



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF

THE BOMBAY THEOSOPHICAL FEDERATION

Volume 90	છ	No.12 8	ષ્ટ	September 2021
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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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BOOK DATES FOR BTF 90TH ANNUAL SESSION

Bombay Theosophical Federation 90th Annual Session will be Virtual on Zoom with evening sessions on Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd September 2021.

Mrs. Sonal Murali, National Lecturer and Principal of Adyar Theosophical Academy will be the Chief Guest. The Theosophist August 2021 issue has pictorial coverage on -

'Adyar Theosophical Academy

Two Blissful Years of learning together'

Annual General Meeting will be on 23rd September 2021.

Detailed program will be in Bulletin of October 2021.

BLAVATSKY LODGE AGM NOTICE

The 141st Annual General Meeting of the Blavatsky Lodge TS will be held virtually on Zoom at 11.00 am on Sunday 26th September 2021. Members are requested to log in 5-10 minutes earlier on Meeting ID 923 227 0907 Password - Blavatsky

President Sis. Kashmira Khambatta

Acting Editor – Sis. Mahazaver Rustom R. Dalal Cover Page by: Sis. Kashmira Khambatta Editorial Committee –Sis.Mahazaver Dalal (Reporter & in charge of Mailing List), Sis. Kashmira Khambatta, Sis. Aban Patel and Ex-Officio: President Bro. Vinayak

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Pandya. <u>Note:</u> News, Notes and Programs to be printed in the Bulletin be forwarded by e-mail to <u>kashmira.khambatta@gmail.com</u> latest by16th each month. Readers' Views are invited.

ASALA PURNIMA MEETING

Asala Purnima Meeting of BTF with Blavatsky Lodge and all other Lodges of Mumbai were virtually hosted by **BTF President Bro. Vinayak Pandya on 23rd July 2021 evening.** The meeting was opened with the Universal Prayer and Bro. Vinayak Pandya's Opening Words to invoke Blessings of Guru – Lord Buddha as described in Shri H.K. Sharan's English Prose 'Light of Asia'. **Sis. Meherangiz Baria** recited the Buddhist Prayer. **BTF Secretary Sis. Mahazaver Dalal** welcomed all to the meeting held on eve of Asala Purnima, which was on 24th July with Full Moon at 8.07 am. She explained the purpose was to be attuned to Asala Purnima Celebration to be held on Southern Slope of Himalaya in the garden of Lord Maitreya at the time of Full Moon next morning.

Bro. Bhavesh Pandya speaking in Hindi said '*Atma Deepo Bhava*' means that one's own *Atma* is Guru, but first one should develop the qualities to be a *Shishya* (Spiritual student).

Sis. Mahatab Tarapore fondly remembered Asala Purnima Meetings in Green Room of Blavatsky Lodge with Alter table prepared by Sis. Navaz Dhalla and Rangoli about Lord Buddha by Sis. Kashmira Khambatta. She described the ceremony taking place on Southern Slope of Himalayas in the garden of Lord Maitreya with *Pentecostal Miracle*. Lord Maitreya speaks the First Sermon of Lord Buddha in original sonorous Pali, but everyone present hears him '*in his own language wherein he was born*'.

Sis. Archana Munshi spoke about *the Middle Path of Lord Buddha and 'The Turning of the Wheel of Law' with the Four Noble Truths:* (1) Sorrow or suffering (2) The Cause of Sorrow (3)The Ceasing of

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Sorrow or Escape from Sorrow & (4) The way which leads to the Escape from Sorrow.

Sis. Zeena Rastomjee read out *'the Eighth Fold Path'* which leads to the Escape from Sorrow.

Bro. Navin Kumar speaking about the question raised by Bro. Bhavesh Pandya said that Theosophical Society does not believe a Guru like a Religious Faith Guru, but it has Himalayan Masters to guide. Theosophy respects Great Souls of all Religions. As it is said, 'No one is your friend and no one is your enemy, but everyone is your Teacher', so one must learn from their *Bahuguna* for spiritual progress. Bro. Navin Kumar recited '*Guru Vandana*'. Quoting Saint Kabir's Doha he said that if Guru and Govind (Krishna) are standing together first one must touch the feet of Guru.

