



THE BOMBAY THEOSOPHICAL BULLETIN

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*Cleanse Thou my soul, Omniscient
And most Bountiful Spirit grant me
Strength through perfect Wisdom,
goodness through Devotion, courage through Righteousness
and leadership through Benevolent Mind.
In order that I may acquire spiritual knowledge to instruct others.
Grant me the power, which is indeed the resulting blessing
from the Lord of Benevolence.
Reveal unto me the laws of religion
through upright Mind and pure Conduct.
Then does Zoroaster give away, in charity, even his own life
besides his perfect benevolent wisdom, to the Omniscient Lord.
He dedicates his power of speech and action
to serve ASHA (Holy Divine Spirit)
and SAROSHA (The Angel of Inspiration).*

**Verse from Zoroastrian Prayer ATASH NI NIYASH
Translation Courtesy: 'The Union of All Faiths'
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MISSION OF TS

To serve humanity by cultivating an ever deepening understanding and realization of the Ageless Wisdom, spiritual self-transformation and the unity of all life

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NEWS & NOTES

**A GESTURE OF GOODWILL BY TOS PHILIPPINES
HEALING GROUP WITH PRAYERS FOR MUMBAI**

Under the Invitation of Sr. Marlyn Ranola, Brother Arni Narendran, of the Blavatsky Lodge was invited to join a session of Healing Meditation on 21st June 2020, International Yoga Day and the evening of the Solar Eclipse. **On Zoom from Manila, the Healing Meditation was held by the Unity of Life Meditation Group. It was initiated by the TOS Philippines.** The Session was conducted by Bro Christopher See. There was a special prayer for the city of Mumbai, reeling under the COVID19 pandemic. The Group prayed for the Healing of all Beings on this Planet. It follows the Healing module followed by TOS groups in many cities, including Mumbai. The Bombay sessions are conducted by Ms. Freny

Editor – Bro. Rustom R. Dalal **Cover Page by:** Sis. Kashmiri Khambatta Editorial **Committee** –Sis.Mahazaver Dalal (Reporter & in charge of Mailing List), Sis. Kashmiri Khambatta, Sis. Aban Patel and **Ex-Officio:** President Bro. Vinayak Pandya. **Note:** News, Notes and Programmes to be printed in the Bulletin be forwarded by e-mail

to kashmirakhambatta@yahoo.com latest by 16th each month. Readers' Views are invited.

Toddywala. *We, Brethren of Mumbai by this BTF Bulletin express sincere thanks to Theosophists of Philippines for their thoughtful gesture of Goodwill and Brotherhood.*

CONGRATULATIONS BRO. ARNI NARENDRAN A Theosophical Bloom from Casablanca

Virtual Centre for Theosophical Studies (VCTS) – an educational site for the emanation of Theosophy was launched on 27th June 2020. The inauguration was by our International Secretary- Sr. Martja Artma who addressed the virtual conference, attended by about forty Theosophists around the World. The launch for this virtual entity was possible by the support of the International President Bro Tim Boyd and International Secretary Sr. Martja Artma.

The launch was administered from Casablanca in Morocco where Founder Luke Ironside resides. He is from Pranava Lodge, Philippines. Along with Founder Luke the team members are from USA, London, Philippines and **from India Bro. Arni Narendran as Director Education. Heartiest Congratulations, to Bro. Arni. Thanks to him Bombay has been brought to fore front in TS.** Bro. Navin Kumar and Bro. Berthram Redwood had also joined this meeting.

PROPAGATION OF THEOSOPHY: Bro. Arni's article on 'Swami Vivekananda and The Theosophical Society' was published in Theosophy Hermes Issue III E-Magazine with **Link: [Http://hermes-magazine.com](http://hermes-magazine.com)** i.

BLAVATSKY LODGE VIRTUAL MEETINGS Under COVID 19 Lockdown: Blavatsky Lodge is now regularly holding Virtual Meetings on Zoom Hosted by Bro. Navin Kumar and Sis. Kashmira Khambatta. On Tuesdays Bro. Arni Narendran conducts study of P. Pavri's Book "Theosophy Explained by Question & Answers" and on Fridays Sis. Aban Patel conducts study of CWL's book 'Inner Life'

from 6.00 to 7.15 pm. Currently about 15 Brethren are joining Zoom Meetings.

