

Participate in PT's

Jamshedi Navroz 2023 Contest



Contest 1:

Write Your Take

Name The 'Top 3 Zoroastrian Traits' and share your reasons why. You could write in Poetry or Prose form, and submit it in maximum 120 words.

Contest 2:

'Cliq-A-Pic'



Theme:

'Celebrating Parsipanu!'

Submit it with
a Fun Caption!

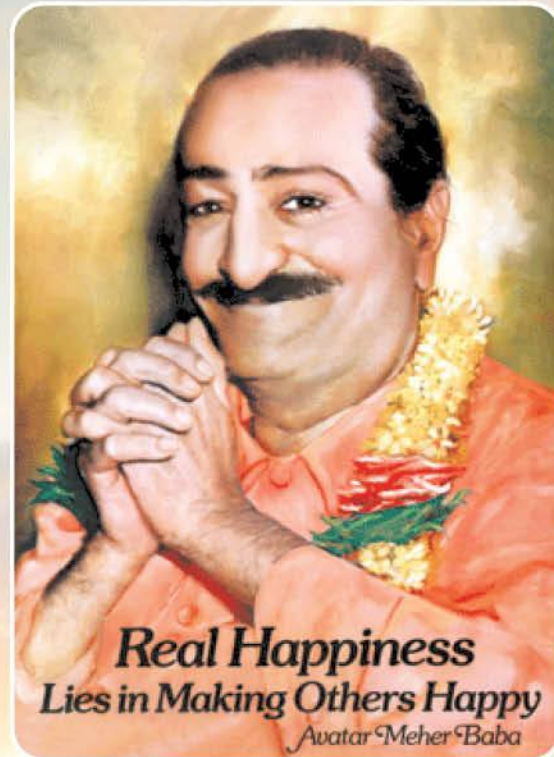
**Top 5 Entries Will Win
Bumper Prizes &
Get Published In Our
Jamshedi Navroz Special Issue
dated 18th March, 2023!!**

So, get cracking and mail us
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editor@parsi-times.com

**Ensure that your entries reach us
latest by 5th March, 2023**



**Happy Birthday To our Dearest
Meher Baba**



**Real Happiness
Lies in Making Others Happy**
Avatar Meher Baba

Few Quotes from Meher Baba

- I have come Not to Teach but to Awaken..
- Births and deaths are illusory phenomena." One really dies when one is born to live as God, the Eternal, Who is beyond both birth and death."
- Real Happiness lies in making others Happy.
- "Presence is more than just being there."
- "Suffering is essential for the elimination of the ego, just as it was necessary for you to scrub and scrub in order to wash the stain from my coat."
- I am nearer to you than your own breath
- Remember me & I am with you & my Love will guide you.

BELOVED MEHER BABA





FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Find A Way, Not An Excuse!

Dear Readers,

A few days ago, an elderly lady called up to voice her concern about a community trait that she found increasingly disturbing. "Isn't it a little selfish that these days an increasing number of community members seem to pay visits to Agiaries and Atashbehrams only on special days and occasions?" she asked. "Some come only because they are facing hardships and they hope that our divine energies will help in the recovery and restoration of their unfortunate situations. And rarely do our divine energies disappoint when we ask for their help, immaterial of whether we pray from a temple or our homes, as long as we pray with a clean heart," she continued.

"Have we as a community become so selfishly busy that we only manage to pay our respects to the holy fire in our temples on particular occasions? This is ingratitude. And this is definitely not why our forefathers risked their lives to save the holy fire and fought against all odds and limitations to resurrect our religion in another country! Will you please write on this?" she insisted.

She definitely made a strong point. Unlike our previous generations, who habitually (even daily) visited the fire-temple, the current generations seem to be missing out. But life has become too hectic and stressful today... and between handling the work front and the home front, there's precious little time remaining for much else! Which unfortunately is the even greater irony, because this is when those visits, however short, would provide much 're-charge' to one's exhausted body, spirit and soul!

There is no denying the very palpable feeling of positivity and peace that simply embraces you when you set foot inside a place of worship. You can feel the exhaustion and pain and negativity drain away from within, even as the positive vibes take over. You feel more connected to your Maker and just a few moments of that focused meditation renews your sense of hope - it helps you uncover a deeper meaning to life and shows you the temporary nature of your current problems or dark moments.

The powerful divine energy in our fire-temples rejuvenates your sense of purpose and your identity as a Zarthosti, washing away all doubts, dilemmas and purposelessness. A sense of peace comes over, strengthening your spiritual growth. No one has ever left a place of worship feeling as despondent or depressed or confused as when they entered. Going often to the Agiary also fosters a sense of community and belonging - and it keeps you in touch with our ever helpful priests!

Many faiths have a weekly ritual of visiting their place of worship. As followers of Ahura Mazda and worshippers of the ultimate truth, light and wisdom, having a 'weekly mandatory day' of visiting our fire-temples was not considered necessary. It was assumed our better senses would ensure regular, if not daily, visits. But somewhere, in this rat race, we have forgotten, and therefore forfeited, the various, unconditional benefits we reap - physically, mentally and spiritually - when we set foot inside an Agiary or Atashbehram.

What stops us then, from continuing the wonderful tradition of paying our respects more regularly to our Agiaries? Like they say, "Find a way, not an excuse!"

Have a wonderful weekend!

- Anahita
anahita@parsi-times.com

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Religious Announcements

Meher Mahino Jashan At M N Sett Agiary

The Meher Mahino Jashan will be celebrated at Seth Maneckji Nowroji Sett Agiary (located at Bazar Gate Street, Fort) on 27th February, 2023 (Roj Meher - Mah Meher; YZ 1392), at 9:30 am. All Humdins are warmly invited.

Sarosh Roj Jashan & Humbandagi At Dadysett Agiary

The Trustees of Dadysett Agiary (Fountain) will organise a Sarosh Roj Jashan at 4:30pm, followed by a Humbandagi by Er. Darayesh R Katrak, on 28th February, 2023. Light refreshments will be served thereafter. All Parsi/ Irani Zoroastrians are cordially invited to attend.

Sethna Agiary Celebrates Salgreh

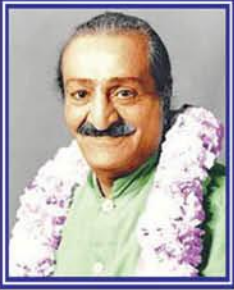
M B Saith's Fire Temple, or Sethna Agiary (located opposite Bhatia Hospital), will celebrate its salgreh on 3rd March, 2023 (Roj Behram, Mah Meher; YZ 1392), with a Jashan in the morning at 9:30 am. All Zoroastrians are welcome to attend.

Behram Roj Jashan & Humbandagi At Dadysett Atash Behram

A Behram Roj Jashan will be organised at Dadysett Atash Behram (Fanasvadi) on 3rd March, 2023, at 5:00 pm, followed by a Humbandagi by Er. Darayesh R. Katrak, at the Behram Yazad Shrine. He will then deliver a religious talk. Light refreshments will be served. All Parsi/ Irani Zoroastrians are cordially invited.

Religious TV Series

Frohar Films presents 'Vohumana': Episode on 'Monajato Yane Bhakti Geeto [Devotional Songs]', on 25th February, 2023, at 1:30 pm on DD - Girnar channel. Monajat titles include: 'Atash Tu Ahura Ni Noori Nishan'; 'Yazado Ma Yazad Tu... Sauthi Avval Yazad Tu'; 'Humata hukhta hvarshata nu gyan didhu amne pygumbere Mahan'; 'Ava Ardvishur Banoo Parab'.



AVATAR MEHER BABA BOMBAY CENTRE 129th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Avatar Meher Baba

TODAY, 25th February 2023 - MORNING PROGRAM

TIME : 4:30 a.m. to 6:30 a.m.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS : Devotional songs, dhun, repetition of the names of God, prayers, flag hoisting and arti.

TODAY, 25th February 2023 - EVENING PROGRAM

TIME : 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS : Shri Pramod and Shri Alok Dhapre, long-time followers of Beloved Baba will present a musical followed by prayers and arti.

TOMORROW, 26th February 2023 - EVENING PROGRAM

TIME : 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS : Shri Pratap and Shri Prashant Ahir, long-time followers of Beloved Baba will share their experiences through music and talk followed by prayers and arti.

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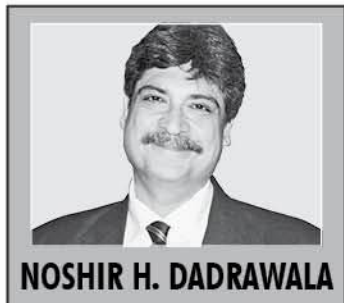
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NOSHIR H. DADRAWALA

In keeping with readers writing in questions seeking answers to their various religious and cultural queries, scholar in Zoroastrian religion and culture - Noshir Dadrawala, responds...

Queries from Parsi Times reader Adil Kasad:

1. Is it true that only the *Atash Nyaish* can be prayed in front of the *kebla*, and that other *Nyaish* cannot be prayed in front of the *kebla* but can be prayed at other place where the holy fire is not kept?
2. From childhood, we are told that we should pray sitting / standing at one place only and not keep moving, as the effects of prayers gets diminished. What is the remedy because if we adhere to one tradition we will be breaking the other?
3. What about the *Dasturji / Mobed* who prays other the *Nyaish* in front of *kebla*? Is it that the *Dasturji / Mobed* are allowed to pray *Nyaish* in front of *kebla* but the *behdins* are not?

Noshir Dadrawala Responds:

It is important to understand and to be aware of the fact that *Nyaish* is a litany to various Divine forces. For example, the *Khurshed Nyaish* is a litany to the Sun while the *Meher Nyaish* is a litany to the rays of the sun or sunlight. Both

Your Religious Queries Answered



these *Nyaish* are considered as *Farazyat* or obligatory prayers to be prayed daily. The *Avan Nyaish* is a litany to the waters. The *Mah Bakhtar Nyaish* is litany to the moon and *Atash Nyaish* is litany to the fire.

