



THE BOMBAY THEOSOPHICAL BULLETIN

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THE BOMBAY THEOSOPHICAL FEDERATION

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AmeshaSpands

In the Zoroastrian Religion, the Monotheistic faith of Ancient Iran, God is named Ahura Mazda, which means “Wise Lord”. The Wise Lord connects with the material world through seven Emanations, Each of which has guardianship over a human virtue and a sector of Creation. These Emanations are called AmeshaSpands, or “Bounteous Immortals”. They are comparable to Archangels. Zoroastrians do not worship or pray to these immortals; they pray through them to commune with God.

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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31ST AUGUST 2024 – LAST DATE FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL E-MAILS TO BE SENT TO INDIAN SECTION

All 11 Lodges of Bombay Theosophical Federation are given their respective Lodge List for taking signature of their members and to send scanned copy to Indian Section Renewal Membership E-mail:

renewalindsecmem@gmail.com

BTF appreciates actions taken by the Lodges, but more remains to be done. Lodge Secretaries please guide your members, who cannot come and sign, to send scan of their signed request e-mails to Indian Section.

**BOOK THE DATES FOR BTF 93RD ANNUAL SESSION
22ND, 23RD, 24TH NOVEMBER 2024**

BTF President Bro. Vinayak Pandya requests Brethren of all 11 Lodges of Bombay to book the dates for the Bombay Theosophical Federation 93rd Annual Session. **Shri Shikhar Agnihotri, International TS Lecturer has graciously accepted Bombay TF invitation to grace the 93rd Annual Session as the Chief Guest.**

Acting Editor – Sis. Mahazaver 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 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.

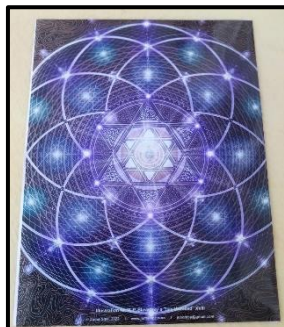
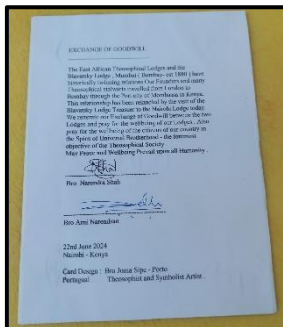
EXCHANGE OF THEOSOPHICAL GOODWILL ACROSS THE SHORES OF ARABIAN SEA



TS Premises in Nairobi, Kenya

Group Photo L to R: Senior Trustee Bro. Navin Shah, Rekha Shah, Chairperson of the Lodge, Bro. Arni Narendran, Hon. Treasurer Blavatsky Lodge Mumbai and Bro. Narendra Shah, Vice-Chairman of the Lodge – Exchange of Goodwill at Nairobi Lodge

Bro. Arni Narendran sharing memorable Exchange of Good Will in Nairobi writes: Warm welcome at the time of my visit of Nairobi Lodge was rekindling of historic twinning of two Lodges across the shores of Arabian Sea – Blavatsky Lodge, Mumbai on East shores and Nairobi Lodge on West shores. Bro. Narendra Shah in transit to Adyar for International TS Conventions is an eagerly look forward TS Dignitary by Brethren of Blavatsky Lodge and BTF in Mumbai. And to listen to his experiences of the Conventions. **It was my privilege to return the visit first time from Blavatsky Lodge.**



The Exchange of Goodwill signed by Bro. Narendra Shah and Bro. Arni Narendran on 22nd June 2024 reads: The east African Theosophical Lodges and Blavatsky Lodge Mumbai (Bombay established 1880) have historically twinning relations. **Our Founders and many Theosophical Stalwarts travelled from London to Bombay through the Port city of Mombassa in Kenya.** This relationship has been rekindled by the Blavatsky Lodge Treasurer to the Nairobi Lodge today. We reiterate our Exchange of Goodwill between the two Lodges and pray for wellbeing of our Lodges. Also pray for the wellbeing of the citizens of our country in the spirit of Universal Brotherhood – the foremost objective of the Theosophical Society. May Peace and Wellbeing prevail upon all Humanity.

The Card for Exchange of Goodwill is designed by Bro. Joma Sipe-Porto, Theosophist Artist of Portugal.



