangha, Yazata pouru-baeshaza, Athrô Ahurahe Mazdâo puthra" which means: "O Adar Yazata (the Divinity presiding over fire), the beneficent warrior (against forces of darkness) full of glory, healing virtues of the Fire, the purifier (of all things) pertaining to Ahura Mazda!"

Thus, to a Zoroastrian, fire is glorious, health giving, enhances virtue, purifies and illuminates all things, including the mind and spirit.

Lighting A Lamp Within: In the literal or even the scientific sense, 'darkness' is the 'absence' of light. However, figuratively darkness also represents wickedness, sadness, ignorance and other negative human traits and emotions.

During Diwali we celebrate this festival of light by lighting oil lamps at our home, business establishment or work place. This symbolically represents driving away darkness with the lighted lamps and ushering prosperity over the darkness of poverty, happiness over the darkness of unhappiness and good health over the darkness of ill-health.

However, while physically lighting lamps, we should also mentally light the lamp of wisdom in our mind and illuminate it. We need to follow rituals mindfully and with full knowledge and awareness in order to make them more meaningful in our lives. Among a host of Blessings that a Zoroastrian devotee seeks while reciting the *Atash Niyaesh* is: 'spano' or wisdom, 'urune ushi' or intelligence and 'khratum' or intellect.

When we outwardly light a lamp, we also inwardly awaken ourselves towards the path of self-awareness and self-realisation.

Darkness - Literal And Figurative: From the Zoroastrian perspective, the corporeal world that we live in is not perfect. *Dasturji* Maneckji Dhalla referred to it more positively as 'our perfecting world'. A fundamental precept of Zoroastrianism is *Asha* which is variously interpreted as Truth, Purity, Righteousness and Divine Order. The Colophon to *Yasna* asserts: "There is but one path, that of *Asha*. All other paths are false". Thus, falsehood, impurity, wickedness and disorder are all viewed as moving away from light and towards darkness.

In the *Hoshbam* which we pray at dawn (the beginning of twilight before sunrise), we affirm: "Through the
b e s t

righteousness,
e x c e l l e n t
righteousness, O Ahura Mazda, may we catch sight of Thee and may we come near Thee and attain Thy eternal friendship."

According to this prayer, the devotee affirms at the crack of dawn or when light of the sun dispels darkness that he/she aspires to know and understand *Ahura Mazda* and the only way he/she can achieve this ultimate goal is by walking on the path of *Asha*. And, in doing so, the devotee earns *Ahura Mazda's* 'friendship'. Thus, it is only in light of the truth and walking in the light of righteous conduct, that we attain attunement with Divinity.

Zoroastrians consider the darkness of ignorance, poverty, suffering, injustice, disease, flood, famine and all disorders as evil and to alleviate afflictions of evil is an act of spiritual merit, depriving 'evil' of sustenance. Our response to darkness is not through acceptance of darkness but measures taken to dispel darkness with light - the light of wisdom, the light of knowledge, the light of charity and the light of goodness.

The Dark Or Destructive Spirit: *Asha* is an important attribute of *Ahura Mazda* representing qualities of Order and Perfection. Disorder is the antithesis of *Asha* and believed to be the work of *Angra Mainyu* - the spirit of disorder and destruction. Thus, Zoroastrians do not consider disorder or destruction as the work of *Ahura Mazda*. The presence of disorder makes our corporeal world unstable and renders all creation susceptible to disease, decay, death and disintegration. However, according to Zoroastrian theology *Angra Mainyu* - the destructive spirit or mentality is the architect of all calamities.

There is a primordial conflict between the forces of good and evil and according to the *Bundahishn* and other Pahlavi texts, *Ahura Mazda* created the corporeal world in order to trap and finally vanquish evil. The

individual and collective level. There are two mentalities *Anghra Mainyu* (negative mentality) and *Spenta Mainyu* (positive mentality). As human beings we have the freedom to choose positive or negative mentality. What we individually and collectively reap is the consequence of our choices.

Angra Mainyu - A State Of The Mind: *Mainyu* is variously translated as 'Spirit', an abstract energy or 'Mind' (*Sanskrit mana* or mind). *Angra* is viewed as destructive, chaotic, disorderly and inhibitive. One of the chief manifestations of *Angra* is destruction which arises from anger and anger is a state of the mind. Thus, *Angra Mainyu* is a destructive, chaotic, disorderly and inhibitive state of the mind which often manifests into anger and destruction of all that is good.

Choose Light, Not Darkness: Theologically, *Angra Mainyu* is limited to material space and time and at the end of time, *Angra Mainyu* will be finally defeated or simply disappear because *Angra Mainyu* is akin to a shadow. A shadow is simply the absence of reflected light. It is impossible to prove shadow as a standalone object. Scientifically speaking, shadow exists only in relationship to a light source, a disrupting object and an object in the background.

In other words, if Truth is light and the mind is the disorderly obstructive object, what is seen in the background of life is the shadow of evil. But, let the light of truth shine through a mind attuned to that light (of truth) and there would be no obstruction and no shadow would be seen in the background of life. There would be just light! Little wonder that certain Pahlavi books view *Ahriman* or the personification of evil as 'nonexistent'!

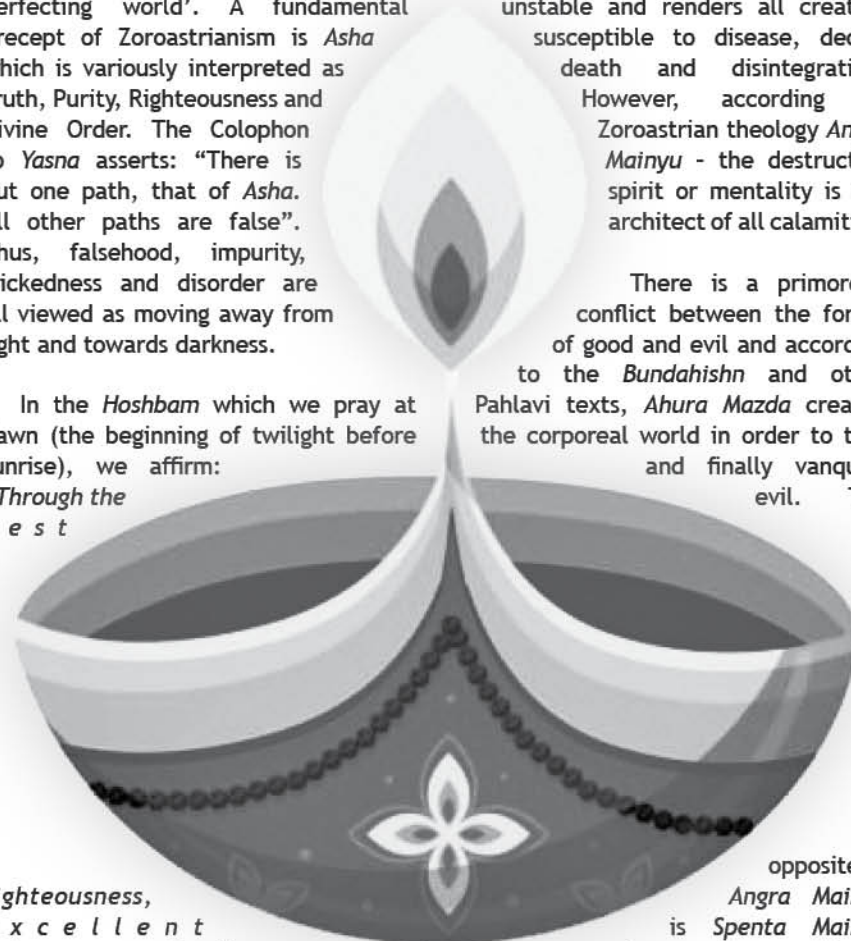
Evil has no real existence. Evil is simply the absence of good, just as darkness is absence of light. When we choose light, we automatically reject darkness and when we choose goodness, we automatically reject evil. *Angra Mainyu* which is evil or dark mentality, can be kept away by following *Spenta Mainyu* or Good Mentality.