There are rules pertaining to reciting these litanies. For example, the *Khurshed* and *Meher Nyaish* should be recited only during daytime when the sun and sunlight is visible. Similarly, it is forbidden to pray the *Avan Nyaish* at night or to disturb any natural water body at night. However, the *Mah Bakhtar Nyaish* and *Atash Nyaish* can be prayed during daytime as well as at night.

Ideally, every *Nyaish* should be prayed facing the Divinity that is being propitiated. Thus, the *Khurshed* and *Meher Nyaish* should be prayed facing the sun or the direction of the sun during the daytime. The *Avan Nyaish* should be prayed before a natural body of water (e.g., near a well) while the *Atash Nyaish* should be prayed facing the fire.

When Visiting A Fire Temple...

When we pay a visit to the fire-temple, after performing the *Padyaab Kushti*,

the devotee should find a suitable corner from where he or she could pray the *Sarosh Baaj*, the appropriate *Geh* and pray the *Khurshed* and *Meher Nyaish*, facing the sun or sunlight. If the devotee wishes to pray the *Avan Nyaish*, he or she may proceed towards the well in the compound

of the *Agyari* or/and offer litany to the waters. After this, the devotee may walk inside the building and facing the fire, offer litany to the Holy Fire by chanting the *Atash Nyaish*, preferably standing. Thus, there is no need to stand or sit only in one place and offer all the prayers.

Kebla or *Kibla* is a sacred object or sacred place worthy of reverence. The sun and moon are a natural *Kebla* and it is only appropriate that litany is offered facing the right *Kebla*. As a human being, how would you like it if someone was talking to you but facing someone or something else? You would consider it rude, isn't it? It's the same with offering prayers. Face the appropriate *Kebla*.

With regard to the *tariquat* (spiritual discipline) of prayers, the same rules apply - be it for the priest or laity.

Pray With Joy And Gratitude...

What is important is to pray with joy, awareness and understanding. While

eating the right foods in the right way nourishes the body, chanting the right prayers in the right way nourishes the spirit.

When offering litany to the sun, the moon, water or fire know that you are offering gratitude and making an attempt to attune your Divine Essence with the Divine Essence of these life giving Energies of Nature.

While chanting prayers has a calming effect on the mind it also energises and harmonises body, mind and spirit creatively and positively.

There's also research backing the idea that meditation and prayer can trigger the release of feel-good chemicals in the brain. Dr. Loretta G. Breuning, founder of the Inner Mammal Institute and the author of 'The Science of Positivity' and 'Habits of a Happy Brain', explains that when we pray, we activate neural pathways that we developed when we were young, to release hormones such as oxytocin. 'Oxytocin' provides us with the 'feel good factor' despite living in a world of stress and uncertainty.



"Work For The Spiritual Freedom Of Humanity"

Avatar Meher Baba

25th February, 2023 marks the 129th Birth Anniversary of beloved Avatar Meher Baba. The following is a discourse given by Him on 'Spiritual Freedom':

All over the world, the spirit of man is crying out for freedom. Love of freedom and the search for freedom are principal characteristics of humanity. There are few persons, however, who really understand the full implications of true and unqualified freedom. Freedom to live as one wishes is sought in all spheres of life. This imperative demand for freedom usually expresses itself by fastening upon some external conditions of the kind of existence people wish to lead. Hence, those who identify their being with their country seek national

or political freedom; those animated by economic purposes seek economic freedom; those inspired by religious aspirations seek freedom of religion; those enthusiastic about sociological / cultural ideology seek freedom of movement and freedom to express the ideals that they cherish and wish to propagate.

There are few who realise that the basic freedom, which alone gives the stamp of true value to any of these different kinds of relative freedom, is Spiritual Freedom. An important condition of spiritual freedom is freedom from all wanting. It is want that fetters life through attachment to conditions that would fulfil that want. Without want, there is no dependence or limitation. Spiritual Freedom brings abiding happiness and unimpaired self-

knowledge. In spiritual freedom lies the final ending of sorrow and limitation, where one can live for all and yet be detached in the midst of all activities.

There's no gift greater than the gift of spiritual freedom and there is no task more important than the task of helping others achieve it. The way to help others attain spiritual freedom is far different from rendering other types of help. For the hungry you can provide food, for the naked you can provide clothes, for the homeless you can provide houses. For those living in agony of spiritual bondage, there's no ready-made provision that can give them immediate relief. Spiritual freedom has to be won by oneself for oneself through watchful and an unflinching war against the lower self and desires. Soldiers in the cause of Truth have to help all, in launching the

thrilling enterprise of attaining victory over themselves, as well as in every step towards that attainment. There is no other way of sharing their burden.

No sacrifice is too big to set man free from spiritual bondage and help him inherit the Truth, which alone shall bring abiding peace and sustain an unassailable sense of universal fellowship... cemented by the ungrudging love for all, as expressions of the same Reality. The Eternal Truth that God alone is real has to be clearly understood and unreservedly accepted, and it has to be unequivocally expressed through words and deeds. In the full realisation of the Truth, humanity shall attain spiritual freedom.

(- Avatar Meher Baba Bombay Centre, Mumbai)

Thane's Seth Cowasji Patell Agiary Celebrates 243rd Salgreh

PT Reporter: Khushroo P Mehta

20th February, 2023 celebrated the glorious 243rd Salgreh of Seth Cowasji Patell Agiary, located in Thane. The trustees of the Thana Agiary Fund invited all Parsi/Irani Zoroastrian residents to partake of the celebrations. The evening programme started with a Maachi at the Agiary offered by Er. Adil Sidhwa at 4:15 pm, followed by the Salgreh-nu-Jashan at 5:30 pm, performed by Er. Behramshaw Sidhwa, Er. Adil Sidhwa, Er. Kersi Sidhwa, Er. Adil Dastoor, Er. Syamak Dastoor and Er. Mehernosh Dastoor. Thereafter, the programme continued at the Agiary grounds.

A Humbandagi by Er. Adil Sidhwa had everyone on their feet, praying together.



Homi Talati - Chairman, Thana Agiary Fund gave the welcome speech, followed by the felicitation of Mobeds and Agiary staff. Next came the much-awaited part of the program looked forward to by Zarthosti student of Thane - the Education Financial Assistance Scheme (2022-23), where grants were distributed amongst 43 students, from tiny tots in junior KG to graduates.



Chief Guest, Justice Shahrukh J Kathawalla (Retd) spoke about the importance of Adar Roj, Adar Yazad and the enthronement of the Padshah saheb at Thane's Patell Agiary 243 years ago. He said though we were privileged to be born in the Parsi fold, one should not just bask in past glories, but take forward the vision of our forefathers to new heights. He spoke about giving importance to our religion and imbibing the same in our children, as well as the need to look after our priests - "No Priest, No Religion," he emphasized.

Next, Bomi Boyce read out the vote of thanks and welcomed the Zarthostis present to dinner which was prepared by Benaifer and Parvez Sidhwa of Bee's Kitchen.



Chenoy Agiary, Hyderabad, Celebrates 17 Years Of Weekly Humbandagi



On 20th February, 2023, the Humbandagi group of Bai Maneckbai N. Chenoy Agiary, in Hyderabad, completed 17 years of conducting weekly Humbandagi, at the Agiary premises, every Monday evening, at 7:00 pm. The Humbandagi was led by Head Priest - Er. Mehernosh Bharucha, followed by a short religious talk.

On the occasion of completing 17 years, the group arranged for a function, where post the usual Humbandagi prayers, Er. Dinshaw Surti, who will be relinquishing service at the Agiary on 31st March this year, expressed his appreciation for seventeen years of uninterrupted conduct of Humbandagi and hoped that more people would join the group. Er. Mehernosh Bharucha spoke of the initial hurdles faced in keeping the Humbandagi going for this long.

Hyderabad resident, Cyrus Tarapore

penned a poem on the occasion, which was much appreciated by all, where he appreciated the efforts of those taking the effort for seventeen years to keep the tradition going stronger than ever, and ended on the lovely note:

"Where faiths are many,
And our journey is one;
All reaching the same destination,
Why Fight over religion,
When God is one!"

Fram Desai then conducted fun games on the theme: Parsipanu, which were thoroughly enjoyed by all. In his vote of thanks, Fram Desai thanked Er. Mehernosh Bharucha for conducting the Humbandagi and the religious talks, as also Farida and Kerfegar Antia for keeping things going smoothly, in the absence of Er. Bharucha. The evening ended with snacks and the rendition of the Parsi Anthem, 'Chaiye Hame Zarathushti'.



Book Launch: 'The AI Interviewer: Product Manager Edition' By 'Global Talent' Rushad Heerjee



Tech genius, Rushad Heerjee, has recently penned 'The AI Interviewer: Product Manager Edition: 101 Questions and AI-Generated Solutions', an essential resource for mastering the product management interview process and standing out

from the competition, especially for experienced product leaders seeking change or aspiring product managers looking to break into a FAANG organization [(FAANG is an acronym for five of the best-performing tech-centric stocks of the past decade: Facebook (now Meta Platforms), Amazon, Apple, Netflix and Google (now Alphabet))]

With the introduction of ChatGPT (AI), the landscape of interviews are changing. It can be used to generate interview questions, help candidates prepare responses, and even simulate interview interactions. This book guides you through 101 of the most common product management interview questions and provides AI-generated example responses to help you understand how to approach and answer these. From strategy and vision to product development, analytics and data, and leadership and communication, you will gain a deeper

understanding of how to formulate your answers as well as the essential skills and competencies for product management interview success. It tells you why you should choose AI-generated answers over traditional 'industry expert' responses.

