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ZOROASTRIANISM

Presentation by

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Blavatsky Lodge Theosophical society
Mumbai, India

For

Ojai Valley Theosophical Society
California, USA

6th January 2021

With Compliments of

The Bombay Theosophical Federation



Blessings of Lord Zarathushtra
& Atash Padshah Saheb to all



Sis. Mehra Dhalla
26-06-1902 30-05-1989

Mrs. Mehra Dhalla wrote several pamphlets and books on various aspects of the Theosophical Teachings during the Besant Birth Centenary Celebrations and subsequent thereto. Her books in Gujarati language were based on Theosophical Books covering 'Karma', 'Invisible Helpers', 'Life & Dharma', 'Relationship with Departed Dear Ones', 'Virtuous Life', 'Life, Ideals & Discrimination in Action', 'Spiritual Life' and many more. She also wrote a book in Gujarati on 'Zoroastrianism in Light of Theosophy'. Her latest book was a summarized translation of *Besant's Seven Great Religions* in Gujarati. She toured several places in India and East Africa giving lectures on Theosophy. She could speak to school children as well as the students of Theosophy. She founded Centenary, Radiance and Jamshed Mehta Lodges in Mumbai. Members created Mehra Dhalla Memorial Fund for Propagation of Theosophy. She was a Co-Freemason of highest 33°. Her husband Ratanshah Dhalla (1901-1986) a member of the Theosophical Society gave quiet support to his wife in her active life dedicated to Theosophy.

Courtesy:

The Bombay Theosophical Bulletin September 2006 from article
'The Stalwarts of Bombay Theosophical Federation'
Compiled by Bro. Jal P. Sanjana in 2001

This booklet is published from Mehra Dhalla Memorial Fund
with Bombay Theosophical Federation

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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**ADYAR DAY VIRTUAL MEETING
OF BOMBAY THEOSOPHICAL FEDERATION
WITH BLAVATSKY LODGE ON 17TH FEBRUARY 2021**

The Bombay Theosophical Federation and Blavatsky Lodge jointly organized the Adyar Day celebrations on Zoom. This year, although it was physically distanced, it attracted many stalwarts of Theosophy, which brought in an element of Nostalgia and History to the large number of participants, as many as thirty-five. **Sister Kashmira Khambatta, President of the Blavatsky Lodge**, welcomed the gathering. The program started with **Adyar Song compiled in Gujarati by the Late Mrs. Mugdha Hora, mother of Dr. Ajay Hora** which describes Adyar with her inner eye as a sublime Paradise on Earth. The English translation was facilitated by **Dr. Ajay Hora**, senior most member of Bombay. **Bro Vinayak Pandya, President of BTF** spoke on the significance of Adyar Day and the genesis of the annual event celebrated all over the world.

Editor – Bro. 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
Pandya. **Note:** News, Notes and Programs to be printed in the Bulletin be
forwarded by e-mail to kashmira.khambatta@gmail.com latest by 16th each
month. Readers’ Views are invited.



Brother Navin Kumar, Vice President of Blavatsky Lodge, spoke on Giordano Bruno who was a victim at the stakes for speaking the TRUTH and went up in chariot of fire. His statue at the Sorbonne University in France is an Honour bestowed upon him and a living reminder of his sacrifice. **Sr. Ruby Khan** spoke on Col Henry Steel Olcott and his role in establishing the Theosophical Society. He was the force behind the Buddhist revival in Ceylon, now Srilanka. **Sr. Meherangiz Baria** spoke on Bro. Jiddu Krishnamurti and his upbringing by Dr. Annie Besant and Bishop Leadbeater as their ward, and his subsequent journey traveling alone in Search of Truth – ‘*Truth is a Pathless land*’. Sr. Aban Amroliwalla spoke on Bishop Charles Leadbeater, his contribution to the Theosophical body of literature and the establishment of Liberal Catholic Church.

The celebrations had two historic events:

The first was the release of a Booklet on ‘Zoroastrianism’ authored by Sr. Aban Patel, senior lecturer at Blavatsky Lodge. It was the content of her lecture delivered at the Ojai Valley Lodge, California, United States on 6th January 2021. Sr. Aban Patel was assisted by Sr. Kashmiria Khambatta for the Power Point Presentation with beautiful pictures and Sr. Aban Amroliwalla’s inputs. The publication was sponsored by the BTF from **Late Sr Mehra Dhalla Memorial Fund** created with donations of Bombay Brethren. The

Booklet was **launched by Br Vinayak Pandya- President of BTF** by un-wrapping the booklet. He lauded the creation of this booklet and spoke about Late Sis. Mehra Dhalla, Stalwart of Bombay. BTF President Bro. Vinayak Pandya, Secretary Sis. Mahazaver Dalal and donors of Memorial Fund were remembered for funding the publication.