Dr. Rajam Pillai said that in early days Religious Teachings were only for Brahmins, Temples and Gurukuls. Lord Buddha opened the Teachings for *Bahujana hitaya – Bahujana sukhaya', i.e., for welfare and happiness of many.*

Bro. Vinayak Pandya said that Invisible Helpers and Gurus help humanity to progress.

Bro. Taral Munshi said *Guru Purnima is a blessed day to revere Guru.* He read about *Mukti Marg of Tahtagata Lord Buddha* from Shri H. K. Sharan's Hindi prose compilation of 'The Light of Asia''. The reading also narrated how Lord Buddha's father King Shuddhodana, Wife Yashodara and son Rahul accepted Tathagata's Teachings.

The meeting ended with recitation of Sanskrit Prayer by Bro. Navin Kumar.

<u>The Bombay Theosophical</u>Bulletin <u>No.12</u>Volume 89 September 2021 <u>Vol.</u>90 No.8 April 2020 VASANTA-GANESH-JYOTI LODGE Thursday Meetings in last two months have covered study of Gujarati Books – '*Theosophist nu Karya' and 'AB, HSO, CWL na Jiwan na Adbhut Prasango'* currently the study is of '*Sampurna Shikshan na Panch Stambho'* conducted by Bro. Vinayak Pandya.



SANGAM-SPIRITUAL CONFLUENCE AT THE JYOTI TUESDAY MEET OF TRIVENI ROHIT LODGE AHMEDABAD REVA LODGE VADODARA & JYOTI E-LODGE MUMBAI WITH SESSIONS OF THREE SPEAKERS OF THREE LANGUAGES ENGLISH-GUJARATI-HINDI

Bro. Taral Munshi with his innovative expertise and zeal to spread Theosophy far and wide **crystallized his dream of Jyoti E-Lodge** by launching virtual *'Theo-Jyoti Tuesday Meet'*. His wife Archana is an active creative partner in this Mission.

THEO JYOTI OR BRAMHA VIDHYA KI JYOTI is initiated by *JYOTI E-LODGE* of Bombay Theosophical Federation.

'THEO JYOTI YOU TUBE CHANNEL' is launched with active link: <u>https://youtube.com/channel/UCMHAerrhEdylpHvcF65Wahg</u>

Theo-Jyoti's inception is in Bro. Taral Munshi attending Meetings of Gujarat Lodges' Zoom meetings. Thinking together with Bro. Harshvadan Sheth, Bro. Atul Darji, Bro. Kirit Patel and Bro. Harshad

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Dave the beginning was made with Vadodara's Bro. Nikhil Bhai Desai's talk in Gujarati jointly for Three Lodges. The other single speakers were Bro. Harshvadan Sheth in Gujarati, Bro. Ashok Lokhande in Hindi, and Sis. Laxmi Mandleeka in English. With experience of initial meetings *THEO JYOTI* was formed with the vision -

- To bring under one umbrella activities of all Theosophical Lodges in INDIA and of the world ONLINE.
- To propagate all active lodges' activities done online and offline inside and outside world of Theosophy.
- To propagate and activate lodges technically inactive with giving support to their efforts online and offline.
- To make a UNIVERSE OF THEOSOPHY of existing Theosophist and common people with a spark online and offline through various activities like ART FORMS.
- To awaken THEOSOPHY in common people, who are yet not introduced to Theosophy.
- To crystallize the Vision, propagate Theosophy in 12 main INDIAN LANGUAGES and ENGLISH, a connecting Global Language.

The stream of 'Triveni Sangam' was started with main speakers Bro. Nikhilbhai Desai in Gujarati, Bro. Uday Pakawala in Hindi and Bro. Harshad Dave in Gujarati. The translators of other two languages were Bro. Harshvadan Seth, Bro. Harshad Dave, Bro. Taral Munshi and Bro. Atul Darji.