Rushad Heerjee is a Deployment Strategist at Palantir Technologies, where he has worked across APAC, EMEA and NA for organizations in aviation, cybersecurity and financial services. Earlier, Rushad led the product development of large technology solutions at Bank of America, Merrill Lynch and EY where he worked with clients including Wells Fargo and Santander. He holds a B.Sc degree in Computer Science and an M.Sc degree in Quantitative & Computational Finance from the Georgia Institute of Technology. He also has 2 pending patents and was endorsed by Tech Nation (the UK's technology governing body) as a 'Global Talent'.



The Kindle edition of the book is available on Amazon and priced at Rs. 449/-

FreshToHome Closes \$104MM In Series D Funding with Amazon Smbhav Venture Fund As Lead Investor

FreshToHome, the world's largest, fully integrated, online consumer brand, for preservative and antibiotic-residue free fresh fish and meat, has closed \$104 million in Series D funding with Amazon Smbhav Venture Fund, leading the round. Existing investors in FreshToHome including Iron Pillar, Investcorp, Investment Corporation of Dubai (the principal investment arm of the Government of Dubai), Ascent Capital and others have also participated in this round. New investors joining this round include E20 Investment Ltd, Mount Judi Ventures and Dallah Albaraka. JP Morgan was the placement agent to FreshToHome for the fundraise.

The current funding will strengthen FreshToHome's mission to make 100% preservative and antibiotic-residue free fish, seafood, and meat accessible and affordable to millions of meat lovers. Launched in 2015, FreshToHome operates in 160+ cities in India and the UAE and offers more than 2,000 certified fresh and chemical-free products.

Shan Kadavil, CEO & Co-founder, FreshToHome said, "We are excited to have Amazon Smbhav Venture Fund lead our Series

D funding round. FreshToHome has pioneered the revolution of making 100% preservative and antibiotic-residue free fresh fish, seafood, meat and meat products accessible and affordable to all and that is our biggest USP. We are now a 'Profcorn' with operational profitability across the company. As we strive to offer more value to our farmers and fishers, customers, employees and investors, our focus is on profitability and sustainable value creation."

FreshToHome's core strengths lie in its brand which is recognized for its quality and consumer trust and in its technology-enabled offering - *Commodities Exchange* - which empowers over 4,000+ fishers and farmers to electronically auction their produce for sale on www.FreshToHome.com. This process ensures that customers get the best products within 24 - 36 hours of sourcing. Additionally, an end-to-end cold supply chain and 100+ quality checks for standard chemicals, antibiotics, and preservatives, make FreshToHome the most reliable brand for preservative and antibiotic-residue free fresh fish and meat.

Advertorial

Vadodara Parsi Panchayat Holds Merit Awards Function

On 28th January, 2023, the Parsi Panchayat Charitable Fund Vadodara hosted a Merit Awards function for meritorious students of the community, during which it felicitated immediate past president, Baman R. Cama and past Trustees - Jahangir Parabia and Cyrus Bhesania, in the presence of Chief Guest - Brig. (Retd.) Jehangir P. Anklesaria (VSM), President of Ahmedabad Parsi.



Deserving students were conferred awards and scholarships in various fields. President of Vadodara Parsi Panchayat - Phiroz Patel, applauded the selfless service and dedication of Baman Cama, Jahangir Parabia and Cyrus Bhesania, and felicitated them. He also felicitated Chief Guest, Brig. Anklesaria, for his valour and courage serving the nation for thirty-five years in the Indian Army, especially during his posting at the Siachen glacier, the highest battlefield point in the world. For his acts of bravery, Brig. Anklesaria was also awarded the Vishist Seva Medal (VSM) by the President of India.

Baman Cama was felicitated with a shawl, a silver salver and a scroll of honour enumerating the services he rendered during his tenure as Panchayat Trustee and President. He was part of the team that

initiated the Merit Awards and Scholarships program in 1982, as also projects including the construction of the Dokhma Bangli, Renovation of Adariansaheb and Dharamshala Building, etc. He put in much effort to provide medical and financial aid to needy Humdins. Former President Jal Patel and community members- Dr. Minoo Patel, Cyrus Bhesania, Meher Ginwalla and Dilnaz Homawala expressed deep appreciation for his services.

The President then honoured Jahangir Parabia and Cyrus Bhesania with a garland, shawl and memento. Kaizad Engineer received a special award for academic and professional excellence in Remedial Engineering of Heritage Structures and for his honorary services to the panchayat. Compered by Trustee - Lt. Col. Adi Chinoy, the event ended with a vote of thanks by Aspi Vajifdar.



Dr. Keshmin Vesuna Awarded At National Physiotherapy Conference

Dr. Keshmin Vesuna was awarded for achieving third position at the 60th National Indian Association Of Physiotherapy Conference - 2023, for her scientific presentation in the 'Orthopaedics and Sports Category' (post-graduate). Held at Ahmedabad, on 11th and 12th February, 2023, Dr. Vesuna's entry was selected from over 70 entries received from across India.

The Inauguration Ceremony commenced with a live address by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The occasion was also graced by dignitaries including Chief Minister of Gujarat - Bhupendra Patel, Dr. Emma Strokes - President, World Physiotherapy Association; Dr. Jonathon Kruger - CEO, World Physiotherapy Association; and Dr. Sanjiv K. Jha - President, Indian Association of Physiotherapy, amongst many other

renowned, senior physiotherapists from across the globe.

The daughter of proud parents, Ferzeen and Sarosh Vesuna, Keshmin and her family are based in Baroda, Gujarat. Here's congratulating Dr. Keshmin Vesuma on her achievement and on doing the community proud and wishing her the best for her future accomplishments!

Tata's TCS Will Not Retrench Employees, Looking To Hire Fired Talent During Global Layoffs!

Despite the global firing spree taking place among major companies in India and the world over, Indian behemoth Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) will not be considering any layoffs, much to the relief of its employees, and will announce hikes similar to previous years.

While several of the world's IT big guns have been axing employees over the past few months, TCS, part of the Tata Group, is looking to onboard startup talent, which comes as good news for so many such who have recently been rendered jobless due to the worldwide layoffs in the job market.

TCS CHRO (Chief Human Resources Officer) - Milind Lakkad, said that TCS believes in grooming talent for longer careers once it recruits a new employee. Furthermore,



TCS, which has over 6 lakh employees, will announce hikes similar to previous years for its workforce.

On hiring people who have lost their jobs, Lakkad said that with layoffs in different sectors, especially EdTech, it looks to hire people who have been impacted by the retrenchment. "It is a very large canvas, we are doing exciting work across different industries in different technologies. I think all of that requires some phenomenal talent to come in and participate. We are getting it obviously from startups, people who have actually done

some good work in those companies and have short-term career challenges," he said.

TCS is specifically looking to recruit talent in AI (Artificial Intelligence), User Experience Design, several cloud and product experience-linked profiles. It has recruited over 2 lakh people in the past year, including 1.19 lakh trainees and expects to recruit 40,000 trainees in FY 2024.

The CHRO further said that TCS is open to workers of Indian diaspora in the US who were laid off by tech majors and are forced to return to India due to visa conditions. It wants to bring the overall share of its American employees in the US down, from 70 to 50 per cent, and also wants to bring global opportunities to its employees in India.



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Boman Irani's Emotional Note To Son Kayoze On His Directorial Debut

Iconic actor, Boman Irani's son, Kayoze Irani, is set to direct his first feature film and the proud father took to social media to share his good wishes for his son, last week. He shared some pics on his Instagram handle with wife Zenobia and Kayoze, wishing him the best of luck, "Our son Kayoze leaves today for his directorial debut for his feature film. Blessings son. Do send us photos of the first day of the shoot."



family. All the best dear brother ."

Kayoze Irani has previously directed 'Ankahi' from Netflix anthology 'Ajeeb Dastaans' and has also been an Assistant Director in many films from the Dharma Productions camp. He also appeared in Karan Johar's film, 'Student of the Year' (2012) as an actor, alongside Sidharth Malhotra, Alia Bhatt and Varun Dhawan. As per an ANI report, Janhvi Kapoor will feature in Kayoze's upcoming film.

Meanwhile Boman Irani fans are anxiously awaiting to see him in Rajkumar Hirani's Shah Rukh Khan-starrer film, 'Dunki', scheduled to be released in December, 2023.

Not surprisingly, within a few minutes, industry friends took to the comment section also sharing their best wishes for Kayoze. Vicky Kaushal was the first ones to comment, dropping a few heart emojis in the comment box. Choreographer-filmmaker Farah Khan wrote, "All the best Kayo.. n lots of love to the proud parents." Anil Kapoor also dropped a heart emoji. Dia Mirza wrote, "All the best Kayo @kayo." Neil Nitin Mukesh commented, "Heartiest congratulations to you and the entire

Farah Titina Wins 'Emerging Ad Queen of the Year' At Tycoon Global Achiever Awards

Actor Farah Titina, an Actor received the 'Emerging Ad Queen of the Year' Award, at the Grand Tycoon Global Achievers Awards, held recently in Mumbai. Organised by Tycoon Global Media, the glamorous awards night was attended by numerous celebrities from Bollywood and other industries, including award recipients - Anupam Kher, Vardhan Puri, Bosco Martin, Darshan Kumar, Anees Bazmee, Neil Nitin Mukesh, Vishal Furia, Raaj Shaandilya, Warda Nadiadwala, Divya Khosla, Anil Sharma and Murad Khetani.



Other attendees included business tycoons Varun Chaudhary - MD, CG Corp Global; Shhyam Singhania - Chairman, Enarr Capital and Jayesh Choudhary - Director, Nakoda Group of Industries, alongside a number of television stars and socialites and a galaxy of stars from the Film, TV, Business and Advertising fraternity.

digital and electronic media) for brands including Santoor, Reliance Jio, Renault, Nikon, Vedanta Group, Panasonic, Caratlane by Tanishq, Tata Salt, Godrej Interio, Flipkart, Ola, Jeevansaathi, Himalaya Kajal, Wai Wai noodles, Imagica, etc. She is also slated to appear in a feature film and music videos.