The Release slide with all pages of the booklet ‘Zoroastrianism’ with a quick run were **shown by Sis. Kashmira Khambatta. Sis. Aban Patel in her response** shared inspiring words of Dr. Annie Besant addressed to Zoroastrians about Zarathushtra’s Teachings and the Sacred Fire.

‘Zoroastrianism’ Booklet after release is sent with compliments of BTF to Active Brethren. For remaining few copies, interested Members please contact BTF secretary Sis. Mahazaver Rustom Dalal (M): 9833131216.

The second event was the **launch of the current issue of’ Synergy Journal’**, the issue which is **dedicated to Theosophy**. Dr. Rajam Pillai spoke at length on how as an Editor of Hindi journal Gandhi Prawah, published by Mani Bhawan, Mumbai, she had heard about Dr. Annie Besant and that was the reason for being drawn to Theosophy. ‘Synergy’, her journal which is bilingual has transformed gradually into a Theosophy journal targeted at the student community of Mumbai University. She is funding the project through her Family Trust and has been silently propagating Theosophy worldwide through Poetry, Art and Theosophy content.

The ‘Synergy’ issue was launched by senior most in age member Bro. Kanubhai Shah and Brethren displaying cover page card of the issue. Three contributors in this issue were present and spoke which added color to the celebrations; Sr. Manorama Saxena, who had been in the movement for seventy years, Sr. Freny Pagdiwala, the whole and Soul of the Blavatsky Book Depot and Sr. Manjula Kannabar, who had interacted with Bro. Jiddu Krishnamurti (who although absent, had sent a video). The Fourth contributor Bro. Arni

Narendran, Treasurer of Blavatsky Lodge was present as the Master of Ceremonies.

Bro Taral Munshi recited his composition of Hindi Poem 'Pyara Adyar – Tera Mera'. **Sr. Deepa Kapoor** spoke on behalf of her mother and her association with Theosophy as a child. **Sr. Jasmine Cawasji**, Lodge Secretary, rendered a very fine note of Thanks to all the Speakers and participants. **Sr. Zeena Rastomjee** rendered the concluding prayers.

- *The event curated and presented by*
Br Arni Narendran, Treasurer of the Blavatsky Lodge

PYARA ADYAR – TERA MERA
Hindi Poem by Bro. Taral Munshi

Basa hai vo vishal sagar ke kinare
Janhan hai gyaan ki lehron ka dera
Yahan insaniyat ka hai basera
Yeh to hai Pyara Addiyar - Tera Mera

Bhasha Dharma koi bhi ho - Tera Mera
Nahin pahechana jata yanhan is se chehera- Tera Mera
Na yanha hoti kabhi ye ladai ki kya hai - Tera Mera
Doosron ki seva se hi pahchana jata chehra - Tera Mera

Basa hai vo vishal sagar ke kinare
Janhan hai gyaan ki lehron ka dera
Yahan insaniyat ka hai basera
Yeh to hai Pyara Addiyar - Tera Mera

Man ki shanti ke hai yahan pehre.
Brahmand ke raj hai yahan gahre
Manav shiksha ka bandhta yahan sehra
Har atma ko yahan dikhe Parmatma ka chehra

*Basa hai vo sagar ke kinare
Janhan hai gyaan ki lehron ka dera
Yahan insaniyat ka hai basera
Yeh to hai Pyara Addiyar - Tera Mera*

VIRTUAL CENTRE FOR THEOSOPHICAL STUDY

Bro. Arni Narendran, Education Director announced at Blavatsky Lodge Adyar Day meeting **Launch of Spanish FB page – Centro Virtual de Estudios Teosoficos.**

Greetings for the Launch was sent by the President –Sr.Ana Maria Cuellar of the Rama Paz lodge- La Paz, Bolivia., Br Luke Ironside, Founder Director, and **Bro. Arni Narendran, Education Director, who had sent a Bilingual felicitation in Spanish and English.** The team consisting of Sr. Dhyana Rocha, Sr.Stephanie Varga, La Paz and Sr.Agnes Martinez- Costa Rica, are the coordinating team.

BOMBAY BRETHREN HAD JOINED ADYAR DAY MEETINGS OF INDIAN SECTION AND ADYAR

Both Adyar Day meetings were rare opportunities for Bombay Brethren to be united with Brethren of India and the World with **‘Adyar Consciousness’ as International President Tim Boyd had mentioned in his speech.**

ADYAR DAY COLLECTION: BTF PRESIDENT Bro. Vinayak Pandya has appealed in TS Mumbai Group to give Adyar Day Donation cheques in name of ‘Blavatsky Lodge T.S.’. The collection will be donated to Adyar Theosophical Academy.