With the First Flyer TRIVENI TUESDAY MEET opened to larger audience of TS Brethren Adyar to Uttar Pradesh. This meeting of 13th July 2021 on 'Insights – Madam Blavatsky' was with main Speaker Ranjanben Vaidya speaking in English and translations in Gujarati by Bro.

Harshvadan Sheth and in Hindi by Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri.

To date other main speakers are Bro. Nikhilbhai Desai in Gujarati, Bro. U. S. Pandey in Hindi, Shri Ranjanben Vaidya in English, Prof. C. A. Shinde in English and Bro. Naresh Trivedi in Gujarati. The translators of other two languages and moderators have been Bro. Harshvardan Sheth, Sis. Ranjanben Vaidya, Bro. Taral Munshi, Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri, Bro. Atul Darji, Bro. Kiran Singlot, Sis. Meenakshi Gaidhani, Bro. Narsinh Thakaria and Sis. Archana Munshi.

Theo-Jyoti invites likeminded Theosophists to join TRIVENI with their expertise and suggestions.

TOS 69TH COMMEMORATION MEETING FOR ASHO NAR JAMSHED MEHTA On 1st August 2021

Theosophical Order of Service, Mumbai Region (TOS) has held meetings to commemorate Asho Nar Jamshed Mehta on 1st August for 69 years on his death Anniversary. The Meeting of 1st August 2021 was opened with the Universal Prayer. **President Sis. Thrity Dalal** in her welcome speech spoke about compassion and calmness emanating from Jamshed and love and affection he showered on all who came in contact with him, *which reaches us Oneness of life with all of humanity*.

BTF President Bro. Vinayak Pandya with PowerPoint presentation focused on Jamshed's realization of 'Ageless Wisdom, seeking spiritual self-transformation through selfless acts that earned him the epithet of '*Prophet of the Poor*'. He added that at the time of Partition Jamshed wanted to go to India, but *Kayade Aazam Mohammed Ali Jinnah asked Jamshed to stay back in Pakistan to serve Karachi.* Jamshed was the First Mayor of Karachi Municipal Corporation and with 13 years of service as Mayor he transformed Karachi for which he is called '*Maker of Modern Karachi*'. Pakistan had Commemorative Stamp of Rs.3/- for Jamshed on7th January 1988 and

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there is a *Jamshed Memorial Hall* on Mohammad Ali Jinnah Road. Jamshed had attended Dr. Annie Besant's lecture in Mumbai and was greatly inspired to live Theosophy. For him Dr. Annie Besant was his Spiritual Guru. Bro. Vinayak in the end sang song to pay *tributes to Gunijan Jamshed*: 'Maitree Bhavan Pavitra Zaranu, Muj Haiyaman Vahya Kare'.

Sis. Meherangiz Baria narrated how Jamshed lived all Three Theosophical Society Objects. Jamshed believed in Universal Brotherhood. Though Zoroastrian, he visited worship places of all religions and participated in other religious events. He had started a study class for comparative study of Religion, Philosophy and Science. He had full faith in Laws of Nature. He was used by Masters as a channel to share Divine Wisdom.

Sis. Parinaz Gandhi read article of Ms Shernaaz Engineer, Editor of Jam-e-Jamshed published in Jame of 1st August 2021 titled 'Karachi's Saint in Human Form'. Madam Shernaaz Engineer joining the meeting in her address said that "Jamshed Mehta's ability to find 'joy and meaning' in every act, especially in deeds of service to his family, community, civic administration and nation holds an inspiration for us during the Pandemic." Jamshed Mehta's last words were, 'TRUST IN GOD AND GOD ONLY'. (This issue of Bulletin covers Ms Shernaaz Engineer's article for her tributes to Jamshed Mehta)

Sis. Mahazaver Dalal shared that through a photo of Jamshed Mehta in her mother's cupboard at an early age she had learnt, 'Jamshed Mehta was a Saint who could be approached whenever in need.'