Tycoon Global Achievers Awards aims at providing deserved recognition for achievers with stories of commendable grit and persistence. Founder and Editor, Sanjeev Jain shared, "Our mission is to touch and change millions of lives and their entrepreneurial journeys."

Farah Titina was awarded the 'Emerging Ad Queen of the Year' Award for having acted in around 100 advertisements to date. She is a trained theatre artist and has appeared in several advertisements for the print and

SII To Set Up CoE in Infectious Diseases And Pandemic Preparedness In Hyderabad



IT Minister K.T. Rama Rao with Serum Institute CEO Dr Adar Poonawalla and Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan. (DC file image)

Serum Institute of India, the world's largest producers of vaccines, in terms of volumes, announced the establishment of its Dr. Cyrus Poonawalla Center of Excellence in Infectious Diseases and Pandemic Preparedness, at Hyderabad on 19th February, 2023. The announcement came in post Minister KT Rama Rao's virtual meeting with Adar Poonawalla, CEO, SII.

This centre will be located at the Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH-H) in Hyderabad, which is one of five institutions established by the Public Health Foundation across the country. It aims to strengthen health systems for better planning and performance and to also align multi-sectoral policies and programmes to public health objectives.

"This centre will offer a variety of services, including Public health education and outreach, Monitoring and tracking of infectious diseases, Coordination of response efforts with local healthcare providers, Provision of information and support for individuals and families affected by epidemic. Telangana is dedicated to providing its residents with a high quality of life and a bright future," said Dr. Poonawalla.

"Telangana strengthens its position as Life Sciences hub. @SerumInstIndia, the largest vaccine manufacturer, announced the establishment of Dr Cyrus Poonawalla Center of Excellence in Infectious Diseases and Pandemic Preparedness in Hyderabad," tweeted Rama Rao, following the announcement.

SII is world's largest vaccine manufacturer by number of doses produced and sold globally (more than 1.5 billion doses) against polio, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, Hib, BCG, r-Hepatitis B, measles, mumps, rubella as well as pneumococcal and Covid-19. Vaccines manufactured by the Serum Institute are accredited by the World Health Organization, Geneva and are being used in around 170 countries across the globe in their national immunization programs, saving millions of lives throughout the world.



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| Lassi (India) | Orange Juice (USA) | Coffee (Ethiopia) | Air Mata Kucing (Malaysia) |
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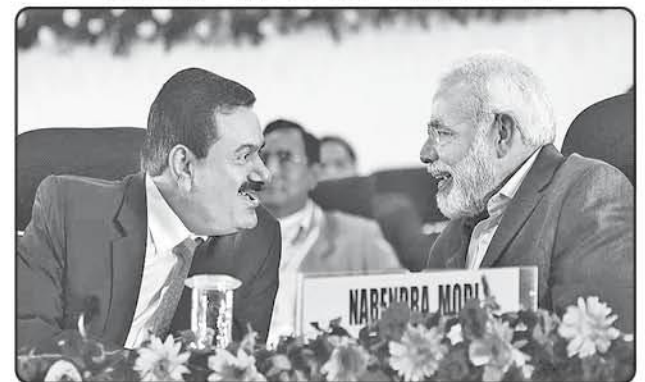
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SHARUKH: 'PATHAN' dekh ke sab logon ne ki 'Wah! Wah!!'
 SALMAN: Asli 'BIGG BOSS' mein hi hun - ye bhoor mat ja!
 AMITABH: Rishtey mein to hum tumhare baap lagtey hai - naam hai 'SHAHENSHAH'!!!

By Dezadd Dotiwalla

CAPTION THIS!



Calling all our readers to caption this picture!

Send in your captions at editor@parsi-times.com by 1st Mar., 2023.

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

We invite our readers to contribute funny / interesting pics that we could use for the 'CAPTION THIS' Contest.

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.

Thought of the Week

"Life's not about expecting, hoping and wishing, it's about doing, being and becoming."

- Mike Dooley

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: 8 or more words

Outstanding: 9 or more words



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

પારસી ટાઈમ્સ

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યંગ રથેસ્ટાર્સ ગ્રામીણ ગુજરાતના પારસીઓ માટે રાહત લાવે છે



યંગ રથેસ્ટાર્સનો ગુજરાત ગરીબી રાહત પ્રોજેક્ટ - દાદર પારસી કોલોનીમાંથી આપણા સમુદાયના અગ્રણી સામાજિક કલ્યાણ સંઘે - ૧ ફેબ્રુઆરીથી ૪ ફેબ્રુઆરી, ૨૦૨૩ દરમિયાન અન્ય એક સફળ વાર્ષિક ખાદ્ય વિતરણ શિબિરનું આયોજન કર્યું હતું. યંગ રથેસ્ટાર્સના દિગ્ગજ - અરનવાઝ મિસ્ત્રી, લોમિયાર ડોક્ટર, શિરાઝ ગાર્ડ અને અસ્પી એલાવ્યા - આપણા સમુદાયના વંચિત સભ્યોના ભરણપોષણ માટેના પુરવઠા સાથે ગ્રામીણ ગુજરાતના અંતરિયાળ વિસ્તારોમાં મુસાફરી કરી હતી. ગુજરાત ગરીબી રાહત પ્રોજેક્ટ બે દાયકાના વધુ સમયથી કાર્યરત છે.

દર વર્ષે, બોરભાથા, ઈલાવ, માંડવી, આંબાપારડી ગામડાઓમાં રહેતા ગરીબ પારસી પરિવારો સુધી પહોંચવા અને તેમને રાહત આપવાના ઉદ્દેશ સાથે યંગ રથેસ્ટાર્સના ટ્રસ્ટીઓ ગુજરાતના અંતરિયાળ ગામોની મુલાકાત લે છે. આંબાવાડી, વરેટપેટીયા, સથવાવ, ઘોઘંબા, જાખરડા, વાંકલ, બોરીયા, ઝંખવાવ, લવેટ, ચોખવડા, સાણંધરા, માડી, અઢાખોલ, બાવદા અને ખંભાત. પારસી પરિવારોને સદરા, ૧૦ લિટર તેલ, વિવિધ પ્રકારના કઠોળ, અનાજ, ઘરની વસ્તુઓ, ચાદર, ચા, ખાંડ વગેરે આપવામાં આવ્યા હતા.



દર વર્ષે, યંગ રથેસ્ટાર્સ ટ્રસ્ટીઓ અંકલેશ્વર ખાતે બેઝ કેમ્પ બનાવે છે અને આ સફર ત્રણ દિવસ સુધી ચાલે છે, જેમાં સુરત જિલ્લાના માંડવી અને માંગરોલ તાલુકાના ૨૦ દૂરના ગામો અને ભૂજ્ય જિલ્લાના અંકલેશ્વરની આસપાસના ગામોને આવરી લેવામાં આવે છે.

ઘ યંગ રથેસ્ટાર્સ એ દાદર, મુંબઈ સ્થિત પારસીઓનું એક જૂથ છે જે મુંબઈ, પુણે અને આંતરિક વિસ્તારોમાં શૈક્ષણિક મદદ, તબીબી મદદ, આર્થિક મદદ અને અનાજ અને અન્ય ઘરવપરાશની વસ્તુઓના વિતરણ દ્વારા દક્ષિણ ગુજરાતના ગામડાઓના ગરીબ અને જરૂરિયાતમંદ પારસી પરિવારો સુધી પહોંચે છે.

જેઓ આ યોજ્ય અને ઉમદા હેતુમાં યોગદાન આપવા માંગતા હોય તેઓ યંગ રથેસ્ટાર્સની તરફેણમાં ચેક મોકલી શકે છે. વિગતો માટે, જોડાઓ: અરનવાઝ મિસ્ત્રી (પ્રમુખ) - ૯૮૨૧૦૦૯૨૮૯; અને લોમિયાર ડોક્ટર (ઉપપ્રમુખ) - ૮૬૯૩૮૨૨૭૨૨

લોનાવાલા ખંડાલા પારસી જરથોસ્તી અંજુમન વાર્ષિક કાર્યક્રમ યોજે છે



તાજે તરમાં, લોનાવાલા ખંડાલા પારસી જરથોસ્તી અંજુમને રોગચાળાને કારણે, ત્રણ વર્ષના અંતરાલ પછી, એડનવાલા અગિયારી કમ્પાઉન્ડમાં તેનાં વાર્ષિક મેળાવડાનું આયોજન કર્યું હતું. એડનવાલા અગિયારી કમ્પાઉન્ડને સુંદર રીતે શણગારવામાં આવ્યું હતું - ડાન્સ ફ્લોર અને લાઈવ બેન્ડ સાથે ૨૦૦ મહેમાનોને સમાવવા માટે રંગીન રોશની કરવામાં આવી હતી. કાર્યક્રમની શરૂઆત તમામ મહેમાનો માટે આકર્ષક રોકડ ઈનામો સાથે હાઉસીની મફત રમતથી થઈ હતી.

ટ્રસ્ટી પરસી માસ્ટરે સ્વાગત પ્રવચન આપ્યું, મહેમાનોના કાર્યક્રમ માટે સતત સહકાર આપવા બદલ આભાર વ્યક્ત કર્યો. તેમણે દાતાઓ અને ટ્રસ્ટીઓનો તેમની નિરંતર સહાય બદલ આભાર માન્યો હતો. તેમણે SAMVAD, Nab લાયન્સ હોમ ફોર એજિંગ બ્લાઈન્ડ અને પ્રાણીઓ માટે અને બંગલાના કેર-ટેકર્સના બાળકોના શિક્ષણ માટે કેવી રીતે નાણાકીય સહાય ધિરાણ કરી રહ્યા છે તે વિશે જણાવ્યું હતું. સાંજે મનોરંજન સંગીત અને રાત્રિભોજન સાથે કાર્યક્રમ સમાપ્ત થયો હતો.