BLAVATSKY LODGE APPEAL

Blavatsky Lodge celebrated its 140th Charter Anniversary on 20th February 2020. BTF Bulletin of April 2020 with Blavatsky Lodge History was ready to be dispatched, but on 25th March 2020 COVID 19 Lockdown was announced to save lives from Novel Corona Virus. *Hence since 25th March 2020 Blavatsky Lodge Building is closed so there are no Hall Bookings and no income for Blavatsky Lodge from use of Besant Hall.* However, Salaries of Lodge Assistant Sis. Asha, Attendants Kishore & Vikas, Sweeper Amit and Accountant Kunal's charges are to be paid. Though no use of the Lodge, Electricity and Telephone Bills are to be paid. Property Tax amounting to Rs.75,000/-+ is due for payment. When Lodge opens there will be massive cleaning and maintenance with high expense.

In view of this, Blavatsky Lodge Lecturer Sis. Aban Patel suggested to appeal for Donations to Brethren. She made the beginning with donation of Rs. 10,000/-. Blavatsky Lodge President Sis. Kashmiri Khambatta put the appeal on TS Mumbai WhatsApp Group and spontaneously donations started to come in: Bro. Arni Narendran Rs. 10,000/-, Bro. Navin Kumar Rs.10,000/- Bro. Ahmed Hirani Rs.10,000/-, Sis. Rajam Pillai Rs. 2,000/-, Bro. Rustom Dalal & Sis. Freny Pagdiwala Rs.30,0000/-. ***Blavatsky Lodge expresses sincere thanks to Brethren for their generosity and dedication.***

Under Lockdown, the request is to make direct deposit in HDFC Bank Branch closer to one's place or by NEFT from one's own bank or by Online Transfer. The bank particulars are:

Account name: Blavatsky Lodge T. S.

Account No: 00807620000089

Account Type: Current Account

Bank: HDFC bank

Branch: FHR Building, R. G. Thadani Marg, Worli.

IFSC Code: HDFC0000080

The Receipts will be given after the Lodge opens, i.e. when there is complete un-lockdown and safe to go to the Lodge.



GLORY OF FIRE IN ZOROASTRIANISM

*Often a question is asked,
 “Are Parsee Zoroastrians Fire Worshipers?”
 Bro. Zinoo Master & Sis. Meher Contractor
 share ‘Glory of Fire in Zoroastrianism’ with
 the readers of The Bombay Theosophical Bulletin*

The earth was inhabited millions of years ago. It is said that three Lords of the World successively rule every planet. About six and a half million years ago two of the three had completed their work and the time was ripe for the arrival of the third and present Lord of the World – a Ninth Initiate - to come and take charge of our planet. At that time the Third Root Race was living on earth and had reached a stage when *‘the germ of mind could be quickened, and the descent of the ego could be made’*.

In due course the *third – Lemurian – root race* reached its peak. The fourth root race was beginning to blossom. Lemuria sunk into the sea, the configuration of land and water changed and *Atlantis came into being. It was inhabited by the Fourth Root Race*. While the fourth root race was blossoming, *the fifth root race started appearing on earth*. When the work of the fourth root race was over, Atlantis started sinking and it finally sank in 9564BC.

The First Sub Race of the Fifth Root Race lived about fifty thousand years ago. The then World Teacher appeared therein as *Lord Vyasa*. Even today Yagnas are performed and Ahuti is offered to fire. Aarti is done with fire and during the marriage ceremony the couple goes round the fire seven times.

The Second Sub Race lived about 40000 BC and this time the then World Teacher came as *Tehuti* whose teaching was ***Thou art the Light, Let the Light shine.***

The Third Sub Race of the Fifth Root Race lived around 30000 years ago. Around 29700 BC the then World Teacher appeared as Zarathushtra – the first of the 29 who later took this title. At that time two of the Great Ones – who are presently Sixth Initiates – were the King and the Prince of the country. The present World Teacher Lord Maitreya – 7th Initiate at present – was the High Priest at the Court.