Therefore, this Diwali let us choose Light. Let us dispel the darkness of ignorance with the light of knowledge; the darkness of vengefulness with the light of forgiveness... and above all else, the darkness of misunderstanding with the light of understanding, friendship and harmony!

opposite of
Angra Mainyu
is *Spenta Mainyu*
- the creative spirit or
mentality and architect of all that is
good and represents truth, light and life.
Both *Angra* and *Spenta* are perceived as
twins in conflict. However, in later texts
Angra is also referred to as *Ahriman* or
the devil.

A Matter Of Choice: As Zoroastrians, our duty is to bring order amid disorder, relief where there is pain and rebuild all that is destroyed. Calamities are negative and the choice we have is to be bitter about it or make things better. The only antidote for darkness is light and the only antidote for disorder is *Asha* or order. In fact, our sacred texts categorically affirm that it is only through the practice of *Asha* that evil will finally be vanquished and perfection will prevail over imperfection.

As intelligent human beings, we have been given the freedom to choose and what we reap is fruit of our individual and collective choices - Good or Evil. Zoroastrians believe that human beings find happiness or sorrow according to moral and ethical choices made at an



In Memoriam



Pervez Hormuzdiar Kayani

[14th July, 1951 - 26th October, 2021]

Pervez Hormuzdiar Kayani passed away on the 26th of October, 2021.

Pervez, who was the senior partner at the iconic Kayani bakery, Pune was synonymous with his bakery and the celebrated Shrewsbury biscuits which were famous, the world over. He was one of the most hardworking and trusting people, extremely passionate about his craft.

His world revolved around his bakery and even in the four vacations that he took in his entire, glorious working life of over 50 years, he would still keep talking and thinking about his bakery. It was impossible to get him to take a day off even on Sundays. He loved taking his wife and children on weekly outings every Sunday, and would start his day earlier to first complete work at the bakery and then take his family for a day trip.

He was very knowledgeable about his heritage and religion. Many who have interacted with him would remember how passionately he would speak about Iran and his roots. Pervez was very close to his family and would do anything for his family. He referred to his siblings Perin, late Iraj, Sohrab and Farokh as inseparable.

Pervez was an extremely loving husband and his children Doghdhova and late Aspandiyar filled his heart entirely. He was extremely fond of his son-in-law Pehzad and was a doting grandfather. In his last few years, everytime he saw or played with his grandchildren Janine and Zeus, his eyes would light up and heart would fill with joy.

There is not a single person who has crossed his path, elder or younger, from any walk of life, on whom he has not left a lasting impression. He will be remembered fondly by one and all for his jovial, down to earth and benevolent personality but most importantly, he will be remembered for his hard work, every single day.



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A FATHER'S HEART WRENCHING AND PAINFUL APPEAL TO SAVE HIS SON



Master Ankush

"I, Sanjoy Biswas, garage mechanic by profession, hereby plead an emergency to save my eight year old son Master Ankush, who is an adoring son, a brilliant brother, a best friend and above all a very humble and good child. He has a very good heart and always did good work for others. He always offered help to anyone who needs it. But now unfortunately the things have changed, he is the one who desperately needs support. At the age of 4.5 years, Ankush was first diagnosed of "Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia" (a type of blood cancer) by the doctors after performing multiple medical tests. The word "Blood cancer" shattered our world like anything and I was totally broken down first time in my life. Despite of mental depression and tough times, even though the prescribed treatment of Rs. 8, 00,000/- was very expensive for the under-privileged family like us. By god's grace, without losing hopes, we sold our house, along with that money and borrowed funds; we could successfully complete his treatment. But unfortunately again since March'2021, the cruel fate started troubling my child, when he began falling sick with unexplained fever, swelling body and weakness. Then we re-consulted with the doctor, and after doing further medical investigations, it was reported of "Late Combined Relapse Pre B Acute Lymphoblastic Luekemia", for which the suggested cure includes, chemotherapy and other medical support costing Rs. 10, 00,000/- approx; which we are unable to arrange now, as we are living on debts now and have nothing left with us. During his previous treatment, even though I faced lots of difficulties in my daily working schedule, but still I continued working, as it is the only source of our family income. But now I have lost my job. Our family consists of four members: me, wife, Ankush and one year old infant baby. Basically we hail from Kolkatta. Currently due to Ankush's treatment and financial constraints, we are staying in Mumbai, leaving our one year old baby with my old parents. It has been years of watching my son struggling with life and the cancer has made him extremely weak, due to which his body is becoming lifeless with each passing days. I feel sad and helpless, as the doctors say us if treatment is not started soon they can't ensure his survival. I can bear to struggle poverty but cannot watch this misery of my child. It worries me often; will I lose my son due to my financial inability? Will you be his savior and help him reunite with us?"

- Sanjoy, Father of Master Ankush

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With Diwali just around the corner, here are some real simple and super yummy Diwali sweets you can try to make at home, on your own!

INSTANT COCONUT BARFI



Ingredients:
4 Cups - Desiccated Coconut; 4 cups - Sugar syrup; 2 tsp - Khoya; 1 tbsp - Almonds (blanched and shredded); 1 tbsp - Pista (shredded and blanched); 1 tsp - Ghee

Method:
Add sugar and water in the same proportions in a pan. Start heating the mixture and keep stirring continuously, else the sugar will stick to the bottom and caramelize. When the sugar dissolves and it becomes nice and thick, turn off the flame. To prepare coconut burfi, in a thick bottomed kadai, mix the coconut and this sugar syrup. Roast until it thickens up and acquires a halwa-like consistency. Add the pistachio and almonds. Brush on the ghee in a tray and spread the coconut batter on it. Smoothen out the edges of the batter and cut into burfi shapes when it cools down. Serve.