આપણા ધાર્મિક સિદ્ધાંતોના પાસાઓને સમજવું

પારસી લોકો આતશના ઉપાસક છે. દંતકથા મુજબ, શાહ હોશંગ દ્વારા પ્રાગૈતિહાસિક સમયમાં આગની શોધ કરવામાં આવી હતી.

તેથી, જ્યારે પારસી લોકો આતશ પાસે પ્રાર્થના કરે છે, ત્યારે તેઓ અહુરા મઝદાની આતશ તરીકે પૂજા કરે છે. પારસી દ્રષ્ટિકોણથી, આતશ એ - પ્રકાશ આપનાર અને જીવન આપનાર બન્ને છે. આપણે આતશની પ્રાર્થના કરીએ છીએ કારણ આતશ પરમાત્માની સૌથી નજીકની ઉર્જા છે. તે ઊર્જા છે, તે પ્રકાશ છે, તે હુંફ છે અને તે જીવનદાન આપનાર છે. અંધકાર કે દુષ્ટતાનું પોતાનું કોઈ અસ્તિત્વ નથી.

જેમ અંધકાર એ પ્રકાશની ગેરલાજરી છે, તેવી જ રીતે ખરાબ પણ સારાની ગેરલાજરી છે.

આપણામાંથી ઘણાને આશ્ચર્ય થાય છે કે બોઈ સમારંભ દરમિયાન આપણે ઊભા રહેવું જોઈએ કે બેસી રહેવું જોઈએ. બોઈ સમારંભ દરમિયાન, દુષ્ટતાને ધાર્મિક રીતે દૂર કરવામાં આવે છે અને આનાથી કેટલાક ભક્તો વિચારે છે કે જો કોઈ ઘંટના તાલ પર ઉભા થાય છે, તો તેનો મતલબ તે દુષ્ટ શક્તિઓને આદર આપવા માંગે છે! પરંતુ બોઈ વિધિ નિયુક્ત જરથોસ્તી ધર્મગુરુઓ દ્વારા પાંચ ગેહમાં કરવામાં આવે છે. આ વિધિ દરમિયાન કોઈ ભક્તે બેસવું કે ઊભું રહેવું જોઈએ તે કોઈ જાણીતા ઝોરાસ્ત્રિયન ગ્રંથમાં જણાવવામાં આવ્યું નથી. જો કે, ધાર્મિક પરંપરાના ભાગરૂપે, ધર્મગુરુઓ આતશ નિઆએશ અર્પણ કરવા તેને માન આપવા હંમેશા ઊભા રહે છે. આથી, જો ભક્ત બોઈ સમારંભ

સમયે આતશ નિઆશની પ્રાર્થના કરી રહ્યો હોય, તો તેણે આતશને માન આપવા ઊભા રહેવું જોઈએ.

જોવામાં આવતા મુખ્ય શિક્ષણારમાંનો એક એ છે કે પ્રાર્થના કરતી વખતે માથું ઢાંકવું જોઈએ. પારસી ધર્મમાં, વાળને નાસો અથવા મૃત પદાર્થ તરીકે જોવામાં આવે છે. તેથી, બધા પારસીઓએ તેમના માથાને ઢાંકવું જરૂરી છે, ખાસ કરીને પ્રાર્થના કરતી વખતે અથવા ધાર્મિક સમારોહમાં હાજરી આપતી વખતે અથવા અગિયારી અથવા આતશ બહેરામની અંદર હોય ત્યારે માથું ઢાંકવું જરૂરી છે. એવું માનવામાં આવે છે કે વાળ જે ખરી જાય છે તે આસપાસના ધાર્મિક વાતાવરણને અશુદ્ધ બનાવે છે.



Deceased मरुणार	Age वय	Date तारीख	Address र. ठे.	Relations सगाईचो
Zenobia Fredoon Dumasia जीनोब्या ड्रेडून दुमस्या	71 ७१	16.02.2023	646, Gai A Bldg., Flat No 503, 5th Floor, Parsi Colony, Dadar(E), Mumbai 14. ६४६, गाय, अे बिल्डिंग, इबेट नं. ५०३, ५वे माणे, अरेघाट रोड, पारसी कोलोनी, दादर (ईस्ट), मुंबई १४.	ते मरुडुम ड्रेडून लोशंगशाळ दुमस्याना विधवा ते मरुडुमो डेरवानु तथा कावसज नसरवानज दाड्वावाना दीकरी ते जुबीन दुमस्या ने डायना डेआद दादाचंण्डना माताज ते डेआद ड्रेडून दादाचंण्डना सासु ते मरुडुमो गुवा तथा लोशंगशाळ दुमस्याना वडु ते अरीन कुमार, अस्थी कावसज तथा मरुडुम परवेज कावसजना अलेन.
Mehroz Maneck Dadrewalla मेहरोज मानेक दादरेवाला	56 ५६	16.02.2023	9/2, Sir Ratan Tata Colony, Tardeo Road, Mumbai 7. ९-२, ताता कोलोनी, ताडदेव, मुंबई ७.	ते परीआदना आर्वीद ते सनाथा तथा मजदीयारना आवाज ते लनोजना भाई ते मरुडुमो अेमी तथा मानेक लो. दादरेवावाना अेता ते धवेर तथा मरुडुम नोशीर मीनु पटेलना जमाई.
Rustom Rafanshaw Gandhi रुस्तम रतनशाळ गांधी	79 ७९	16.02.2023	D-3, 62, Bharucha Baug, S.V. Road, Andheri(W), Mumbai 58. डी-३, ६२, अस्था बाग, अेस. वी. रोड., अंधेरी (वेस्ट), मुंबई ५८.	ते अरीन रुस्तम गांधीना आर्वीद ते मरुडुमो गुलवानु तथा रतनशाळ गांधीना दीकरा ते डेआद तथा डेरवानना आवाज ते रशना तथा जुशनुमा गांधीना ससराज ते मरुडुमो सोवी तथा दीनयार गांधीना भाई ते अमोईश तथा शाळजाद गांधीना अपावाज.
Homai Burjor Shroff होमाय अरजोर श्रोफ	84 ८४	16.02.2023	G-Gandhi Mansion, 16, Wadia Street, Tulsiwadi, Mumbai 34. गांधी मन्शन १६, वाडीया स्ट्रीट, तुलसीवाडी, मुंबई ३४.	ते अरजोर धनजशाळ श्रोफना धणुयाणी ते मरुडुमो रतामाय तथा धनज शाळ दुकानदारना दीकरा ते नोशीर तथा दारायश अरजोर श्रोफना माताज ते केशमीरा तथा दीवनावाज श्रोफना सासुज ते मरुडुमो नरीमान तथा दावी दुकानदारना अलेन ते अरजुस तथा पाशांगना अपईज.
Aspi Dhunjisha Daruwalla अस्थी धनजशा दाड्वावा	90 ९०	17.02.2023	Sir J. J. Bldg. No 2, 3rd Flr., Flat-7, Zoroastrian Colony, Tardeo, Mumbai 7. सर जे. जे. बिल्डिंग नं-२, त्रीजे माणे, इबेट नं.७. अौरास्ट्रियन कोलोनी, ताडदेव, मुंबई ७.	ते मरुडुमो लीराबाई तथा धनजशाळ दाड्वावाना दीकरा ते डीरोज धनजशा दाड्वावा ने शेडना भाई.
Marzin Yezdi Masalawala मारजीन यजदी मसावावाला	48 ४८	17.02.2023	f/5, Godrej Baug, Napeansea Road, Mumbai 6. अेक/५, गोद्रेज बाग, नेपीयन्सी रोड, मुंबई ६.	ते देवडी मारजीन मसावावावाला धणुयाणी ते यजदी तथा मरुडुम गुलवेलेर मसावावावाला दीकरा ते देवनाज, मेलेरवान जमशेदयानना भाई ते रोशन तथा मरुडुम अदी सरकारीना जमाई.
Morvarid Sarosh Sasani मोरवरीद सरोश सासानी	77 ७७	18.02.2023	142, Kapadia House, Mody Street, Fort, Mumbai 1. १४२, कापडीया हाउस, मोदी स्ट्रीट, फोर्ट, मुंबई १.	ते मरुडुम सरोश रशीद सासानीना धणुयाणी ते मरुडुमो सारवार तथा रुस्तम दामुबेदना दीकरी ते सारवार मदीयार तथा पुरशीदना माताज ते रोलीन्टन जजोरवावा तथा रोलीन्टन पटेलना सासुज ते मेराबुन दामुबेदना अलेन ते केशमीरा तथा डीरस्तनना ममईज ते मरुडुमो होमाय तथा रशीद सासानीना वडु.
Nergish Rusi Bamji नरगीस रुसी आमज	76 ७६	19.02.2023	F/20, Contractor Baug, Mori Road, Soonawala Agiary, Mahim, Mumbai 16. अेक/२०, कान्द्राकटर बाग, मोरी रोड, माहीम, मुंबई १६.	ते मरुडुम रुसी माफेक आमजना धणुयाणी ते मरुडुमो नाजमाय तथा मीनोचलेर पीरोजशाळ लोडीवावाली दीकरी ते आशादादना मम्मी ते मोनाजना सासुज ते डीयाना ना अपईज ते मरुडुमो नाजमाय माफेक पावजना वडु.
Nergish Minoo Pedder नरगीश मीनु पेदर	93 ९३	19.02.2023	Shapur Baug, G/2, Flat No 2, V.P.Road, Lamington Road, Mumbai 4. शापुर बाग, ७-२, इबेट नं-२, वी. पी. रोड, वेमिन्टन रोड, मुंबई ४.	ते मरुडुम मीनु धनजशाळ पेदरना धणुयाणी ते मरुडुमो भोरशेद तथा नवरोजज दाड्वावाना दीकरी ते प्रोथी मीनु पेदर तथा यासमीन जलंगीर वायाना माताज ते केती, दोवी तथा मरुडुमो डेनी, तेलेमुरस्प, वीवुना अलेन ते मरुडुमो होमाय तथा धनजशाळ पेदरना वडु.
Pesi Darabsha Billimoria पेसी दाराबशा बीवीमोरीया	98 ९८	21.02.2023	16, Sai Ashish Co-Op. Housing Society Ltd., Hill Road, Bandra(W), Mumbai 50. १६, साई आशीश को. ओ. हाउसिंग सोसायटी वी., हील रोड, बान्द्रा (वे), मुंबई ५०.	ते मरुडुम मनी पेसी बीवीमोरीयाना आर्वीद ते मरुडुमो आनुअई तथा दारबशा बीवीमोरीयाना दीकरा ते रोलीन्टन तथा लीराना आवाज ते डेनीस तथा अरनेजना ससराज ते मरुडुमो नोशीर, पीरोज, अदी, मीनु तथा रोदाना भाई ते इराल जेक देवीस तथा केशमीरा देन पोततनोयना अपावाज ते कडल लोरमज मोलता तथा इरालना ममावाज.
Homi Edulji Daruwala होमी अेदलज दाड्वावा	87 ८७	22.02.2023	6/A Kaka Bldg., Marazban Colony, Gilder Lane, Mumbai 8. ६/अे, काका बिल्डिंग, मरजबान कोलोनी, गील्डर लेन, मुंबई ८.	ते मरुडुम जर होमी दाड्वावाना आर्वीद ते मरुडुमो टेडमीना तथा अेदलज रतनज दाड्वावाना दीकरा ते अेरोज डेरसी आमराना आवाज ते डेरसी रतन आमराना ससराज ते डेरसीने डेनीयाना ममावाज ते मरुडुमो मानेकभाई तथा जलंगीरज अदाजनीयाना जमाई ते डेनी शावकशा अेसान्या तथा मरुडुम सोवी अेदलज दाड्वावाना भाई.
Soli Aspan Irani सोवी अस्थन ईरानी	86 ८६	22.02.2023	194 Talati Bldg., 3rd Flr., Khetwadi back Rd., Mumbai 4. १९४, तलाटी बिल्डिंग, त्रीजे माणे, भेतवाडी अेक रोड, गीरगाम, मुंबई ४.	ते मरुडुमो टेडमीना तथा अस्थन ईरानीना दीकरा ते मरुडुम अेमी सोवी ईरानीना आर्वीद ते यासमीन सोवी ईरानी, अरीन सोवी ईरानीना आवाज ते मरुडुमो नोशीर, रुसी, नरीमान, सीवु ने जडना भाई.
Osti Freny Minoo Mogal ओस्ती डेनी मीनु मोगल	95 ९५	23.02.2023	257, Botawala Building, 2nd Floor, Thakurdwar, Kalbadevi, Mumbai 2. २५७, बोटावावा बिल्डिंग, बीजे माणे, ठाकुरद्वार, कावभादेवी, मुंबई २.	ते मरुडुम मीनु नादरशा मोगलना धणुयाणी ते यजदी ने अनालीता, अलादुर नाव्वादाड्ना माताज ते मरुडुमो होमाय तथा जलंगीर मोदीना दीकरी ते अलादुर अस्थदीयार नाव्वादाड् ने वीवु यजद मोगलना सासु ते उदवाडेवावा मरुडुमो भोरशेद तथा नादरशाळ ड्रेडुनज मोगलना वडु ते मलाताव ने डीरदोशना ममईज ते डेरलाद यजदी मोगलना अपईज ते नीकोव ने रीयाना ग्रेट ग्रान्ड मधर.