The meeting had ended with a song in Jamshed Mehta's memory, written by Kerbanu Patel and music by Navroz Mehta, rendered by Jamshed Kotwal.

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OBITUARY

At Jamshed Mehta's Commemorative Meeting of TOS on 1st August 2021, 'Jamshed Mehta's Memorial Song' sung by Sis. Silloo Shroff was missed. Sis. Silloo, TOS Member and friend of TS with nightingale voice passed away on 19th June 2021. She with her Late husband Jal had given Musical Evening of devotional songs for a Support Convention. With her songs she used to uplift Theosophical gatherings at Blavatsky Lodge and Shanti Lodge. She even at a very advanced age with classical *alaps* had sung a song at the last Support Convention of 2019-20. May her soul be endowed with celestial music.



JAMSHED NUSSERWANJI MEHTA KARACHI'S SAINT IN HUMAN FORM

Tributes by Ms Shernaaz Engineer, Editor Jam-E-Jamshed Courtesy: Jam-E-Jamshed Weekly issue 1st August 2021

Ms Shernaaz Engineer the Guest Speaker

at the Commemoration <u>The Bombay Theorem</u> Bulletin <u>No.12</u> No.12 No.



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Jamshed Nusserwanjee Mehta's life (January7, 1886 – August 1, 1952) teaches us how to make life's journey more meaningful...

It isn't every day that we get the chance to draw inspiration from an evolved soul, who proves to us that our lives are not merely for self gratification, but worth something only if we live in the true spirit of selfless service for humanity.

Jamshed Nusserwanjee Mehta was born on January 7, 1886, in Karachi. He passed away on August 1, 1952. The family he was born into was blessed with fortune. But Jamshedji was not impressed by worldly glitz and remained detached, wanting from his early years to do something more meaningful and spiritual.

Sense of Duty

One of the things that strike one about his early life is his reverence for his parents. Today, when we see children behaving indifferently with their parents, the persons who have nurtured them and sacrificed so much, one is touched that a great soul like Jamshedji was so obedient as to accept his father's command and join the family business even when his own personal inclination was to do something different.

He did his commerce education and joined the family firm, Nusserwanjee & Co. His father was a prosperous businessman with interests in wholesale, retail (they owned a large shop on Karachi's Elphinstone Street), selling wine and provisions, plus they had a tile

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factory, flour mill, sawmill, ice factory, aerated water factory and much more.

Jamshedji was greatly inspired by his angelic mother, Goolbai, who always told him to submit to the will of God. Of his father, Jamshedji one wrote in his own words: "He was honest in his dealings. I looked upon him as a yogi. He had a large business and he liked to give employment to more and more people. It gave him happiness and pleasure to see them so employed."

So, even though there was tremendous wealth, the family was rooted in values, and this is what young Jamshedji imbibed. From his early years, the light of spirituality began to shine forth from him. He was intensely compassionate and when, at the age of 13 or 14, he saw and heard the agony of a cow being pulled to the slaughterhouse for killing, he made his first conquest over the senses and became a vegetarian.

Divine Mission

Little by little, the young man gave up one luxury in life after another, and finally learnt to live on the barest minimum: simple food, clothes of handspun cotton, a hard wooden bed without mattress and the barest necessities of life.

Later, even though he attended to his father's business with a lot of dedication and enabled it to prosper, he saw in it an opportunity to serve others less fortunate. He believed in the dictum – "Earn with a hundred hands but give away with 1000 hands."

It is said that no one ever left disappointed if they came to him for help. Apart from his parents, as a young man he was greatly inspired by Annie Besant, and this drew him to the Theosophical Movement.

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Simultaneously, he began his career in public life. He took part in Mahatma Gandhi's First Civil Disobedience Movement during the First World War – this was his debut in politics, but he did not like it! Gandhiji however held him in great admiration and friendship developed between them.