**BTF PRESIDENT BRO. VINAYAK PANDYA'S PUBLIC TALK
ON PRAGYA CS STUDIO VIRTUAL MEETING
OF 7TH FEBRUARY 2021**

The meeting **hosted by Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri from Adyar on 7th February 2021** was attended by Brethren from Philippines to USA covering 4 Continents. Australia & New Zealand could not join as it was night there. From India members were from Chennai to Delhi. Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri welcoming all had said this was one of the Public Talks organized by Pragya CS studio of Lucknow was to take Theosophical Teachings to as many as possible and to realize 'Unity in Diversity' and 'Oneness of Life'.

Bro. Vinayak Pandya from Theosophical Family, CA and an Educationist in his own right **speaking on 'THEOSOPHICAL EDUCATION & THEOSOPHICAL SCHOOLS' said:**

TS members as Ambassadors of Theosophy have a responsibility to try to implement Theosophy in life. This starts with Ethics and Moral values instilled from young age. Hence it is important to instill Theosophical values in young minds before they have set ideas and are not open to change.

A picture shows that when a child returned from school greatly disturbed as he had failed, members of family showed their disapproval, but family dog with unconditional love hugged the child. Hence it is important to develop love & compassion to understand others and respond accordingly.

Adyar Theosophical Academy and The Golden Link College of Philippines teach Practical Theosophy to young ones, who would grow up with Theosophy and will bring change for the good of the society. This is the reason International President Tim Boyd wants to have 100 Theosophical Schools in 50 years.

Describing the problems of today's education system Bro. Vinayak said that stress created at home and schools drives students even to commit suicide. A child may not be academically good, but he may

have other potentials. Education is for understanding of Life, i.e., *from One to many and from many to One*. Character building, acquiring life skill and professional skill is important. Understanding of human bodies and personalities is also needed.

Bro. Vinayak explained the Culture of Theosophical School:

- No Ranking, No competition, No contest, No comparisons – A circle of Education
- No punishment, only explaining consequences.
- Promoting excellence in all aspects
- Emphasis not on Grade, but on competence
- Encourages ethical conduct.
- Administration and Faculty are Approachable, Friendly so that students do not fear them.
- No humiliation
- Open discussion even of sensitive subjects like Religion, Social Customs etc.
- Difference of opinion, but not difference of heart.
- Non-Sectarian Schools
- Vegetarian Canteen – No soft drinks and junk food
- Support to students with financial difficulty
- To inculcate Understanding & Compassion
- Teaching without shouting, threat, physical coercion, anger
- Culture of handshaking
- Inner development and awareness about tug-of-war between Higher Self and Lower Self.
- Training for Faculty and Training for Parents
- Training for Self-Transformation

Two quotes on Education Bro. Vinayak shared are important:

Madam H. P. Blavatsky: If we had money, we would find schools Children should be taught self-reliance, love for all men, altruism, mutual charity and more than anything else, to think and reason for

themselves. We would reduce the purely mechanical work of the memory to an absolute minimum and devote the time to the development and training of the inner senses, faculties and latent capacities.

J. Krishnamurthy: The function of education is to create human beings who are integrated and therefore intelligent Education in the true sense is helping the individual to be mature and free to flower greatly in love and goodness.

Bro. Vinayak showed the photos of educational activities at Adyar Theosophical Academy and The Golden Link College of Philippines. He also shared feedback of students of The Golden Link College who have experienced transformation in their life. Bro. Vinayak urged to donate generously for newly found Adyar Theosophical Academy.

Bro. Vicente Hao Chin Jr., Founder of the Golden Link College, and Sis. Sonal Murli, Principal of Adyar Theosophical Academy also shared their experiences of teaching Practical Theosophy.

Sis. Catalina Isaza Cantor with vote of thanks shared her own experiences of assisting administrative work of ATA.

COMMEMORATION MEETING FOR BRO. BERTIE

The Blavatsky Lodge Commemoration Meeting for Dear Bro Bertie Redwood was on 22nd January 2022 over zoom. The meeting started with Universal Prayer by Lodge President- **Sr. Kashmira Khambatta** who shared the messages received from Br Bertie in the last few days and his ever-helpful Nature. **Bro Navin Kumar** Vice President of the Lodge requested **Bro Arni Narendran, Treasurer of the Lodge to conduct the Memorial Service**. Bro Arni Narendran spoke at Length of the outstretching and compassionate Nature of Bertie to all whom he met. He read a Catholic Prayer for the Ascension of the Soul.