BOMBASTIC BESAN LADDOOS!



Ingredients:
200 gm - Ghee; 350 gm - Besan (gram flour); 175 gm - Castor sugar; 1.5 tsp - Cardamom powder; 2 Tbsp - Dry fruits; ¼ tsp - Saffron

strands soaked in 1 tbsp water

Method:
Heat ghee in a large pan. Add besan and cook on a slow flame, stirring continuously. Remove the pan from the flame when the ghee separates and the besan changes color. Cool for 10 mts. Stir in sugar, spice, dry fruits and saffron. Prepare even sized ladoos and serve decorated with extra dried fruit (and silver leaf, optional).

PERFECT PINEAPPLE HALWA

Ingredients:
250 gm - Paneer / Ricotta cheese



(crushed); 450 gm - Canned Pineapple (crushed); 60 gm - Sugar; 2 tsp - Ghee; A pinch - Saffron; 30gms - Pistachios sliced; few drops of yellow food color (optional)

Method:
Mix the cheese, ghee and crushed pineapple in a pan, place it on the stove and bring to a boil. Once it starts to bubble, add the yellow food color. Cover and let it cook on medium till water evaporates. Add the sugar and saffron and saute for 5-10 minutes, or till it leaves the sides of the pan. Transfer on to a serving dish and garnish with chopped pistachios.

QUICK KAJU BARFI



Ingredients:
½ Cup - Water; 6 tbsp - Sugar; 1 tsp - Saffron; 1 tsp - Cardamom powder; 1 Cup - Cashewnut Powder

Method:
Add sugar, water and saffron in a wide pan, place on gas and stir continuously until sugar dissolves completely. Add cardamom powder and stir until it becomes thick and sticky. Now, add the roughly powdered cashewnut to the sugar

syrup and cook over low heat. Stir and cook continuously to make it a thick single lump. Do not stop stirring otherwise lot of lumps will form and the mixture may over cook. Now let it cool down till room temperature. Take an aluminium tray and transfer the prepared mixture to it. Make it a soft dough so it can be rolled easily. Using a rolling pin, roll it out in a round shape. Using a knife, cut it into pieces of any shape of your choice. Separate the pieces and your homemade kaju barfi is ready to eat!

SCRUMPTIOUS RICE KHEER

Ingredients:
¼ Cup - Basmati rice; 6 cups -



Milk; ¾ cup - Condensed milk; ¼ cup - Sugar; ½ tsp - Green Cardamom powder; 10 gms - Almonds (slivered). For Garnishing: 20 gms

- Slivered Almonds and 30 gms - whole Pista roasted.

Method:
Clean, wash and soak rice for 30 minutes. Drain and rinse the rice again and set aside. In a heavy bottomed pan, boil milk and add the drained rice. Simmer for 20 to 25 minutes, stirring continuously. Add condensed milk and

continue stirring. Now add sugar, cardamom powder and slivered almonds. Mix well. Serve hot or chilled, garnished with slivered almonds and roasted whole pistachio nuts.
(To further enhance the flavour, you could add a pinch of saffron dissolved in milk or 2 tsp rosewater, after switching off the gas.)

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A 'Taxi'ng Time With Sydney Drivers!

Born in Bombay and settled in Sydney, Kersi Meher-Homji is a retired Virologist. He has published 16 books on cricket in Australia, and has been freelancing for top newspapers and magazines in India and Australia. He shares an amusing account of his talks with Sydney's cabbies!

By Kersi Meher-Homji

Like most Australian cities, Sydney is cosmopolitan. When shopping, visiting a doctor/dentist, attending or teaching at school, going for your job, visiting friends or just walking on the streets, you run into Chinese, Pommies (Englishmen), Kiwis (New Zealanders), Indians, Pakistanis, Sri Lankans, Iranians, Japanese, Koreans, Malaysians, Yanks (Americans), Africans... and of course, us Parsis!

For an authentic conversational experience with Sydney's inhabitants, one should hire a taxi at night. I worked for the Sydney Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service (to detect HIV, AIDS and Hepatitis virus from blood and organ donors) and was on call duty for a week, every

five weeks. For this, I received taxi conveyance to go to work late at night or in the early hours of the morning to detect viruses from the blood of organ donors, who had passed away in road accidents. This involved interesting conversations with taxi drivers on my way to and back from work.

The last one to take me to my laboratory in the middle of the night, was an accountant from Hong Kong. In his mid-twenties, he had been in Sydney for 18 months now and drove taxis because he could not find a job in his field. Pleasant and honest, he stopped the fare metre, when filling his petrol tank.

"It would not be fair to charge you for this delay," he said. He hoped to get a job soon, else would return home.

The cabman from India had

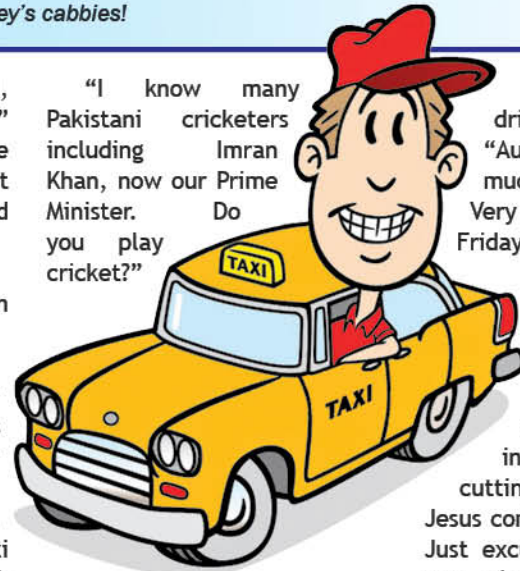
no problems. Anything I said, he replied with, "No problem!" or "No worries!" in a fake Australian accent. A biochemist with a BSc degree, he decided to drive taxis.

"Waiting for the recession to end?" I queried.

"No, no. Plenty of jobs for my intellect. But these Aussies know little of Biochemistry and try to teach me, teach ME! Ha! I left them in a huff, no worries. Plenty of money in taxi driving, no problem! I go back to Delhi every year with my family. This is my own cab and I earn more than your boss!"

The cabbie from Pakistan was also a University graduate. He had a day job but drove taxis at night to earn extra income. His in-car music included ghazals that he loudly sang along with and I joined in to make a threesome!

"I know many Pakistani cricketers including Imran Khan, now our Prime Minister. Do you play cricket?"




When I replied, "Yes, but only at social level", he handed me his card, requesting me to organise a social cricket match.

"Lots of politics in Pakistan", he added, singing ghazals nostalgically, interrupted by my frenzied, "Look out! Red light!!"

The Iranian taxi driver was a philosopher. "Australians drink too much - even teenagers! Very few sober people on Friday and Saturday nights."