Death Announcements From Parsi Zoroastrian Anjuman of Secunderabad and Hyderabad

Khorshed Dara Ichhaporia भोरशेद दारा इच्छापोरीया	94 ९४	14.01.2023	Secunderabad. सिकन्दराबाद.	ते मरुडुम दारा आर. इच्छापोरीयाना धणुयाणी ते मरुडुम मीनु दीटीयाना अलेन.
Dhun Sohrabji Parakh धन सोहराबज पारख	97 ९७	04.02.2023	Secunderabad. सिकन्दराबाद.	ते मरुडुम सोहराबज अने पीरोजभाईना दीकरी ते अरजोर, गुव अने तेडमीना अलेन.

Death Announcements From Poona Parsee Panchayat (Trust Office)

Dilber Godrej Kermani दीलबर गोद्रेज डेरमानी	93 ९३	12.02.2023	Y-904, Sacred Heart Town, Wanawdi, Pune 411040. वाय/९०४, सेक्रेड हाईटाउन, वानवडी, पुणे ४११०४०.	ते मरुडुम गोद्रेज रुस्तम डेरमानीना धणुयाणी ते मरुडुम आरमेन तथा गोवेर महेराबान पारेस्तानीना दीकरी ते तनाज तथा डुभशानाना मम्मी ते मुकेश अने महेरवानना सासुज ते जुबीन, नेवीन, आरा, रायनना ममईज ते आवा ने ईवाना मोटा ममईज ते मरुडुम गुलडुज, भोरशेद, दारपुश, ईरच, होमाय तथा सायरसना अलेन.
Katy Noshir Ragina केटी नोशीर रागीना	84 ८४	13.02.2023	Building-D, Flat-601, 6th Flr, Sai Ganga Soc, Undri Chowk, Pune 411060. बिल्डिंग-डी, इबेट-६०१, ६जे माणे, साई गंगा सोसायटी, पुणे ४११०६०.	ते मरुडुम नोशीर रतनशा रागीनाना धणुयाणी ते मरुडुम डीरोज इरामरोज डोकटर अने मरुडुम डेनी डीरोज डोकटरना दीकरी.

Death Announcements From Prayer Hall

Dadi Rustomji Motiwala दादी रुस्तमज मोतीवाला	90 ९०	17.02.2023	B/8 Rustom Baug, Sant Savta Marg, Byculla, Mumbai 27. बी/८, रुस्तमबाग, संत सावता मार्ग, भायजवा, मुंबई २७.	ते मरुडुम जरना धणुयाणी ते मरुडुम दोवी अने मरुडुम रुस्तमजना दीकरा ते परीआद, डुशानाना पप्पा ते मरुडुम गुव, मरुडुम डेरानना भाई.
Kersi Dinshaw Mistry डेरसी दीनशा मीस्त्री	87 ८७	17.02.2023	Sir Ratan Tata Colony, Bldg 10, R No. 8, 1st Flr, CJ Colony, Tardeo, Mumbai 34. सर रतन ताता कोलोनी, बिल्डिंग १०, रू. नं. ८, १वे माणे, सीजे कोलोनी, तारदेव, मुंबई ३४.	ते अरनीना धणुयाणी ते मरुडुम भोरशेद अने मरुडुम दीनशाना दीकरा ते रयोमंदना पप्पा ते डेरनाजना ससरा ते तीनाजना ग्रान्ड दाधर ते अेमीना भाई ते मरुडुम महेरमाई अने मरुडुम लीराजना जमाई.
Mirella Dinshaw Birdy मिरेला दीनशा अरडी	54 ५४	22.02.2023	14 B Anita Building, Malabar Hill, Mumbai 6. १४बी, अनिता बिल्डिंग, मलाबार हील, मुंबई ६.	मरुडुम मेडड अने मरुडुम दीनशाना दीकरी ते डेनीना अलेन.



YOUR MOONSIGNS JANAM RASHI THIS WEEK

લખનાર: મરહુમ મહારાજ શ્રી સ્વચંજયોતિના સહકાર્યકર્તા જયેશ એમ. ગોસ્વામી

અઠવાડિક રાશિક્ષણ: તા. ૨૫.૦૨.૨૦૨૩ થી તા. ૦૩.૦૩.૨૦૨૩



Aries - મેષ - અ.લ.ઈ.

શુક્રની દિનદશા ચાલુ હોવાથી તમે સમયનો સદઉપયોગ કરી શકશો. ગામ પરગામ અવારનવાર જવું પડશે. તમારી સાથે કામ કરનારનું દિલ જીતી લેશો. અપોજીટ સેક્સ સાથે મળીને તમારા કામ સહેલાઈથી પૂરાં કરી શકશો. નાણાકીય બાબતમાં સારા સારી કરવા દરરોજ 'બહેરામ યજ્ઞ' ભણાવો. શુક્રનવંતી તા. ૨૫, ૨૬, ૧, ૨ છે.

Lucky Dates: 25, 26, 1, 2

Venus' ongoing rule will ensure that you make good use of your time. You might need to make frequent visits locally and globally. You will win over the hearts of your colleagues. You will be able to complete your work more effectively when done with the help of the opposite gender. For financial progress, pray to Behram Yazad daily.



Cancer - કર્ક - ડ.હ.

ગુરુની દિનદશા ચાલુ હોવાથી તમારા હાથથી ધર્મનું કામ થઈ જશે. રોકાવેલ નાણામાંથી થોડી રકમ પાછી મેળવી લેશો. ઉપરી વર્ગ તમને પરેશાન નહીં કરે. બીજાની ભલાઈનું કામ તમારાથી થઈ જશે. ધનની ચિંતા ઓછી થતી જશે. દરરોજ 'સરોશ યજ્ઞ' ભણવાથી મનને શાંતિ મળશે. શુક્રનવંતી તા. ૨૬, ૨૭, ૨૮, ૩ છે.

Lucky Dates: 26, 27, 28, 3

Jupiter's ongoing rule will make you do religious activities. You will be able to retrieve a part of your stuck funds. Senior colleagues will not harass you at work. You will do a good deed for someone else. Financial worries will reduce. For mental peace, pray the Sarosh Yasht daily.



Libra - તુલા - ર.ત.

૧૮મી માર્ચ સુધી તમારી રાશિના માલિક શુક્રના મિત્ર ગ્રહ બુધની દિનદશા ચાલશે. તમે પ્રેક્ટીકલ બની તમારા કામો કરશો. જે પણ કામ હાથમાં લેશો તેને પૂરું કરીને મુકશો. તમારી મહેનતનું ફળ મળશે. એકરૂઢા ઈન્કમ મેળવવા થોડી મહેનત કરવી પડશે. દરરોજ 'મહેર નીઆએશ' ભણવાનું ચાલુ રાખવો. શુક્રનવંતી તા. ૨૫, ૨૬, ૨૭, ૨૮ છે.