Seated L to R: Bro. Narendra Shah – General Secretary East & Central Africa, Sis. Rekha Shah – Chairman Nairobi Lodge, Bro. Arni Narendran – Revered Guest from Mumbai and Treasurer Blavatsky Lodge, Bro. Navin Shah – A.G.S. Kenya & Trustee Nairobi Lodge and Bro. Vimal Vohora – Trustee Nairobi Lodge
Standing L to R: Nairobi Lodge Members – Bro. Vipin, Bro. Nilesh, Bro. Kirti, Sis. Pratibha, Sis. Sunita and Bro. Nilesh

[NOTE: Symbols of All r\Religions on wall)

**BOMBAY THEOSOPHICAL FEDERATION
COUNCIL MEETING AT ANAD LODGE, JUHU
On Sunday 30th June 2024 at 11.00 am**



In the midst of beautiful Juhu Theosophical Colony the BTF Council Meeting **chaired by President Bro. Vinayak Pandya** was attended by 11 Council Members and 8 Invited Members of Lodges of BTF. **The Meeting was hosted by Bro. Nilesh Mehta and Bro. Samir, Sis. Mona, Bro. Pratham, Bro. Nimit and other members of Mehta Families** of Vasanta Theosophical Co-operative Housing Society, juhu.

The main Agendas were:

1. To reach BTF **Goal of Net Increase of 50 Members by 30th September 2024** in BTF Membership Lodges were urged to motivate individuals interested in Theosophy to become TS Members.
2. **According to the Propagation Grant received from Indian Section TS**, to discuss plans **to propagate Theosophy to Youth by approaching Schools and Colleges** with support of TS Members' contacts with schools and colleges and skit on Humanity by winning Team of last year's Theosophy by Art Skit Competition.

3. To plan **BTF 93rd Annual Session on 22nd, 23rd & 24th November 2024 with International Lecturer Shri Shikhar Agnihotri as the Chief Guest.**
4. At the end of the meeting **Four Artist Students of Winning Skit Team Sis. Simran Nivangune, Bro. Vaibhav Kamble, Bro. Paras Mule and Sis. Drakshani Natekar** were welcomed. They spoke about their experiences of presenting the skit on ‘Humanity’ at International TS Convention at Adyar on 1st January 2024 and what TS Membership means to them.



The Diplomas were presented to them by President Bro. Vinayak Pandya and Artist Students’ Mentor Bro. Taral Mumnsi. After the meeting they practiced the skit written and directed by Bro. Taral Munshi to be performed at the time of school / college visits.

All parted with sincere **thanks to Bro. Nilesh and all Members of Mehta Families** for their warm hospitality starting with Tea & Biscuits and ending with a spread of tasty snacks for Refreshments.

ASALA PURNIMMA MEETING
Friday 19th July 2024 Evening in Green Room
With Alter Table near Lord Buddha's Statue
In Blavatsky Lodge



The Meeting was opened with the Universal Prayer and recitation of Buddhist prayer by Sis. Meherangiz Baria. **Blavatsky Lodge Vice-President Bro. Navin Kumar** invoked the grace of Light Bringers Madam H. P. Blavatsky & Col. H. S. Olcott, who had embraced Buddhism with vow of *Panchashila* (last 5 lines of Buddhist Prayer) in Sri Lanka. They had meetings with different groups of Buddhism in Sri Lanka to arrive at an understanding of 14 points, which are in Col. Olcott's book *Buddhist Catechism*.

Bro. Navin Kumar in his speech said: Lord Buddha is called *'The First Flower of Humanity to reach Buddhahood'*. Lord Buddha had got enlightenment on Wesak Purnima and on Asala Purnima at Sarnath He gave His First Sermon to five pupils about Four Noble Truth and The Eightfold Path. It is called *'Dhammachak – Kappavaltana Sutta'* i.e. *'The Setting in Motion of the Royal Chariot Wheels of the Kingdom of Righteousness'*. This Sermon on every Asala Purnima is recited by Lord Maitreya in his beautiful garden on the Southern Slope of Himalaya in original sonorous Pali, but everyone present

hears him in one's own tongue wherein he was born. It is called '*Pentecostal Miracle*'.

Bro. Navin Kumar added: Contentment and Unselfishness are the first requirements on the path of spirituality. Buddhism believes in evolution life through several incarnations. He quoted the stories from Life of J. Krishnamurthy & History to explain how Karma is settled over the incarnations. He also spoke about how an Aspirant with righteous life and evolved consciousness progresses through Initiations becomes Bodhisattva and reaches Buddhahood.