Others who paid tributes were Br Vinayak Pandya, Br. Rustom Dalal, Sis. Mahazaver Dalal, Sis. Freny Pagdiwala, Sis. Jasmine Cawasji, Dr. Rajam Pillai, Bro. Kanubhai Shah, Bro. Noor Baig, Bro. Zinoo Master, Sis. Deepa Kapur, Sis. Aban Amroliwalla, Sis. Mahlab Tarapore, Sis. Ruby Khan, Sis. Zeena Rastomjee and all the members present who showered eloquent praise and accolades sharing personal incidents when Bro. Bertie had touched their lives and hearts.

What **Sis. Aban Patel** said taking letters of BERTIE's name is true:

Bouncing with joy and happiness always.

Ever helpful in everything.

Responding to everyone's request.

Top of the world and enjoying life.

Intelligent and vibrant.

Ever loving and enthusiastic Theosophist

Rest In Eternal Peace Dear BERTIE

Bro. Navin Kumar after paying his tributes read passages from the Bhagavad Gita in the context of the Soul's journey. The meeting ended with a **Meditation dedicated** to the Ascension of Bro. Bertie's Soul on its onward journey to Higher realms.--**Meeting recorded by Bro. Arni Narendran**

Sis. Navaz Dhalla's mother Dowlat Dhalla missed the meeting so she has requested to share her fond remembrances: *He was always friendly and warm hearted. I particularly enjoyed his company when we prepared the yearly concerts of members of Blavatsky Lodge, when I was asked to join in as an accompanist on piano. He used to participate with gusto. *In November 2020, when we wanted to give away some of good clothes, crockery, cutlery etc., we thought of Bro. Bertie as he was doing social work. *He came to Lodge 2-3 times despite Pandemic Lockdown and collected the boxes and carried them away on his bicycle in most ingenious way to give to people who would find them useful.* ***We will miss him. Pray his soul rests in eternal peace, which he truly deserves!**

BLAVATSKY LODGE ANNOUNCEMENTS

With the Grace of The Higher Ones, Corona Virus Pandemic is coming under control and Lockdown is gradually unlocking, so **Blavatsky Lodge TS Office has now opened** from early February 2021. **The Staff attends to the Lodge work during the Lodge timings.** Lodge Assistant Sis. Asha is there from 3.00 to 6.00 pm. **For members on the safe side most probably the Blavatsky Lodge will open from 1st April 2021.**

Blavatsky Lodge Fees including Annual Dues & The Indian Theosophist Subscription **for the Year 2020-2021 is very kindly paid for all Blavatsky Lodge members by Bro. Navin Kumar** to save Lapses of Membership under pandemic. **Members have to reimburse Bro. Navin Kumar for their respective Lodge Fees, i.e.Rs.300/- per member and Rs.435/- for Couple.**

Some of the members have reimbursed Bro. Navin Kumar by direct deposits in his Bank Account. Now Lodge Assistant Sis. Asha comes to the Lodge so **Brethren are requested to pay their Lodge Fees by Cheque to Sis. Asha by a cheque** drawn in name of BLAVATSKY LODGE T.S. Option is open to make Online Payment or Direct Deposit in the Lodge Account:

Account Name: Blavatsky Lodge T.S.

Current Account No: 00807620000089

Bank Name: HDFC bank

Branch name: FMR Building, Worli

IFSC Code: HDFC0000080

After collection of Lodge Fees, Blavatsky Lodge will reimburse Bro. Navin Kumar.

Blavatsky Lodge Book Depot has now opened.

Brethren can give order to Bro. Navin Kumar on E-mail: navinkumar46@gmail.com and make online payment to Blavatsky Lodge TS Bank Account. The packets of their ordered books will be ready at Blavatsky Lodge, which after checking with Lodge Assistant Sis. Asha on [Tel:23685026](tel:23685026) can be picked up. **Request is to make cheque payments for books purchased at Blavatsky Lodge Book Depot.**

GRATITUDE

*A thankful Heart that is an open heart
and is thus open to receiving.*

*Ekhart says “if the only prayer you say, in your life
is, ‘Thank You’, that would suffice.”*

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life.

It turns what we have into enough and more

*It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home,
a stranger into a friend.*

HAPPINESS

All the Happiness that exists

Arrives from wishing joy for others;

And all the misery that exists,

Arises from wishing happiness for oneself alone.

What more need be said?

The spiritually immature think of themselves alone,

The Buddhas think only of others.

- **Pearls from Diary of Sis.Manoramaji Saxena
Mother of Bro. Navin Kumar**

Price Rs.1/-

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