Somehow the conversation turned to religion. "I'm a Christian from Iran but don't believe in nonsense of Moses cutting the ocean in two or Jesus coming back after dying. Just excuses for holidays - if you ask me.... People killing each other for religion - bad! Work - my religion! I work six days a week, twelve hours a day, to make little money. Not much money in taxi driving these days. People not have money for taxis, but have plenty to drink in pubs!! I made my children Christians. But my God is not Jesus. The scientist who finds cure for cancer, AIDS and COVID is my God!"



*Wishing You a
Very Happy Diwali*

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Solution on Pg. 18

WINNING CAPTION!!!



Modiji & Amitji: The GDP of India is on a fast upward roll!!
 Janata (hidden in pic): Sure... if 'GDP' stands for 'Gas, Diesel and Petrol'!!!

By Hoofriz Dotiwalla

CAPTION THIS!



Calling all our readers to caption this picture!
 Send in your captions at editor@parsi-times.com by 3rd November, 2021

Winning Caption and Winner's Name Will Be Published Next Week.

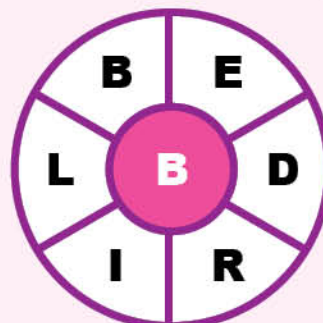
Disclaimer: Some of our 'Caption This' Contest photos are taken from freely available, public online resources and are published in a light and humorous vein, which is the mainstay of the Parsi spirit! No offence is intended to anyone or any situation.

HOW MANY WORDS?

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters below? Every word must contain the letter in the center. You should make at least one word using all 7 letters.

RESULTS:

- Average: 6 or more words
- Good: 7 or more words
- Outstanding: 9 or more words



Thought of the Week

"The happiness of your life depends upon the quality of your thoughts."

- Marcus Aurelius (Roman Emperor)

Meherbai's Mandli Meets Over Breakfast!



RUBY LILAOWALA

As always, the young-at-heart Mandli (all in their second childhood), met at their favourite club in South Mumbai. This time, Meherwanji's childhood friend, Edulji Aadhaar-card and his wife Rati Ration-card were also invited.

To test their intelligence, Jhangoo-genius asked, "As far as Covid goes, tell us, which is the safest nation?"

Edulji Aadhaar: Simple - Vaccination!!

Gustadji Gotla: You are trying to fool us?

Edulji Aadhaar: Sometimes, you have to play the fool to fool the fool who fooled you!

Abban Aban: I like gulab-nu-fool (rose).

Coomi Kaajwali: Aban, how many times have I told you to keep your mouth shut? Every time I show you an eligible 'boy', you open your mouth and do *ghotala-ma-gos* and the 'boy' runs away saying, "the girl's upper-story is empty!"

Firdos Fituri: Abanmai, now forget marriage. At your over-ripe age, women become grandmothers and even great grand-mothers and not blushing brides. Besides, where are the eligible bachelors today? All good guys are either married or happy being confirmed bachelors, like me!

Abban Aban: *Jao jao su vaat karoj?* Lots of eligible bachelors are available. Put on your *chasmo* and look around. Salman Khan is single, so are Ratan Tata, Baba Ramdev, Rahul Gandhi, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar... and you can't find a single bachelor-boy for me?



In walked Faridafui with henpecked Hormusji.

Faridafui: Where are the cold-cuts? I want ham, bacon, salami and sausages!!

Polly Popat: Maiji, you yourself look like a cold-storage full of ham and bacon.

Meherbai: My poor Faridafui can't help it if she has the appetite of four people!

Dolly's Dolla (actually Dorab - ordering a Fanta): When I drink a peg of alcohol, Dolly says I'm alcoholic but when I drink up a whole bottle of Fanta, she never calls me 'Fantastic' (Fanta-Stic)!

The breakfast arrived - Choice of eggs, toast, butter, jam, cheese, porridge, eggs kejriwal and hot tea to wash it down.

Henpecked Hormusji: I ordered hot tea, not pot-tea.

Meherbai: Homi dear, hot tea is inside the pot-tea.

Bomi Bevdo: My wife's choice is coffee - how silly, and he started laughing like a hyena!!

Meherwanji: Never laugh at your wife's choices.

The Mandli: Why? Why?

Meherwanji: Because you are one of her choices. And by the way, Bomi you landed in court for drinking and driving last week?

Aspi Aspro: Yes. Yes. I was with him in the Court. The Judge said, "You have been summoned here for drinking." Bomi was his usual tipsy self and replied: Ok - let's start 'drinking'. The whole Court started laughing so the Judge said, 'order, Order!' And stupid Bomi said, 'I'll have 'Whisky with soda'!! Now to save Bomibawa from 'Contempt of Court' charge, Aspi explained to the Honorable Judge that Bomi is *ardho mad aney pono ghelo* (half mad and three-fourths silly).

The Judge was perplexed and said that the mathematics is wrong - the numbers half and three-fourths don't add up. It should be half and half. Now, while they were talking mathematics, the Judge's wife, Sheramai-Summons came to the Court and ordered the Judge: "Gherey Chalo!! "

And the Judge became *ekdum chup-chap* and *chicken-chaap* and meekly followed her after adjourning the Court.

Aspi Aspro: Now next week, I'll go again with Bomi to the Court to give him moral support.

Bomi Bevdo: Moral support? By calling me *ardho mad aney pono ghelo*?

Aimai Eienstein: Idea!! I'll go with Bomi to plead with the Judge.

Gustadji Gotla: No!! I'll go and show my Gotlas (biceps)

to the judge - he'll get scared of me!

Jabri Jaloo: Who do you think you are with your shrunken *choosela-gotlas*? Rustom Pehelwan or what?

Soli Sales-Tax: I'll go!! I am familiar with Courts.

Hormusji: Sure!! You're familiar with lock-ups also - you forgot? Last month you were in Lonavla lock-up and demanded Maganlal Chiki and Cooper's Kopra-pak? All you got was *methi-pak*, *dhum-malido* and *biscot* from Pandu Havaladar?

Polly Popat: Soli is

really *besharam*, *tatya-naram* and *bheja garam*!

Jimmy Joker: I'll go with Bomi and tell my Koila Jokes to the Judge and distract him.

Piroj Pehelwan: No. I'll go.

Rusi the Rockstar: I'll go with Soli and that's it!

Edulji Aadhaar-Card: No! I'll go and that's final!

Meherwanji: Quiet everyone!! Is it a free Ghambar or what that everyone wants to go? Let Aspi Aspro go as he did last time.

Meherbai: See! Our Mandli is so united and supportive of each other!! When one member is in trouble, everyone wants to help!!