The Meeting had ended with the Sanskrit Prayer and par taking holy water kept on the Alter.

On Guru Purnima Day 21st July 2024

Talk on Zoom by Sis. Aban Patel

IMPOTANCE OF GURU PURNIMA - ASALAL PURNIMA

Today is the day of paying gratitude to our Gurus, our Prophets, our Masters, who have made great sacrifices to leave their Celestial abode and come down to earth, to guide the humanity to tread the Path of Righteousness, leading to Spirituality. On this day, thousands of years ago, Lord Buddha gave His First Sermon after attaining Enlightenment, on the Full Moon Day of the month of Asala, (Ashadh in Sanskrit).

In our culture, Gurus position is held very high, almost as high as God and even more than that as **the great Sant Kabirji said:**

*Guru Govind dou khade, kaake laagu pai,
Balihari, Guru apney Govind diyo bataye*

Meaning:

If Guru and God both come before me

Whom should I bow down first?

I would bow down first to my Guru

Because He is the one who shows the way to God.

Madame Blavatsky in Practical Occultism said: “No man is your enemy, no man is friend. All alike are your Teachers.”

Prominent events associated with the Asala Purnima Full Moon day are:

1. Conception of Bodhisattva in the womb of Queen Mayavati,
2. The day when Prince Siddhartha relinquished the layman’s life and did the great Renunciation to become an ascetic.
3. It was on this day Lord Buddha preached his first sermon—commonly known as *Dhammachakkapavattana Sutta*, which has been translated by Rhys David as “*setting in motion of the royal chariot wheels of the kingdom of Righteousness*”, also known as “*turning of the wheels of law*”. It explains for the first time, the great **Sermon of Lord Buddha of Four Noble Truths & the Noble Eightfold Paths, expounding the Great Middle Path**, which Lord Buddha emphasized, as Lord Buddha, himself experienced this before He gave the first Sermon.

When I had gone to Dharamshala in Madhya Pradesh and visited His Holiness Dalai Lama’s Monastery, I saw the statue of Lord Buddha, which was nothing but a skeleton. Upon asking the guide about that statue, I was explained that Lord Buddha was told that by doing fasting and giving pain, (kashta) to body, one gains Nirvana faster so He did the fasting and gave so much ‘kashta’ to His body that he became like this. Then, the Lord thought to Himself, “*this is too extreme, at this rate I will not be able to fulfill my mission for which I have taken birth on this earth*”. So He accepted Kheer given by a spiritual lady Sujata and gave up fasting. **He preached The Middle Path.** In life, times come when one has to enjoy and at times when one suffers so to remain calm and surrender to the Will of God.

Lord Buddha then gave His sermon of The Four Noble Truths : The sermon begins with a proclamation that the Middle Path is the safest, and indeed , the only path. And the Four Noble Truths are:

The First Truth is Sorrow or Suffering

The Second Truth is the Cause of Sorrow

The Third Truth is The Ceasing of Sorrow

The Fourth Truth is The way to Escape Sorrow this is given in The Noble Eightfold Path. A beautiful tabulation, which can be taken at all levels, by an uneducated man as well as a highest philosopher:

The First Sep in the Path is **Right Belief**, not the blind faith.

The Second Step in the Path is **Right Thought**. Be Positive in thinking.

The Third Step in the Path is **Right Speech**. Here also we must think before we speak. Remember the great Philosopher Aristotle had said about gossips. He said “*Before hearing any gossips or rumour, do this Filter test*”.

First: Is it Good or Bad? If Bad, don't listen, ignore it.

Second: Is it True or False? If False, don't listen, ignore it

Third: Is it Beneficial to me? If not, don't listen, ignore it.

By following the above filter, we will rescue ourselves from evil speech or act.

The Fourth Step in the Path is **Right Action**. We should always bear in mind that our thoughts, our speech and our actions are not merely qualities, but powers- powers given to us to use, for the use of which we are directly responsible. All are meant to be used for service, and to use them otherwise is to fail in our duty.

The Fifth Step in the Path is **Right Means of Livelihood**. Whatever profession one follows there must be righteousness and some ethics, as not to fleece the people.

The Sixth Step in the Path is the **Right Exertion or Endeavour**. Whenever we take up any task or work, we must remember to do our Best and see that we do good to our fellow beings

The Seventh Step in the Path is **Right Remembrance**. To think positively in the present as well as for the future. It means self, collectedness, of who we are and about our work.