A day was selected for the first sermon of Lord Zarathushtra. A stage was set up in the town square. A pile of wood was placed thereon. The Prince was brought in a procession seated in a palanquin. The King and High Priest walked beside the palanquin. The townspeople were surprised to see the strange sight of the Prince in a palanquin and the King and the High Priest on foot. The Prince ascended the stage. He had a rod in one hand.

The Prince released himself from his physical body which was then taken over by the World Teacher. The Lord raised the rod towards the sky and pointed it at the pile of wood which caught fire. ***He preached among other things that the fire which is in the Sun is also in each one of those present.*** Even today we talk of *Jathar Agni* the fire in the belly which helps us to digest food and other fires – vitality – which keeps us alive.

Fire in History of Iran – Iran had five dynasties History of which two dynasties was recorded in *Shahnama*. Even before the last Zarathustra, fire has been venerated in history. Throughout the 5 Iranian Dynasties fire has been given an eminent position. ***In ancient Iran, there were spiritually burning fires Adar Khurdad / Farnbagh, Adar Gushasp and Adar Burzin-Meher. These Fires were associated with the “Divine Energies” of different personages.*** There were different fires for open congregational worship, especially at the time of festivals.

King Hushang of Peshdadian Dynasty accidentally came across *divine brilliance in fire* when he had gone for hunting and his stone weapon hitting another stone lighted up dry grass and sparks flew and

a nearby bush caught fire resulting in a huge blaze. ***On seeing this fire he said this is effulgence (radiance) of God. If you are wise you should revere it.*** He asked Mazdayasnis to make a **KIBLA** (object of focus for worship of the fire) and to pray before it. He celebrated ***Jashane Sadeh*** to commemorate the discovery of divinity in fire. This fire was established as ***Adar Khurdad*** (giver of Kharenangh). Till this date in Iran ***Jashan e Sadeh festival*** is celebrated.

It was a practice in those days to enthrone the fire to celebrate the Victory over the enemies. King Jamshed had enthroned ***Adar e Farnbogh***, on Mountain Khvarehmonan. He devised a class of Professionals termed as '***Athravan - Tenders of Fire***' to look after the fire. This fire burnt till the 9th Century AC. It prevented the evil Zohak from taking the Khvarenah of Jamshed.

King Minocher of the Peshdadian Dynasty established fire at the Nav Bahar - ***Atash Kadeh*** (a picture with Zarathustra on one side and Kae Lohrasp on other side has Atash Kadeh in centre).

Kyanian King Kae Khushru enthroned ***Fire Gushtaspa*** on Mount Asnavant.

Zarathustra before becoming a Prophet offered reverence to fire. ***After becoming Prophet he proclaimed Fire Adar Burzin Meher, which was spiritually burning all the time, to be the Representative of Ahuramazda.*** He made ***Ardibehest Ameshaspand*** its guardian. He presented this spiritual fire ***Adar Burzin Meher, to Kae Gushtasp (King Vhistasp)***, who with his family accepted Zoroastrian Religion. This fire is established on Mount Raevant and is without fumes and does not require fuel.

Achamenian King Darayus is seen standing before the fire on all coins. **Parthian King Volgases & Sasaanian King Ardeshir** had coins depicting them tending the fire.

Myths about the fire –

First - Zoroastrians venerated fire as it is a useful tool, valuable weapon, cooked food, gave heat and also primitive man was afraid of fire.

Second - fire is just a symbol of the religion.

This is not correct.

Zoroastrians consider fire as living breathing Representative of Ahuramazda in the material world.

In Zoroastrian Prayer *Atash Nyash (AN)*, Fire is referred to as the Son of God – *Aathro (Fire) Ahure Mazdao Puthra (Son)*. Just as a son inherits most of the characteristics of the father, fire reflects the characteristics of Divinity. Thus Zoroastrians worship fire at the altar as a representative of Ahuramazda. They do not give a status of God to fire.