Soon the Bill arrived and since they were all going Dutch this time, Soli Sales-Tax quietly scooted off on his rickety-wickety scooter.

The Mandli: Joyoon Ke? Whenever we go Dutch, Soli zooms off and poor Hormusji has to pick-up Soli's share! No wonder he is called Sales-Tax.

Hormusji: This too shall pass!

Pureganic Festive Healthy Delights

Team Pureganic takes this opportunity to sincerely thank Parsi Times and its esteemed readers, who are now regular customers for the confidence, trust and faith reposed on us. Keeping in mind the coming festive season, Pureganic Team is glad to offer unique, delicious and a healthy new range of products.

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hygienically/decoratively Diwali - 2021 gifting hampers.

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પારસી રાઈમ્સ

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THE TRUTH. DELIVERED WEEKLY.

દિવાળીના

પાંચ દિવસનું મહત્વ

દિવાળીના પાવન અવસર પર ચારે બાજુથી ખુશીઓનું મહેકતું વાતાવરણ થઈ જાય છે. આ પર્વ બધા તહેવારોમાં સૌથી શ્રેષ્ઠ મનાય છે. કારણ કે પાંચ દિવસ સુધી આ તહેવારની ખુશીઓ છવાયેલી રહે છે અને મહિન પહેલાથી આ તહેવારની તૈયારી શરૂ થઈ જાય છે. દરેક તહેવારની જેમ આ તહેવારની પણ પૌરાણિક કથા છે. દરરોજનું વિશેષ મહત્વ છે. આવી જાણીએ પાંચ દિવસીય જગમગાતા તહેવારની વિશેષતાઓ.

કાર્તિક કૃષ્ણ ધનવન્તરી જયંતિ: આ દિવસને ધનતેરસ કહેવામાં આવે છે. આ દિવસે ચિકિત્સક ભગવાન ધનવન્તરીની પણ પૂજા કરે છે. પુરાણોમાં કથી છે કે સમુદ્ર મંથનના સમયે ધનવન્તરે સફેદ અમૃત કળશ લઈને અવતરિત થયા હતા. ધનતેરસની સાંજે યમરાજ માટે દીપદાન કરવું જોઈએ. જેનાથી અકાળ મૃત્યુનો નાશ થાય છે. લોકો ધનતેરસના રોજ નવા વાસણો પણ ખરીદે છે અને ધનની પૂજા પણ કરે છે.

કાર્તિક કૃષ્ણ ચતુર્દશી: આને નરક ચતુર્દશી કે કાળી ચૌદસ, રૂપ ચૌદસ પણ કહેવામાં આવે છે. આ દિવસે નરકથી ભયભીત થનારા મનુષ્યોએ ચંદ્રોદયના સમયે સ્નાન કરવું જોઈએ અને શુદ્ધ વસ્ત્ર ધારણ કરવા જોઈએ. જે કાળી ચૌદસની વહેલી સવારે તેલ માલિશ કરી સ્નાન કરે છે અને રૂપ નિખારે છે તેને યમલોકના દર્શન નથી કરવા પડતા. નરકાસુરની સ્મૃતિમાં ચાર દીપક પણ લગાવવા જોઈએ.

કાર્તિક કૃષ્ણ અમાસ: આને દિવાળી કહેવાય છે. આ દિવસે મલાલક્ષ્મીની પૂજા કરવામાં આવે છે. સાથે જ કુબેરની પૂજા પણ કરવામાં આવે છે. શુભ મુહુર્તમાં લક્ષ્મીજીનો ફોટો, સિક્કો અથવા શ્રીયંત્ર, ઘાણી, પતાશા, દીપક, શેરડી, કમળનું ફૂલ, મોસમી ફળ વગેરે પૂજનની સામગ્રી ખરીદવામાં આવે છે. ઘરમાં લક્ષ્મીને નૈવેદ્ય હેતુ પકવાન બનાવવામાં આવે છે અને પૂજા કરવામાં આવે છે.

શરૂઆતમાં ગણેશ, અંબિકા, કળશ, માલૂકા, નવગ્રહ પૂજનની સાથે જ લક્ષ્મી પૂજનનું વિધાન હોય છે. ચોપડા, ધનપેટી, લોકર વગેરેમાં સ્વસ્તિક બનાવીને પૂજન કરવું જોઈએ.

કાર્તિક શુક્લ બલિપ્રતિપદા, દીવાળી-પાડવા: આને ગોવર્ધન પૂજા કે અન્નકૂટ મહોત્સવના રૂપમાં ઓળખવામાં આવે છે. આજના દિવસે ગાય-વાછરડાં અને બળદની પૂજા કરવામાં આવે છે. ગાય વાછરડાને જુદી જુદી રીતે શ્રંગારિત કરવામાં આવે છે. આ દિવસે હિન્દુ કેલેન્ડરની દ્રષ્ટીએ નવા વર્ષની શરૂઆત થાય છે. લોકો એકબીજાને મીઠું પ્રસાદના રૂપમાં આપે છે. જેનો મતલબ એ થાય છે કે મીઠાની જેમ તમારા જીવનમાં પણ બધા રસ કાયમ રહે. લોકો એકબીજાને નૂતન વર્ષાભિનંદન કે નવ વર્ષની શુભેચ્છા પાઠવે છે.

કાર્તિક શુક્લ બીજ/ભાઈબીજ: આ યમ દ્વિતીયા કે ભાઈબીજના નામે પણ ઓળખાય છે. આ દિવસે વહેલી સવારે ઉઠીન ચંદ્રમાના દર્શન કરવા જોઈએ. યમુના કિનારે રહેનારા લોકોએ યમુનામાં સ્નાન કરવું જોઈએ. આજના દિવસે યમુનાએ યમને પોતાના ઘરે ભોજન કરવા બોલાવ્યા હતા, તેથી તેને યમદ્વિતીયા કહેવાય છે. આ દિવસે ભાઈઓએ ઘરે ભોજન ન કરવું જોઈએ. તેમણે પોતાની બહેન, કાકા કે માસીની પુત્રી, મિત્રની બહેનને ત્યા પ્રેમથી ભોજન કરવું જોઈએ. આનાથી કલ્યાણ થાય છે. ભાઈએ વસ્ત્ર, દ્રવ્ય વગેરેથી બહેનનો સત્કાર કરવો જોઈએ. સાંજે દીપદાન કરવું જોઈએ.

દીવાળીના દીવાનો સુવર્ણ પ્રકાશ તમારા જીવનમાં ભરપુર સુખ સમૃદ્ધિ અને ખુશાલી લાવે.