Karachi's Benefactor

In 1918 Jamshedji joined the Karachi Municipality as a Councilors and served for six years. He displayed such a profound civic sense and fervent concern for the welfare of his fellow human-beings that he was soon elected President of the Corporation. He served in that capacity for 12 years and became the first Mayor of the City.

Jamshedji turned Karachi into a large well planned, modern city, the cleanest in the East. Broad clean roads, good sanitation, shady trees, a well-planned water system, parks, schools, hospitals, veterinary services, transport services, co-operative banking, co-operative housing, libraries, water-troughs for animals and many such amenities accrued from his thoughtful planning.

As a member of the Sind Legislative Assembly, as founder, president, secretary or treasurer of countless organizations and corporations, he served every field of human life and activity, big and small. But his real greatness was embodied in his wonderful personality, his endearing and thoughtful ways, his deep humanity, his sense of universal love and compassion and, above all, his disarming simplicity and humility.

Accepting God's Will

Welcome to another facet of his life: his spirituality. It is this that helped him to overcome the challenges of life. Wrote his close associate, Behram Sohrab Rustomjee: "Jamshed fulfilled the description of a true Mazdayasni Zarthushti. He lived his life according to the teachings of the Zoroastrian creed he was born into.

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He prayed and practiced the words of Prophet Spitaman Zarathushtra. His day of 24 hours was crowded every minute with industrious deeds. This was done despite the fact that Jamshed often suffered from acute physical pain, mental anguish and soul wracking experiences."

A devout Zoroastrian, it is revealed that he undertook it upon himself to revive the practice of 'Gatha Humbandagi' in Karachi. This was the devotional chanting of the Gathas in a congregation by Parsis and he made a deep study of the ancient practices before reintroducing them. His friend Behram Rustomjee said, "He carefully preserved the real ceremonies, kept up the traditional observances of purification, gave the Mobeds the place of honour due to them and brought about such a genuine fervor for the faith."

Jamshedji had a sister, whose young daughter was ailing. He was deeply attached to his niece and took her to West Germany for treatment, to no avail. He accepted her ailment as God's will and returned to Karachi and continued his work in the service of humanity, despite his own failing health.

His friend, Minoo, recalls that during his last days, as ill health took its toll and he lay shriveled and suffering on bed, he would ask all those who came to visit him if he could be of any service to them! In fact, in the last letter he wrote to Minoo he stressed, "Trust in God and God only."

He passed away on August 1, 1952. Where shall we find another who gave to others not only all the riches of his purse but all the wealth of his soul and, living a life of self-denial, love, and sacrifice, left behind him the fragrance of a rose?



The First Annual event commemorating the one year of virtual activity of the Inter American Theosophical Federation was celebrated on 3rd July 2021. It is the largest Federation within the Adyar Theosophical society, head quartered in Brasilia, with a membership of 19 countries mainly from south and Central America, Canada and the United States.

Bro Arni Narendran, Hon Treasurer of the Blavatsky lodge was the lone attendee from Asia. Bro Martin Leiderman, a wellknown speaker in Spanish and English was also present. Bro Arni was introduced to the 212 participants from 19 countries by the Chairman, Sr. Isis Resende, a globetrotting International

Movement. She remembered Bro Arni as her first teacher of English, when she travelled outside Brazil to attend the Adyar Centenary Convention with the Brazilian contingent.

The IATF was formed in 1947 and its Congress was chaired by Theosophical luminaries such as Sr. Joy mills, Bro. Seymour Ballard, Bro. Nazareno Rimini, Sr. Dora Kunz, Bro. John Algeo, Sr. Betty Bland and Bro. Tim Boyd. The event was marked by a scintillating talk by **Bro Jose Manual Anclote from the TS in Lisbon, Portugal.**

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He spoke on the topic of 'El tiempo de Buda, Shankara, Patanjali, Pythagoras' in 'Portunhol', an inventive language combined with Spanish and Portuguese. The speaker spoke with great details on the various wisdom schools that had influenced world Thought. It is a Federation of five Big Sections - Brazil, Spain, Argentina, Mexico and Cuba. Paraguay, Nicaragua, Venezuela and Ecuador and Peru are other active countries in the region.