Lucky Dates: 25, 26, 27, 28

Mercury's rule till 18th March will help you do your works in a practical manner. You will ensure to complete any work that you take in hand. You will reap the fruits of your labour. To earn extra income you will need to work a little harder. Pray the Meher Nyaish daily.



Capricorn - મકર - ખ.જ.

૨૩મી માર્ચ સુધી શીતળ ચંદ્રની દિનદશા ચાલશે. જે પણ કામ કરશો તેમાં તમારો કોન્ફીડન્સ ખુબ સારો રહેશે. ધન માટે કોઈ મુશ્કેલી નહીં આવે. ઘરવાળાની જરૂરત પૂરી કરવામાં સફળ થશો. નાની મુસાફરીનો આનંદ લઈ લેજો. હાલમાં દરરોજ ૩૪મુ નામ 'યા બેસ્તરના' ૧૦૧વાર ભણાવો. શુક્રનવંતી તા. ૨૬, ૨૮, ૧, ૩ છે.

Lucky Dates: 26, 28, 1, 3

The Moon's rule till 23rd March will ensure that you are very confident in all things that you undertake. Financially there will be no concerns. You will be able to cater to the wants of family members. You are advised to enjoy small travels. Pray the 34th Name, 'Ya Beshtarna', 101 times, daily.



Taurus - વૃષભ - બ.વ.ઉ.

છેલ્લુ અઠવાડિયું રાહુની દિનદશામાં પસાર કરવાનું બાકી છે. બોલવા ચાલવામાં ખુબ સંભાળવો. તમારું સાચુ બોલેલું કોઈને કડવું ઝેર લાગશે. કોઈના પર વિશ્વાસ રાખવાથી વિશ્વાસઘાત થવાના ચાન્સ છે. કોઈ પણ જાતનું ઈનવેસ્ટમેન્ટ કરતા નહીં. અગત્યના ડીસીઝન આવતા અઠવાડિયામાં લેજો. ભુલ્યા વગર 'મહાબોખ્તાર નીઆએશ' ભણાવો. શુક્રનવંતી તા. ૨૬, ૨૭, ૨૮, ૩ છે.

Lucky Dates: 26, 27, 28, 3

This is the last week under the rule of Rahu. Take extra caution in what you say and all that you do. The truth you utter could feel like bitter poison to another. If you trust another person, you could get deceived. Avoid making any kind of investments. Take any important decisions only in the next week. Ensure to pray the Mah Bokhtar Nyaish daily



Leo - સિંહ - મ.ટ.

૨૧મી એપ્રિલ સુધી ગુરુની દિનદશા ચાલશે. તમારા અટકેલા કામો ફરી ચાલુ કરવા માટે સીધો રસ્તો મળી જશે. નાણાકીય બાબતમાં ગુરુની કૃપાથી સારા સારી થતી જશે. થોડી મહેનત કરવાથી ધન કમાઈ લેવામાં સફળ થઈ જશે. ધર્મનું કામ સારી રીતે કરી શકશો. દરરોજ 'સરોશ યજ્ઞ' ભણવાનું ચાલુ કરવો. શુક્રનવંતી તા. ૨૫, ૨૬, ૨૮, ૨ છે.

Lucky Dates: 25, 26, 28, 2

Jupiter's rule till 21st April will help you find a straight path to restart all your stalled projects. Financial prosperity is indicated. With a little effort you will be successful in earning money. You will be able to practice your religious duties well. Pray the Sarosh Yasht daily.



Scorpio - વૃશ્ચિક - ન.પ.

હવે તો તમને બુધની દિનદશા ચાલુ હોવાથી તમે તમારી આવકમાંથી થોડીગણી બચત કરવામાં સફળ થશો. જૂના મિત્રો મળીને નવા કામ કરવામાં સફળ થશો તેમાં તમારા ફાયદાની વાત જાણવા મળશે. હીસાબી કામ કરવાથી ફાયદાની સાથે નવું જાણવા મળશે. મહેમાન આવવાના ચાન્સ છે. દરરોજ 'મહેર નીઆએશ' ભણાવો. શુક્રનવંતી તા. ૨૬, ૧, ૨, ૩ છે.

Lucky Dates: 26, 1, 2, 3

Mercury's ongoing rule helps you to collect some savings from your income. You will be able to complete new tasks with your old friends - you will benefit from this. While doing your accounting work, you will get to know new information, alongside your profits. You could expect visitors. Pray the Meher Nyaish daily.



Aquarius - કુંભ - ગ.શ.સ.

છેલ્લુ અઠવાડિયું સુર્યની દિનદશામાં પસાર કરવાનું બાકી છે. સરકારી કામમાં સફળતા નહીં મળે. વડીલવર્ગની તબિયત માટે વધારે ચિંતા રહેશે. તમે પણ ખાવા પીવામાં ધ્યાન આપવું નહીં તો માથાના દુખાવા અથવા એસીડીટીથી પરેશાન થશો. આ અઠવાડિયામાં કામ કરવામાં ખુબ કંટાળો આવશે. ૯૬મુ નામ 'યા રયોમંદ' ૧૦૧વાર ભણાવો. શુક્રનવંતી તા. ૨૫, ૨૬, ૨૭, ૨૮ છે.

Lucky Dates: 25, 26, 27, 28

This is your last week under the Sun's rule. You will not be successful in tasks related to government organisations. Worries about the health of the elderly could increase. You are advised to take care of your diet, else you could suffer from headaches and acidity. You could feel a lot of lethargy to work, during this week. Pray the 96th Name, 'Ya Rayomand', 101 times, daily.



Gemini - મિથુન - ક.છ.ધ.

રાહુએ તમને પોતાની સોનાની જાળમાં ફસાવી લીધા છે. તમને તમારી જાત પર વિશ્વાસ નહીં રહે. તમે પોતે કરેલા કામ તમને ગમશે નહીં. નાણાકીય મુશ્કેલી વધવાની છે તે જાણી લેજો. તમારા પોતાના નાણા ભાગદોડ કર્યા પછી પણ પાછા નહીં મળે. દરરોજ 'મહાબોખ્તાર નીઆએશ' ભણવાનું ચાલુ રાખવો. શુક્રનવંતી તા. ૨૫, ૨૭, ૧, ૨ છે.

Lucky Dates: 25, 27, 1, 2

You are in the golden clutches of Rahu. You could lose faith in yourself. You will be dissatisfied with your own work. Financial challenges could increase. You might not be able to retrieve your own money, despite putting in much effort. Pray the Mah Bokhtar Nyaish daily.



Virgo - કન્યા - પ.હ.ણ.

૨૩મી માર્ચ સુધી શનિની દિનદશા ચાલશે. તમારી અગત્યની બાબતમાં ભુલ થાય તેવા હાલના ગ્રહો છે. મનગમતી વ્યક્તિ નાની બાબતમાં નારાજ થઈ જશે. તમે સાચા હોવા છતાં તમારી સચ્ચાઈ સાબિત નહીં કરી શકો. નાણાકીય મુશ્કેલીનો સામનો કરવો પડશે. મોટી 'હમન યજ્ઞ' ભણવાનું ચાલુ રાખવો. શુક્રનવંતી તા. ૨૬, ૨૭, ૧, ૩ છે.

Lucky Dates: 26, 27, 1, 3

Saturn's rule till 23rd March could end up making you do mistakes in your important works. A favourite person will get upset with you over a petty matter. Despite being truthful, you will be unable to prove your truthfulness. You could have to face financial challenges. Pray the Moti Haptan Yasht daily.



Sagittarius - ધન - ભ.ધ.ફ.

મંગળની દિનદશા ચાલુ હોવાથી તમે નાની બાબતમાં ગરમ થઈ જશો. તમારા ગુસ્સાને કારણે હાઈપ્રેશરથી પરેશાન થશો. તમારા જેની સાથે સારા સંબંધ હશે તે તમારાથી નારાજ થઈ જશે. વાહન ચલાવતા હો તો સંભાળીને ચલાવવો. મંગળને શાંત કરવા 'તીર યજ્ઞ' ભણાવો. શુક્રનવંતી તા. ૨૫, ૨૬, ૨૭, ૨૮ છે.

Lucky Dates: 19, 20, 21, 22

The ongoing rule of Mars could have you getting angry over the smallest of matters. Your temper could cause you to have high blood pressure. Those you share cordial relations with could get upset with you. Ride or drive your vehicles with lots of caution. To placate Mars, pray the Tir Yasht daily.



Pisces - મીન - દ.ચ.ઝ.થ.શ.

૧૪મી માર્ચ સુધી શુક્રની દિનદશા ચાલશે. તમને મદદ કરનાર ઘણા મળશે. ઘરમાં ઘણી ઘણીયાણીમાં મતભેદ ઓછા પડશે. પ્રેમમાં હશે તો પ્રેમી કે પ્રેમિકા તરફથી સારા સમાચાર જાણવા મળશે. પૈસાને લીધે કોઈ કામ અટકશે નહીં. ચાલુ કામમાંથી નાણાકીય ફાયદો મળશે. દરરોજ 'બહેરામ યજ્ઞ' ભણવાનું ચાલુ રાખવો. શુક્રનવંતી તા. ૨૬, ૨૮, ૧, ૩ છે.

Lucky Dates: 26, 28, 1, 3

Venus' rule till 14th March brings to you a lot of supportive and helpful people. Squabbles between couples at home will reduce. Those in love will get to know good news from their sweethearts. There will be no stalling in work due to money. You will receive financial benefits from your ongoing works. Pray to Behram Yazad daily.

Signs That A Person Really Ain't That Cool!