The Eight Step in the Path is **Right Meditation or Right Concentration**. The condition of Right Concentration will attract to us the best of those various orders of the beings, so

that wherever we go we will be surrounded by good and holy influences.

This is the teaching of Lord Buddha, as He gave in that First Sermon; it is upon this teaching that the world –wide Kingdom of Righteousness is founded, the Royal Chariot -Wheels of which He sat in motion for the first time on that Asala Festival so many centuries ago.

In Zoroastrianism, also there are Five Basic Principles laid down by Prophet Zarthusht, which must be followed by all Zarthushtis. They are very similar to what Lord Buddha preached. They are:

1st Principle: One should be always good and practise one's faith through Benevolence. No wrong should emanate from anyone practising Zoroastrianism

2nd Principle: One should seek Unity amidst diversity and in conflicts of opinion try to build a bridge and not widen the gulf.

3rd Principle: In matters of intimate spiritual convictions, no force be used. Nonviolence and non-resistance should be the attitude.

4th Principle: Every Zoroastrian must be utterly unselfish, dedicating himself to God, serve the needy and Surrenderance should be the guiding principle.

5th Principle: One should regulate one's life by the highest standard of Righteousness, Truth and Purity in Thought, Words and Deeds and always follow the Middle Path. This is shown by a Zoroastrian wearing his/her Kusti- the sacred Thread on the waist of the body which is the Middle part of body.

In the end I pray PEACE be there in this world, may mankind live in harmony and make the right progress towards divinity and spirituality. Amen!!!

Freedom of Thoughts

*Prof. Sudesh Kumar, Vegan Mumbai Foundation
And President Centenary Lodge TS*

Freedom of thoughts of a person means that the person is free to hold his viewpoint or opinion without being influenced by others. It is the freedom of an individual to hold or consider any fact, viewpoint or idea, independent of the viewpoint of others.

In the words of Benjamin Franklin (1722), “There can be no such thing as knowledge without freedom of thought and no such thing as public liberty without freedom of speech.”

Everyone has an equal right to associate himself with any ideology he may choose, but he has no right to impose his choice on any other. There is no belief system and no opinion by whomsoever it may be propagated or held, either in institutional or workplace, which is in any way binding on any person. No government or corporates has any right to impose their views on the people by controlling media channels, if they do, then the media as a whole lose its credibility.

In a world threatened by fanaticism on many sides, the principle of “*Freedom of Thought*” is significant to be prevailed. The statement of freedom of thought, which is primarily directed towards the guarantee of individual rights. It is important to understand here that “*freedom means everything, but not everything is independent,*” which means that everything can be seen from a free mind-set, although not all things are independent.

We can look at any idea or system of thought from a philosophical perspective, and doing so is the learning of philosophy. But if we habitually present non-philosophical systems of thought on their terms, then we are not “learning philosophy” but promoting some other systems of thought

within the philosophical milieu. This does not mean that there is anything wrong with any of these systems. They have their own particular teachings, practices and organizations, which one is free to follow under the statement “freedom of thought” but this should not confuse people.

It is also pertinent to mention here that the modernization of democratic values is clearly reflected in the ever-increasing awareness of rights in this digital age. In today's world order, with the spread of globalization and liberalization, it has become obvious that the problems faced by nations cannot be resolved without consensus-based decision-making. In fact, **consensus building is one of the most solid functional pillars of governance** else country may create political conflicts among different communities.

Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India provides the right to freedom of speech and expression to every citizen. This includes the right to know, freedom of opinion and freedom of the press. If we consider Section 124A (Sedition Law) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), its widespread misuse in the last few years has become a matter of serious concern. Now, IPC Section 124A has renamed as acts endangering the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India under Section 150 of the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023**, which also includes “electronic communication” and “use of financial means” as tools for perpetuating it.

The Supreme Court of India is not only the guardian of the Constitution, but it is also empowered to protect and enforce rights. This role of the supreme court is evident from the various decisions in the past — for example in the case of Maneka Gandhi vs. Union of India, 1978, in which the court has interpreted the following **Three Articles as the 'Golden Triangle' of the Constitution of India.**

✦ *Article 14 (right to equality);*

✦ *Article 19 (other fundamental freedoms, including freedom of speech and expression) and;*

✦ *Article 21 (an individual's right to life and personal liberty).*

The Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 deals with “sending offensive messages through electronic means”. The Supreme Court had then said that Section 66A is a complete violation of freedom of expression, but sadly, cases continued to be registered under this section until recently. In October, 2022, the Supreme Court had ordered States and their police forces to stop prosecuting free speech on social media under Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 which was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in a judgment seven years ago.