Types of Fire Energies: 1. *Berezi Savanghi* – Highest form of creation. It reaches through luminescent creations especially the Sun (Khoreh of Ahuramazda) 2. *Vohu Frayan*- It is in bodies of human being and animals to give them warmth. It departs at the time of death. 3. *Urvazist* - It is the fire in Plants which prevents the sap from freezing. 4. *Vazist* - It is in the clouds, atmosphere. Scientifically when lightning strikes it changes oxygen to ozone and thus maintain ozone cover. It also oxidizes other gases and makes them harmless. 5. *Spenist* - Fire burning in material world for domestic, industrial and commercial purpose. 6. *Nairyosangh* - It carries guidance and intuition especially to Kings and holy people.

Role of Fire: Fire, a Representative of God, as in the prayer *Atash ni Nyash*, is referred to as '*Atash Puthra*' – '*Son of Ahuramazda*' -. (1) a son Fire furthers Ahuramazda's work. Its qualities are the same, like giving light & warmth fighting against evil, store house of Divine energy and destroyer of impurity. (2) It is a channel to reach Ahuramazda. It is the best medium between the two worlds. (3) Fire is the bringer and distributor of lustrous glory (Kharenah) (4) It represents Divinity in all liturgical ceremonies. (5) It gives Divine Justice. (6) Like warrior keeps evil away.

When consecrated fire is ceremoniously enthroned it gets the status of a Padshah- King, from which we get Divine Energies. Fire connects a disciple with both Physical and Spiritual worlds. Fire is a source of light, divine knowledge.

There are three grades of fire. The highest grade of *Atash Behram* (AB) fire is the fire of the King and blesses the King of the country; in our case the President or the Governor of the State. The second grade *Atash Adaran* (AA) also known as the fire in the Agiary is the fire of the Vazir and blesses the Vazir; in our case the Prime Minister or Chief Minister. The third grade *Atash Dadgah* (AD) is the householder's fire and blesses the householders - the common man.

There are only eight AB's in the world – unless we count the one in Yazd in Iran as the ninth; four in Mumbai, two in Surat and one each in Udwada and Navsari. There are over a hundred Agiaries in India, the oldest in Mumbai being 300 years old.

When Parsees landed in India, Dasturji Nairyosangh Dhawal for consecration of Iranshah Atashbehram (originally in Sanjan with permission of Jadi Rana, who had welcomed Parsees in his kingdom, now in Udwada) had invoked lightening directly from sky.

The Atash Behram fire is consecrated by mixing about 16 kinds of fires; like Goldsmith's, Blacksmith's, etc. and Lightening. Each of these fires is "purified" a certain number of times. One may wonder how fire can be purified. The process is that each fire is kept in an urn and a ladle filled with sandalwood or wood pieces is held over it till the wood catches fire. This is done by priests while reciting prayers. This is done over and over again for number of times; Also several Vendidads / Yajashnis ceremonies are done by pairs of priests. *Thus it takes about two years for an AB fire to be consecrated.* The last AB was consecrated in Mumbai in 1895 which included a miracle performed by Dastur Jamshed Kookadar.

The **Adaran fire** is consecrated by mixing the fire obtained from four households - Athravan (One who tends fire – Priest); Rathestar (Warrior), Vastroysan (Tiller of Soil & Trader) and Hutoxan (Artisan and Labourer).

Every Atash Behram or Agiary also has a Dadgah fire before which all *Pav Mahal ceremonies* – Baaj, Vendidad, Yejashni, Nirangdin - are performed. Pav means that the ceremony is performed in *Urvishgah* - a place surrounded by *pavis* (furrows in the ground), *which create a magnetic pass me not ring - and a Palace (Thought Form) is created in the super-physical world when such ceremonies are performed.*

Other ceremonies which can be performed elsewhere are Afringan, Farokhshi, Jashan, which are also performed in front of Atash (Fire) in a special urn called Afarganu. Marriage and Navjote (Initiation in to Zoroastrian Faith) ceremonies are performed in the presence of Atash. Even for Last Rites Ceremonies Atash will be there.