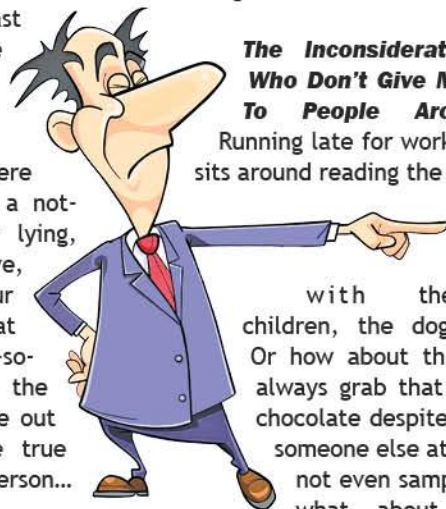


VEERA SHROFF SANJANA



As humans, we're all clearly made of things that are awesome and some things that could use a bit of improvement. We go through life evolving, forging friendships and relationships, attachments and bonds with a variety of people and things... all part of a deeply rich and endearing life experience. There are people you meet with whom there is instant chemistry. That relationship often blooms into a beautiful bond that could last a lifetime. But people are not always what they seem. A person could charm the pants off you, but over time, disappoint. There are some obvious signs of a not-so-great person. Obviously lying, cheating, being manipulative, arrogant, cruel are in your face, red flags. But what about those subtle, not-so-apparent signs? Those are the ones we should keep an eye out for, as these indicate the true nature / character of a person...

them at all times, or seek you out only when the need arises, are not people you need hanging on your coat tails. Every relationship demands respect and mutual affection. An opportunist takes advantage of people and things. Ask yourself if the relationship offers you anything real - do these people only lend themselves as friends on paper and nothing else?



The Inconsiderates - Those Who Don't Give Much Thought To People Around Them:

Running late for work, your spouse sits around reading the morning news while you are multitasking with the help, children, the dog and meals. Or how about that friend you always grab that last piece of chocolate despite the fact that someone else at the party has not even sampled it yet. Or what about the bigger slice, the better seat, the more enticing option every single time. You may tolerate it, you may, but you certainly do not like it! People who do this, lack thought or concern for others. It belies warmth, generosity and empathy towards others. Oh, we are all guilty of it from time to time but a habitual display of inconsiderate behaviour like this is unacceptable!

The Opportunists: You'd be surprised at the number of people in your life that fall into this bracket! From friends, family members, colleagues... they're seeking a favour or a service you can provide. Now, occasional asks are alright in any relationship - after all, friendship is based on give and take. But people who ask favours constantly, or manipulate situations to favourably suit

Those Who Don't Keep Their Word: This could be anything, from never keeping an appointment to always showing up an hour late. People who say they'll call to someone promising to help you with a task and then forgetting all about it. Anyone who makes a habit of this is someone you cannot trust and therefore cannot be relied on. When people display lack of sincerity on their word or promises, they lack respect or concern for another.

The Quick To Judge Types: You need to tread carefully with people who regard good or bad, right or wrong, based on simplistic, singular surface appearance. Anyone who views people through a black and white, good or bad lens, is someone to be cautious with. Quick judgement calls are made by those living a shallow, fear-based life, with immature thinking capacity.

Those Who Make Things Worse... Even If Unintentionally: There are people who leave spaces worse than before. This often applies to both your physical and emotional space. We have all encountered them - they mess up a room like a mini-hurricane or guests who never do the beds or pick up their dirty clothes. What about those smokers who not harm your lungs through passive smoking but leave trails of ash and butts wherever they go! And what about those pet lovers who casually walk off from that great big pile of dump their loved canine just left. Worse still are those people that walk in polluting your thoughts and peace with constant grumbles, aches and pain. Theirs is a life reveling in all these injustices meted out to them - an endless list of drama and tragedy, sorrow and negativity. A constant pity-party is what you're invited to. They can truly bring you down and cause a constant sense of guilt, just in case your life is

going well and you are fine. People who leave a physical space worse off, or taint and wreck your emotional well-being are better off away from your personal space and sphere.

Those Who Just Can't Apologize: People who find it difficult to apologize are usually disconnected from the feelings of others and don't particularly care about them. They're known to be arrogant, defensive and self-righteous. When they do occasionally apologize, it would seem that the apology was either false, fake or forced, giving the impression that they are just doing it for personal gains and nothing more. Either way, this is a troubling sign and one of poor character.



Those Know-It-Alls: These are the self-proclaimed philosophers who love to sermonise, lecture and walk around with a chip on their shoulders, always feeling they know best. They give opinions and lectures, judge and criticise others at a drop of a hat. Their conversations are often condescending and their attitude, patronising. They talk to friends, family and peers like they are conversing with a 5-year-old. Any conversation with them leads you into a vortex created by their own ego. They truly believe they are superior than the rest of us 'ordinary folks'.

The people you spend your time with can influence your mood, your perspective and the way you view the world. Therefore, it is imperative to be aware and measure the company you keep. People around you make you the person you are. They can empower you, inspire you and raise you to new heights. The more time you spend with them, the better you feel. No one is perfect - that's a fact, but small things go a long way in making a big difference!



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Mystical Goddesses Or Smart Women?



RUBY LILAOWALA

The other day, I was having a conversation with a 45 year old 'boy' who asked me to introduce him to an 'extremely beautiful' girl to marry and settle down with! "She should be clever, an absolute charmer, and intelligent too, like James Bond's women!" he quipped, to which I replied, "But all those women are sent to kill James Bond. You want to marry or die?" He laughed and continued, "Marry, of course! And oh! She has to be chaste and pure like an *Apsara* from *swarg* (*Pari jevi khubsoorat*)." I requested him to contact our ace match-maker, *Koomi Kaajwali*, and we parted ways, but the reference to *Apsara* and *Swarg* set me thinking and led me to writing today's article!

As per Indian mythology, *Apsaras* are dangerous damsels, like *Menaka*, who destroyed *Vishwamitra's tapasya*!

Myth has it that Lord *Indra's* heaven was the ultimate rocking place, with wine, women, singing and dancing. The musicians jammed and *Apsaras* danced at this most happening *Swarg*. You could call these *Apsaras* the original party girls who were far from chaste and born from a churning ocean (*Samudra-Manthan*). They were the



daughters of pleasure, wearing elaborate clothes and jewellery, oozing charm. Of course, their only task was to please the Gods as visual-candies and seduce unsuspecting devotees on Earth, to destroy their meditation and retard their spiritual progress. They never married, these *prima donnas* of the skies. Not allowed to!

Apsaras had something even more important than beauty... they had power. If Helen of Troy could launch a thousand ships, these sensuous *Apsaras* could bring kings, sadhus and soldiers to their knees. These *Mata-Haris* of Heaven (*Indralok* or *Swarg*) became key-players in celestial-strategies, where kings and sages were destroyed merely seeing a beautiful dance. Ladies like *Menaka*, *Urvashi* and *Rambha* were sent to corrupt them with weapons of attracting, distracting, humbling, seducing and finally destroying them with charm and grace, very much like James Bond's women!

These ladies were also given power to perform miracles, like flying in the air or bringing luck, or causing break-ups in love affairs, making victims win at gambling and getting them lost in a forest, causing them to go insane if the

victim rejected their charms.

The *Apsaras* of Indian mythology were a perfect ten. They were free spirits, visions of beauty, charm and talent. No strings attached, out-of-this-world creatures, almost Goddesses and yet they were not allowed to fall in love or

marry, since they were given power only to play men like puppets. If she dared to fall in love with her victim, she was quickly dismissed from Heaven to lead a mundane life on Earth. Her job was to make ensure that *Swarg* wouldn't stop swinging until her next assignment to destroy a mortal-man.

Urvashi was the head-girl of all the *Apsaras* as she cracked the toughest of cases, destroying the most chaste and powerful of men, and corrupting their minds, with a mere dance. *Menaka* came next, and when she was sent to tempt the stage *Vishwamitra*, he actually resisted her charms and held out for three years. She had to stay on Earth like an undercover agent and returned to Heaven only after she destroyed his years of meditation. Even *Apsara* *Rambha* was sent in the final stage to finish off this sage. He soon found out about her and cursed *Rambha*, turning her into a stone for 10,000 years!

The *Apsaras* were busy ladies, just like today's working women, and their jobs were tougher and challenging, but the Human Resources (HR) policy in *Swarg* was very simple and effective. When human heroes fell in battle or if a sage's meditation was destroyed, the *Apsara* was promptly promoted like today's MBAs. They were given grand designations, with perks like delicious food and wine, new

clothes and fabulous jewellery.

There were hundreds of *Apsaras* in Heaven as they could be produced from thin air, water, fire or even Earth. They escorted Gods everywhere - gambling, playing dice or cards, dancing, and drinking sessions. This concept is very similar to Greek mythology where Gods indulged themselves atop Mount Olympus. With so much entertainment available, no wonder Queen *Sati* refused to let her husband alone! She loved him so much that she voluntarily jumped into the funeral pyre to ensure that she would go to Heaven with her husband (and probably to fend off the *Apsaras*!). This is probably one reason of how the practice of *SATI* was started by a Queen who wanted to be by the side of her husband even in death!

The curse of the *Apsara* is, she can never fall in love. But

once, *Urvashi* fell deeply in love with a mortal King, called *Pururava* and slyly began to live with him as his wife inside a hidden chamber of his palace. When the Gods called her back, she refused to live her life as an *Apsara* and committed suicide by drinking poison. King *Pururava* killed himself by falling on a sword. This story is similar to Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. *Urvashi* was cursed by the Gods to be reborn repetitively with beauty, charm, talent and luxuries. But she would always be unlucky in love. While playing out the *Apsara* role in different lives - flitting, floating, dancing with wealth, popularity, luxury - she'd have everything but NO LOVE!

I wonder - could Marilyn Monroe, Liz Taylor, Mata Hari, Rekha or Princess Diana be reincarnations of *Urvashi*?




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