BLAVATSKY LODGE SAYS THANK YOU

Thanks to esteemed donors further repairs have been done, like Emergency Staircase in front of the Building and dilapidated windows of Second Floor Room at last replaced with Sliding Windows. The repairs of Rear Wall will be done after monsoon. Blavatsky Lodge appreciates personal supervision of Sis. Navaz Dhalla.

Further to the Donors List published in BTF Bulletin of June 2024, Blavatsky Lodge expresses sincere ***thanks for Generous Donations to:***

Sis. Aban Patel

Dr. Varsha Vadeera in memory of her Paternal Grand-Father and Stalwart of Blavatsky Lodge Mumbai & Indian Section TS Varanasi Bro. Mohanlal Velji

Editor: The Building on Sleater Road, where our printer Vijay Copy Centre was has collapsed under rains. They are shifting to

a new premises, so printing of our BTF Bulletin August 2024 issue will be delayed. Please bear with us.

BTF & LODGE PROGRAMMES AUGUST 2024

COMMEMORATION of 72nd DATH ANNIVERSARY of BRO. JAMSHED MEHTA jointly by Theosophical Order of Service & Blavatsky Lodge on Thursday 1st August 2024 at 6.30 pm in Besant Hall of Blavatsky Lodge.

BLAVATSKY LODGE: 7 – French Bridge, Mumbai 400007
Tel:23685026 (M):9821459504 (M):9819334333

DAY	TIME	DETAILS
Tuesday 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th	6.00 pm	Talks by Members or Guest Speakers
Friday 2nd	6.00 pm	Mystic Star Ritual
Friday 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th	6.00 pm Hybrid	Study of CKL Book “Devachanic Plane” conducted by Sis. Aban Patel
Sunday 25th	10.45am	Maitreya Round Table & Healing Group

CENTENARY LODGE C/O Anilkumar Deshpande, B-72, Parijat, Bandra Reclamation, Opp. MET College, near Lilavati Hospital, Bandra (West), Mumbai 400050 (M):9969764637

DAY	TIME	DETAILS
1st & 3rd Sundays	10.30 am to 12 pm	Study with discussion of subjects

JYOTI LODGE: c/o Bro. Taral Munshi, (M): 9820187317

DAY	TIME	DETAILS
Tuesday 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th	6.30 to 8.00 pm	TRIVENI Meet on Theosophy / Spirituality Hosted by Bro. Taral & Sis. Archana Munshi

VASANTA & GANESH LODGE: c/o Bro. Vinayak Pandya,
(M):7021778977

DAY	TIME	DETAILS
Wednesday 7th, 14th, 21st & 28 th	6.00 pm	GURUDEV GOSHTHI virtual on Zoom to study Gujarati book of Bababhai Patel ‘Kahe Krishnamurti – Soon Bhai Sansari’ Host: Bro. Bhavesh Pandya

VIMADALAL BILIA / GANESH LODGES: Family House, Dadar Parsi Colony, Mumbai 400014 (M):9819523476

DAY	TIME	DETAILS
Thursdays	6.00pm	Theosophical & Religious Talks

JAMSHED MEHTA LODGE: C/o Bro. Noor Baig, 54 - Shangrila, in a Lane opp. Colaba Post Office, Mumbai 400005 (M):9321026804

DAY	TIME	DETAILS
Third Saturdays	5.30 pm	Learning Theosophy from Life Experiences

SHANTI LODGE: C/o Late Bro. Rustom Dalal, (M):9833131216

DAY	TIME	DETAILS
First TThurs	6.00 pm	Book 'The Living Wisdom' by Sis. Aban Patel

It is easy to become a Theosophist

Any person of average intellectual capacities,
 and a leaning towards the metaphysical,
 of pure, unselfish life,
 who finds more joy in helping his neighbours
 than receiving help himself.
 one who is ever ready to sacrifice his pleasures
 for the sake of other people
 And who loves Truth, Goodness and Wisdom
 for their own sake, not for the benefit they may confer –
 - *Is a Theosophist*

PRACTICAL OCCULTISM

- **H. p. Blavatsky**

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