Sr. Isis wrote, "Dear Arni, I am so pleased that you were with us today. We were celebrating one year of zoom. It is amazing how we enter the right place at the right time. Theosophy has been a bridge to have you as a good friend for 45 years".

The meeting was held with joy and humour and all of them interacting as though a Family of global Brotherhood. Language was no barrier to feel the sense of bonhomie and camaraderie with fellow Theosophists. Bro Arni stated in his observation on the occasion, "Where the Chairman Sr. Isis is the speaker, her analytical Mind stops working and her Wisdom Heart starts speaking." It indeed was a confluence of two hundred Theosophical HEARTS.

-Shared by Bro. Arni Narendran

There was a unity of purpose in all the work that Annie Besant undertook. That purpose was the betterment of humanity and promotion of peace and goodwill in the larger life.

Surendra Narayan

Annie Besant on the Brotherhood of Religions ADYAR THEOSOPHICAL ACADEMY 'TWO BLISSFUL YEARS LEARNING TOGETHER' Courtesy: 'The Theosophist' August 2021

[*Editor:* BTF brethren you had given Donations on Adyar Day 2021 for Adyar Theosophical Academy. You would like to know about learning at this First Theosophical School]

Exploring the New Frontiers in Schooling

The Director of the Adyar Theosophical Academy (ATA), Mrs. Sonal Murali, reports that on 24th June 2021, ATA celebrated its second anniversary. International President Tim Boyd joined the 3rd and 4th graders for an online session as part of a modest celebration. We were also joined online by the President of theosophical colleges in the Philippines, Vic Hao Chin, Jr., international officers Nancy Secrest and Marja Artamaa, General Secretary of the Indian Section of the Theosophical Society (TS) Pradeep Gohil, and the TS Adyar campus General Manager K. Jaikumar.

Since we could not have all our 130 students in a session, a video was put together giving a glimpse of what the two blissful years of learning and creating together were like, and how strong bonds were formed, what brought smiles to our faces, and joy to our hearts.

In its second year, ATA actively embodied its motto: "Learning through Transformation", especially in the way it embraced the unforeseen challenge posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Classrooms went from being airy spaces to windows on a computer screen. While different in many ways from year one, there is much that we learned to celebrate as a community. Our online sessions retain the school's joyous spirit – the sounds that emanate are quite like those found in typical school setting. Children are buzzing with curiosity.

There is music, stories, and friendly chatter. What is more, this unique time continues to provide us all an opportunity to create new bonds and explore fresh ways of communicating.

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The school is keenly aware of the pressures of the pandemic on the family unit. The duration of sessions and the duration of content to disperse syllabi were designed accordingly. Additionally, our teachers engage in regular workshops to update their repository of skills and tools for the new and shifting scenario.

The focus is on providing our students and outlet for exploration and learning while giving them the comfort and joy of peer interaction. With these factors in place, our teachers have opted for an organic approach to schooling. Seamless transitions between various components, be it math, language, or nutrition, is done through music, stories, games, crafts, project work, and timely breaks.

Space was explored through videos, art, and stories, apart from the introductory session. An exploration of shapes and dimensions was expanded into an aid to create poetry. Meanwhile, art sessions gave life to these shapes by getting our students to try their hand at different styles of art. Scientific temperament and curiosity were steadily encouraged by providing a welcome space for questions on divergent topics. ATA is focused on continuing to make schooling and friendship accessible and the highlight of each week.

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Price Rs.1/-	Annual Subscription: Rs.10/-

Bombay Theosophical Federation, c/o Blavatsky Lodge, 7 – French Bridge, Chowpatty, Mumbai – 400 007. (Tel: 23685026) and printed at Vijay Copy Centre, 48/A, Saidunnisa Building, Sleater Road, Opposite Grant Road Station (West), Mumbai-400 007.

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