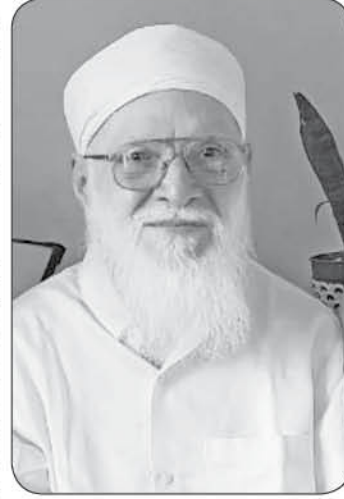
દસ્તુરજી અસ્પંદિયાર દાદાચાનજીનું નિધન

૨૨મી ઓક્ટોબર, ૨૦૨૧ના રોજ, સમુદાયે તેના આદરણીય ધાર્મિક નેતા અને વિદ્વાન - દસ્તુરજી એરવદ અસ્પંદિયાર દાદાચાનજીને ગુમાવ્યા - જેઓ આપણા ગૌરવશાળી ધર્મ પ્રત્યે તેમની પ્રતિબદ્ધતા અને સેવા માટે જાણીતા હતા.

પારસી વિદ્વાન અને ઇતિહાસકાર, નોશીર દાદરાવાલાએ શ્રદ્ધાંજલિ આપતા જણાવ્યું કે એરવદ અસ્પંદિયાર દાદાચાનજીનું નિધન પારસી જરથોસ્તી સમુદાય માટે દુઃખદ ખોટ છે. તેઓ પારસી ધર્મના ઉચ્ચ વિધિ-વિધાન સમારોહની બાબતોમાં સત્તા ધરાવતા હતા અને તેમણે પોતે અનેક વંદીદાદ અને નિરંગદિન સમારંભો કર્યા હતા. તેમણે નવસારી નજીક તવડી ખાતેના પવિત્ર આતશને મુંબઈના ગોદરેજ બાગમાં ખસેડવાનું માર્ગદર્શન અને નેતૃત્વ કર્યું હતું.

તેમના માર્ગદર્શન અને દેખરેખ હેઠળ, વિદેશી સહિત ઘણા યુવાન છોકરાઓને નાવર અને મરતબ તરીકે દીક્ષા આપવામાં આવી છે.

તેઓ ઘણા લોકો માટે આધ્યાત્મિક માર્ગદર્શક હતા. તે ધર્મગુરૂઓ અને સામાન્ય લોકો બંનેને ધાર્મિક પાલનની બાબતોમાં ખોટા આંબર વગર માર્ગદર્શન આપતા હતા. તે સૌમ્ય, મૃદુ બોલનાર અને સૌ પ્રત્યે માયાળુ હતા. તે ખુબ વિનોદી હતા અને રમૂજની તેમને મહાન સમજ હતી. તે



કિકેટના પણ શોખીન હતા અને લાંગ ડ્રાઈવ પર જવાનું તેમને ગમતું હતું.

મને તેમને નજીકથી અને વ્યક્તિગત રીતે જાણવાનો વિશેષાધિકાર અને આશીર્વાદ મળ્યા હતા. તે મારી અને એસવીજી પુણેના મારા પરમ મિત્ર કુંવરશાહ મહેતા સાથે ઈરાનના અનેક પ્રવાસો પર સાથે હતા. તીર્થયાત્રીઓમાં તેમની હાજરીની ઈરાનમાં રહેતા સાથી જરથોસ્તી સહિત તમામ પર શાંત અને આધ્યાત્મિક અસર હતી. બસમાં, તે ધીરજપૂર્વક શું પ્રાર્થના કરવી અને પવિત્ર જરથોસ્તી જીવન કેવી રીતે જીવવું તે

અંગેના પ્રશ્નોના જવાબ આપતા.

હકીકતમાં, જ્યારે કુંવરશાહ અને હું તેમને તાજેતરમાં મળ્યા, ત્યારે તેમનો રોજનો જન્મદિવસ હતો, ત્યારે તેમણે વધુ એક વખત ઈરાનની મુલાકાત લેવાની ઈચ્છા વ્યક્ત કરી હતી. જરથોસ્તી ધાર્મિક ગ્રંથો કહે છે કે આત્મા ઉત્તરી ઈરાનમાં અલ્બ્રોજ પર્વતમાળા દ્વારા બીજી દુનિયામાં જાય છે. તેઓનો જીવાત્મા હવે ઈરાન જશે.

તેમની લહેરાતી સફેદ દાઢી અને તેજસ્વી ચહેરા સાથે, તેમણે દુર્લભ ધર્મનિષ્ઠા પ્રગટ કરી અને ફક્ત તેમની હાજરીમાં રહેવું નમ્ર અને વિસ્મય પ્રેરણાદાયક હતું.

તેમનો પવિત્ર આત્મા આધ્યાત્મિક જગતમાં પ્રગતિ કરે અને આપણા બધાને આશીર્વાદ આપે.

મહાત્મા ગાંધી દ્વારા વણાયેલી ખદર સાડી, બેલગામના ભાઘા પરિવાર દ્વારા અલ્પાઈવાલા મ્યુઝિયમને ભેટ

કોમોડોર મેડિઓમા ભાઘા, ભાઘા પરિવાર વતી, તાજેતરમાં તેમના લગ્ન પર મહાત્મા ગાંધી દ્વારા તેમની માતા - માણેકબાઈ સિયાવક્સા ભાઘાને ભેટમાં આપેલી ખદર સાડી દાનમાં આપવામાં આવી. આ ૧૯૩૦માં ઐતિહાસિક ઢાંડી કૂચમાં તેના થનાર પતિ - સિયાવક્સા ભાઘા સાથેની તેણીની સહભાગિતાની માન્યતા હતી અને બ્રિટિશ સરકાર દ્વારા તેમની અનુગામી કેદ. ખદર સાડી મહાત્મા ગાંધી દ્વારા કાતવામાં આવેલા દોરામાંથી વણવામાં આવી હતી અને પોતે મહાત્મા દ્વારા માણેકબાઈ સિયાવક્સા ભાઘાને આપવામાં આવી હતી.

આ એક અદભુત પ્રેરણાદાયી, ઐતિહાસિક, ભેટ છે જે એકાદી અલ્પાઈવાલા કલેક્શનને મોટા પ્રમાણમાં વધારશે અને મ્યુઝિયમના સંગ્રહમાં ઐતિહાસિક મૂલ્ય ઉમેરશે. અમને ખરેખર ગર્વ છે કે ભાઘા પરિવારે આ અમૂલ્ય ભેટ માટે પ્રાપ્તકર્તા તરીકે એકાદી અલ્પાઈવાલા મ્યુઝિયમને પસંદ કર્યું છે, ફિરોઝા જે ગોદરેજ અને ફિરોઝા પંથકી મિસ્ત્રીએ શેર કર્યું.





ZOROASTRIAN TRUST FUNDS OF INDIA

COMMUNITY FIRST

ZTFI: Bringing Light Into The Lives Of Countless

All through humanity's most pronounced darkness that is the pandemic, the ZTFI (Zoroastrian Trust Funds of India) - the community foremost non-profit organisation, has been at the helm of bringing light into the lives of innumerable community members by helping them through their various predicaments by providing timely help and relief.