The third Para in the booklet of “The Union of All Faiths” published by Theosophical Publishing House is taken *from the Atash Nyash* begins with ‘*Us-moi Uzareshwa Ahura*’ meaning – ‘*Cleanse Thou my Soul, AhuraMazda*’. **In the Atash Nyash the enthroned fire asks the devotee** “*What has the walking friend (devotee) brought for the seated friend (Enthroned Fire)?*” Devotee offers dry wood, as wet wood makes a crackling sound so also does our selfish devotion, so our devotion to God has to be pure and not tainted with the selfish objective of obtaining favours. The wood which is offered to fire is allegorically symbolizing His food of Law of Asha - Righteousness comprising of purity, piety, tarikat (spiritual code of conduct), charity, forgiveness, mercy etc., which will bring the devotee near to Him.

Enthroned Fire in the Fire Temple needs purification on account of polluted thoughts of the devotees and devotees not observing spiritual code of conduct whilst visiting fire temple. So *at every change of Gah (five parts of a day) fire is enthroned by offering Sandalwood and incense.* Sandal wood sticks are placed in the shape

of Chair (seat) signifying a throne. A Priest establishes contact with the spiritual world by praying *Atash Nyash* and strikes the bell in the fire room nine times where by negative vibrations, evil forces are driven off and Fresh spiritual energies are received through a Ladle on to the altar, where the throne with sandal-wood sticks is prepared. *Flame rising higher shows pathway to higher spirituality – soul's ultimate aim to rise higher & higher in consciousness. Fire purifies environment reminding one to be pure.*

After completion of prayers, a priest comes out of the sanctum and offers Ashes of burnt sandalwood - Rakhya to the devotees. Rakhya is applied by the devotee on the temple in between two eyes. Rakhya reminds a Devotee that: (1) pride & arrogance are to be reduced to ashes and to surrender to Ahuramazda - God with Humility (2) a Devotee, a servant of the angel of fire, pledges his loyalty towards God as well as Divine Spark - Fire within him (3) Offerings given by rich & poor devotees, develop a true feeling of brotherhood (4) Fire accepts sandal, burns away gross thoughts, words & deeds and purifies, sanctifies devotee and illuminates his mind for life of his own Karma (5) Just as wood burns and turns in to ashes one has to return to ones elements (6) *Rakhiya is an invisible contact with Ahuramazda.*

*May the Blessings of Radiant Glorious Atash (Fire)
be on the whole Universe.*



BTF & LODGE PROGRAMES AUGUST 2020

Under the Lockdown for Novel Corona Virus – COVID 19 started in India from 25th March 2020 and extended with gradual un-locking in June & July 2020 no TS meetings or activities are held by all of following Nine BTF Lodges at their premises. With new cases surfacing one is doubtful about actual meetings in August 2020. However, please keep in touch with your Lodge Contacts and BTF Secretary Sis. Mahazaver Dalal (M):91-8833131216 to learn about BTF & Lodge activities.

1. ANANDA LODGE: Theosophical Colony, Juhu, Mumbai 400049.
Contact Ananda Lodge Secretary Sis. Zenobia Khodaiji (M): 9820308163 or
Bro. Nilesh Mehta (M):9821354707 for Meeting

2. BLAVATSKY LODGE: 7 - French Bridge, Mumbai 400007
(M): 9821459504 (M): 9819334333

3. CENTENARY LODGE:

Please contact Sis. Najma Dewan (M): 9987204038 for meetings.

4 JYOTI LODGE: Contact Bro. Taral Munshi, C/101, Building No.19, New Mhada, Garden Hill C.H.S., New Mhada Colony, Behind N.P.A., Goregaon (East), Mumbai 400065 (M): 9820187317

5.SHANTI LODGE: C/o Bro. Rustom Dalal, Vijay Niwas, 2nd Floor, Plot 5, Sleater Road, Mumbai 400007 Tel: 23800422 (M): 9833131216 Time: 6.15 p.m.

6. UNITY YOUTH LODGE: Sis. Soonoo Vesuna (M): 9619339787
Please contact her for Third Wednesday Meetings at 5.30 pm

7 & 8 VASANTA LODGE & GANESH LODGE: C/O Sis. Kalpana Pramod Jani, 804, Ajanta, Tilak Road, opp. Shabari Hotel, Santacruz (West), Mumbai 400054

9. VIMADALAL BILIA LODGE: Family House, Parsi Colony, Dadar, Mumbai 4000 014.

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