For over a decade now, ZTFI has been dedicated to ease the sufferings of our not-so-fortunate *Humdins* via its numerous programs. ZTFI has been providing comprehensive support in the form of distribution of food grains, medical aid, medical reimbursements as well as monetary funding.

"We never stopped helping, even through the pandemic. We knew that this was their darkest hour and they needed all the support they could get. Through these tough times, we ensured a constant supply of consumables, medicine, utilities or any other thing by funding them as well, so that they could have the means to take care of themselves through the lockdown when movement was restricted," explains Yasmin Mistry. Hence, every single beneficiary received monetary help every month without fail! And this was in addition to the monthly rations!

"It has been possible to provide this level of financial support only due to the generosity of our donors, who placed their faith in us, for which I am truly grateful. Despite going through these stressful times and facing constraints themselves, our donors stepped up to the plate, to ensure no community member slept with their plate empty!" adds Yasmin. Donors were also provided 100% transparency with regard to the details of how and where their funds were employed, thereby invoking an even greater sense of faith in both - donors and recipients.

As things are opening up, ZTFI has been resuming its normal philanthropic activities, with ZTFI frontrunner - Yasmin Mistry and her mother and ZTFI Trustee, the legendary Arnavaz Mistry - known for her inexhaustible community service and humanitarian initiatives.



Happy Diwali And New Year To All!

**May The Light Of The New Year Take Away All The Darkness And
Bless Us With The Best Of Health And Abundant Happiness!**



FOR DETAILS:

Phones: 9619909261 / 8657558285 / 9594899213

Email: admin@ztfi.org

Address: 218, Shilpin Centre, Commercial Premises Co-op Society Ltd. Dr. Ambedkar Road, Wadala, Mumbai - 400031

એક નજર પારસી મરણો ઉપર

Table with 5 columns: Deceased (મરનાર), Age (વય), Date (તારીખ), Address (ર. કે.), Relations (સગાઈઓ). Rows include Banoo Phiroze Patel, Ervad Asphandiar Rustomji Dadachanji, Franak Siavax Sinor, Rutty Pallonji Kheshwalla, Nouzer Furdoonji Mistry, Happy Burjorji Mewawala, Roshan Mehli Zack, Behroz Keki Marker, Mehroo Rusi Writer, Noshir Shavaksha Contractor, Nargis Noshir Homji, Dhun Peshoton Patrawala, Khodi Aspandiar Irani, Dara Rustomji Billimoria, Kaity Nariman Ghandhi.

Death Announcements From Prayer Hall

Table with 5 columns: Deceased, Age, Date, Address, Relations. Row: Jerbanoo Gustad Irani, 78, 22.10.2021, Merwanjee Cama Park CHS, K-2, 6th Flr., No. 64, Cama Road, Andheri (W.), Mumbai 58.

Death Announcements From Poonaa

Table with 5 columns: Deceased, Age, Date, Address, Relations. Rows: Pervez Hormazdiar Kayani, 70, 26.10.2021, 301 Peninsula Apts, 38 Gidney Park, Pune-411037; Roshan Pithawalla, 74, 22.10.2021, C-202, Suyog Paradise, Amba Vatika, Nibm Road, Kondhwa, Pune 411 048.

Being Single Can Be A Choice!



VEERA SHROFF SANJANA

The last few decades have seen a significant rise in Singledom... a product of choice, priorities, divorce and the upswing trend of live-in relationships. More and more women are opting for an independent lifestyle without the constraints of marriage. In India it is noteworthy to accept that one does not only marry the person, but the family as well. Despite being the perfect catch, many opt out of a commitment that marriage entails.

Women have chosen the term 'single' over the term 'spinster'... frankly no longer in use. It's misogynist undertones of sour desiccation and bumbling hopelessness has paved the way for 'Happily Single', 'Strong and Single', or 'Mindfully Single', instead. Single people need to find their constructive identity. The percentage of never-married singles in their 40s has doubled and it's no longer just a western phenomenon. Singleness is no longer to be sneered at. Never marrying or taking a long-term partner is a valid choice.

Our notions of spinsterhood were often based on a literary diet of romantic novels where single women were alternatively laughed at or pitied for their vindictive vendettas and outsized jealousies born out of their need for significance in a world that had no use for them. They were figures of fun and frustration, not women of strong independent and ambitious paths.

So, what are the factors that contribute to this choice or preference for being single?
Other Priorities: In this day and age, if you cannot commit to a relationship because you have more essential priorities there's nothing to be embarrassed about. In fact,



rather than inviting heartbreak and messiness of divorce, it's downright admirable to be forthright from the start. If other things occupy your time and energy, it's fair not to put them off only for a relationship. There is a high probability you may be fixated on them for a reason... elderly parents, co-dependents, career ambition, financial stability any number of reasons could factor into your choice.

You are expecting someone deserving of all your fabulousness: Women know their worth. We walk heads and shoulders with most men. Women are aware of what they deserve and shy away from a relationship where they are only settling. Your kind of magnificence and drive deserves someone who can match up. There is no merit in envisaging a future with a person where there are seriously no benefits or satisfaction.

Women are lesser intimidated: Women are not easily intimidated anymore, therefore putting up with a level of immaturity or sexist attitudes no longer works. Women have grown wiser to manipulators, liars, cheaters, hypocrites and anything that identifies a fake person.

There is no Prince Charming and fairytales are what you make of them: That is not to say that women do not believe

in the happily-ever-after. Marriages and relationships work, but these need two people to commit, trust and love. If you've not found your prince charming, then that's alright too. Single women seek a deep, meaningful and successful relationship that entails much more than simply spending time with an attractive guy. As you grow up, you realise that the world is just as beautiful despite not having someone to share every minute of every day with. Sometimes, that in itself proves



to be a blessing, than carrying the weight of a burdensome relationship!

It's hard to let in someone into your space if you are already living your best life possible: It's truly hard to have anyone else in the picture if your life is one fabulous adventure, as is. While you may still want a partner, the reality of them transforming it, may hold you back for sure. Being

enthusiastic about singledom is not to be viewed as a bad thing. More and more people are in fact enthusiastic about single living.

Figuring out your sexuality: A lot of folk are coming out of the closet. Often, people are unsure about their sexual orientation or are aware but were reluctant to express it. You need time figuring it all out and that's fine too. Rather than making a wrong choice or towing the line being single but happy, seems a sensible choice.

Past relationship holds you back: Maybe you're hesitant to embrace a new love because you are frightened of being hurt again or are still hopeful of reconciling with your ex. Often, the trauma/ baggage of a past relationship could prove to be a deterrent. With deep scars and raw wounds, healing could take a while. Despite a separation or a divorce, young, single-again women refuse to pursue committed relationships

for the fear of being hurt again. Sometimes you hang on to a past relationship in the hope of a reconciliation. Many women find themselves hanging on to a past relationship, convinced nothing better exists or can exist. They refuse to let the embers die out instead, dwelling on it constantly in the hope of igniting it again.

You tend to intimidate men! Gone are the days when women downplayed their intelligence. Most women are undeniably conscious of their strength and cannot downplay either their objectives or accomplishments merely to make a guy feel less inferior. Women refuse to behave as if they are ignorant and foolish to boost a man's confidence. Women feel it's their birth-right to spend their time and energy on a deserving companion, a worthy partner. one capable of deserving their respect and admiration.

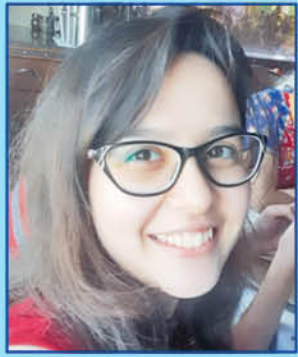
You don't need a man to validate your life! Nowadays, women do not go chasing men to seek validation in their life. To don those sneakers and run after men seems a rather unproductive way of spending valuable time. Women have become more aware of what they need and what they want. They are not afraid to chase their dreams, aspirations and ambitions instead. They'd rather spend time in fruitful pursuits living life on their own steam, rather than a life fettered to a man just for the sake of it or because society demands it.

If you do have a friend or colleague who is single, do not go wishing she gets her other half soon - instead, applaud her for being the whole person she is!

SUDOKU SOLUTION

6	5	9	4	3	1	2	7	8
4	7	2	8	6	9	5	3	1
3	1	8	7	2	5	4	6	9
9	2	4	1	7	8	3	5	6
5	3	7	2	9	6	8	1	4
1	8	6	5	4	3	9	2	7
8	9	1	6	5	2	7	4	3
7	6	5	3	8	4	1	9	2
2	4	3	9	1	7	6	8	5

Why Art's Off The Resume!



FREYAN S. WADIA

School Art Week, circa 2012:

I'm trying very hard to keep a straight face as our vice principal takes a tour of our class. My palms are sweating and every now and then, I'm on the verge of hysteria. Out of the corner of my eye, I see Mrs. Thakur nod approvingly at Preeti's handmade doll, draped in sparkly cloth... delicately tinted tissue paper for the skin and yellow wool for the hair, apparently.

I look down at my hands, clumsily moulding the giant wad of purple clay I brought from home. I had known it was doll-making day and had brought along a tub of clay and some rags, but I hadn't planned its execution. I had forgotten that human figurines aren't usually purple. So far, the... thing comprises two bulges - one for the head and the other makes up for the rest. It somewhat reminds me of the head and the cephalothorax of an arachnid, but it is doll-making day, not manic-spider-genesis phase (though that sounds a lot more interesting).

Our art teacher, Ms. Jaya, is escorting the vice-principal, a smile plastered on her face as her best students put up beautiful figurines that will, no doubt, be put up for the exhibition. She glances over at the mess on my table and I see a flicker of despair cloud her features. I am usually responsible for her despair. I put on my best poker face and look like I'm working hard not to decapitate my creation. I don't know how God created people, but it's a blooming miracle that heads aren't rolling like bowling balls in an alley. Except when there's a dictator in sight, I guess.

"Beautiful work, Uma," says our art teacher. "The tie-dye



dress suits the doll perfectly."

Uma is beaming like an LED, throwing light on my station four tables away. It is a beautiful doll and Uma is a brilliant artist. I just wish she hadn't raised the bar so high. I wrap the whole thing in a page I tore from my rough book - a purple doll simply wouldn't do. I borrow a bit of brown clay from Arya. Hastily moulding the clay into roughly the dimensions of a coin, I stick it - KER-SPLAT- on what is supposed to be the face of the unearthly being I have brought into existence. This time, borrowing a fat marker from Arya - she's a life-saver, I know - I scrawl a pair of eyes, a nose and a smiling mouth as best as I can. Which is not very good at all.

My sweaty fingers drape the cloth from an old pillowcase around Ursula - that's what I decided to call her - and mummify all, but the face.

"Arya, d'you happen to have Sellotape? Just need to make sure all this cloth doesn't fall off her. Can't have Thakur looking at the ruled paper underneath," I laugh nervously.

Arya shakes her head and hands me a roll of tape that I

fumble with. You know, along with Math and Science and other such rot they teach us here, they should also have a 'How to find the opening of a tape and save minutes of your tiny worthless life'. Yeah, I know, I'm pretty cynical for a ten-year-old, pardon. Art week brings out the worst in me.

I manage to tape down the clothes just as Mrs. Thakur and Ms. Jaya waltz over.

"Very good," says Mrs. Thakur to Arya, who gives her a bright smile characteristic of

confident students. Thakur's eyes run over Ursula bulging at the centre like a figurine that downed too many Oreo cookies in too short a span of time. The misshapen eyes, the twisted lips and vacant expression are possibly the reasons behind her suppressed shudder. Mrs. Thakur walks past me, pretending she hasn't seen it, closely followed by Ms. Jaya, whose smile seemed more like a grimace of pain. I look at Ursula, wait for the teachers to get out of earshot and put my head on the desk.

"Are you crying?" comes Arya's concerned voice as my manic hiccupping takes over the silence between us.

Tears were streaming down my eyes, but I wasn't crying.

"Did you see her face?! Thakur's face?" I manage to gasp out through the bout of laughter. "That was hilarious! Oh my gourd! I'm dying!"

It is not the first time Arya watches me as though she has been placed beside a potential loony-bin escapee. She shrugs and goes back to her work as I

slump in my seat and wait for the hysteria to wear off.

The Nearby Colony, 4:00 PM
I bound up to the house on the ground floor, chirping with delight. My grandmother - small, plump and dimpled, is a ready recipient of all my unworldly artistic creations. Her wall is lined with the paintings of 'Ballet Dancer With Oversized Head'; 'Dog With Five Legs' and 'The Pomfret Mermaid'. Thank goodness I'd covered them in glitter!!

"Mamaiji, do you want to see the doll I made in school?"

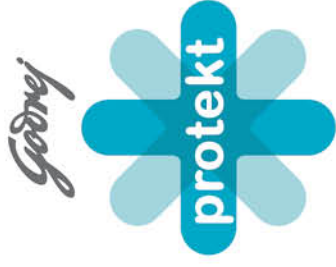
"Of course, show me!" says the picture of grandmotherly affection, her eyes brightening and dimples showing as she beams.

"Meet Ursula!"

Her smile fades as she casts eyes on the doll. She holds the surface of the table for support and sits down in a nearby chair. She looks up at my grandfather and says what I distinctly hear as, "Marere, Sarosh! Aay to voodoo doll laaveech!!"



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