

* Our dear Gujaratis

Parsis Contribution towards the development of Gujarat and India



Ruzan Khambatta

**“Humata, Hukhta, Huvarshta”
Good Thoughts,
Good Words and Good Deeds.**

Zoroastrianism is the world's oldest revealed religions and the smallest religious community. The religion was established by Prophet Zarathustra in 6th or 7th century BC. A little over a thousand years ago the followers of Zoroastrianism had to exile from Iran as their religion was threatened and to save it they sailed out and landed in Diu in Gujarat-India. The leader of the group of Zoroastrians was a Dastur (Priest), who went to Jadav Rana the ruler of Sanjan in South Gujarat to ask for refuge. Jadav Rana instead showed him a bowl of milk filled to the brim, to show that his country was full. So the Dastur then added a spoon of sugar into the milk and it immediately dissolved and merged into the bowl without the milk overflowing. By this action he symbolized that the Zoroastrians would mingle with his people and sweeten their lives and country without upsetting the local population. The Priest then went on to explain the beliefs and teachings of the Zoroastrian religion to Jadav Rana, who was impressed and pleased enough to grant permission to the Priest and his people to settle in Sanjan and practice their own religion. Provided of course, they met a few of his requests.

- 1) Zoroastrian ladies must wear the local dress which was the saree.
- 2) Zoroastrians should learn the local language (Gujarati) and
- 3) Zoroastrians must not convert any of the locals to their religion.
- 4) Zoroastrians would lay down their arms and never take them up again.
- 5) Zoroastrians would conduct all ceremonies after sunset

The Priest agreed with Jadav Rana's conditions and went on to settle down in India, sweetening and enriching the country over the years, as he had demonstrated with the bowl of milk.

These emigrants were known Parsis as they had come from Persia. To this day, the Parsis have lived up to all the promises made by their ancestors. No Parsi has ever taken up arms except as part of the Indian Armed Forces.

The basic precept of Zoroastrianism is the axiom
**“Humata, Hukhta, Huvarshta”
Good Thoughts, Good Words and Good
Deeds.**

Parsis are less than 0.007% of India's population

but their contribution to India is much more than their proportion in India's population. India is richer today due to the contributions of this tiny community. Parsis have given back more than a thousand-fold in return to the land that gave them shelter a thousand years ago. The Parsis, long considered the most progressive and socio-economically advanced community in India. Starting with business and industry, through law and literature, including the armed forces, and spanning the arts, music and nuclear science.

The names of eminent Parsis roll off like a veritable who's who of eminent Indians :

Tatas and Godrejs specialized in building modern industry. Late Jehangir Ratanji Dadabhoj Tata Popularly know as JRD Tata was honored by the Govt. of India with Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award - one of the rare instances when it was given during a person's life time.

Millions of Indian use Godrej products each day and touched lives of all. And the Godrej Legacy continues.

Dr. Homi Bhabha regarded as the father of Indian nuclear programme. He was a scientist, engineer, master builder and administrator steeped in humanities, in art and music.

Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw. He is fondly remembered for his exceptional qualities of courage, leadership and acts of compassion for which he was conferred the rank of Field Marshal, Making him India's first Field Marshal. He was also awarded the prestigious Padma Vibhushan by the Govt. of India

Nani Palkiwala eminent lawyer also known as the conscious keeper of the nation for which he was honored with Padma Vibhushan by the Govt. of India

Homai Vyrawala, India's first women photojournalist and in her career spanning 3 decades she captured the true essence of India for which she was honored with Padma Vibhushan by the Govt. of India.

Zubin Mehta has interpreted immortal works of classical music for decades and mesmerized aficionados of the genre with his magnetic personality. A few of the many honors conferred upon him are : The UN Lifetime Achievement Peace and Tolerance Award, The Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan.

Penaz Masani had stormed the male-dominated world of ghazal singing thus breaking this glass

ceiling. She was conferred with Padma Shri from the Govt. of India.

Some more Parsi eminent freedom fighters are Madam Cama, Shapurjee Shaklatwala, Captain Perin Naorojee, M.B. Godrej, Jahangir Patel ... and many more like Rustom Masani, Minoos Masani, CR Irani, Piloos Mody, Mithuben Pitit...

Mrs. Bikajjee Rustom Cama alis Madam Cama was born about 1875, the daughter of Sorabjee Faramjee Patel of Bombay. Her husband Rustom Cama was the son of K. R. Cama, the Parsee reformer. Being a nationalist, Madam Cama had sharp differences with her husband and she left for London in 1902. She had been in Europe since about 1902, spending about a year in Germany, Scotland, Paris and London with many revolutionaries like Pandit Shyamjee Krishna Verma, Virendranath Chattopadhyay, Madanlal Dhingra and LaLa Hardayal.

In August 1907, she attended the Socialist Congress at Stuttgart and made a speech "for the dumb millions of Hindustan" who are undergoing a terrible tyranny under the British rule. At the close of her speech she unfurled the Indian National Flag (very first national flag of Indian struggle for freedom). During the First World War Cama was interned by French Government and later allowed return to India in 1935 where she breathed her last. Madam Cama's "VANDE MATARAM" newspaper was spreading the messaging of revolution.

M B. Godrej, was employed as an assistant in the Paris branch of messes Godrej and Bayce. He was active with Pandit Krishn Verma and S. R. Rama, for Revolutionary activities.

M S Master (Munchershat Sorabjee Master) identified himself intimately with doing of the "Free India Society", of which he was the secretary. He was a closed friend of Madanlal Dhingra.

Miss Perin, the daughter of Ardeshar Naoroji, who was a doctor in Kutchh state. She was granddaughter of Dadabhai Naoroji.

She was very very pretty and clever girl. With her elder sister Meherbai, Nargis and Goshi Naoroji, she was educated in Europe. Miss Parin stayed at the boarding-house at 144, Boulevard Montparnasse, where Madam Cama lived, and no doubt she learned Nationalist politing from her.

Miss Perin went over to London travelling with V. D. Savarkar in his company she was found when he

was arrested at Victoria station. She took a great interest in his case and visited him once in Jail ! After it was over, she went back to Paris and working hard in Revolutionary rants, associating with Viredranath Chattopadhyay.

A detailed community-wise analysis of promoters of India Inc listed in the BSE-500 index 2006 revealed that

Gujarati-promoted companies account for around 24.83 per cent of the total private market capital, if one also includes the Gujarati-speaking Parsis who contribute around 7.66 per cent to the figure. The market cap of the BSE-500 is Rs 30,52415.28 crore. The PSUs, which have a total market capitalisation of over Rs 7,49,783.80 crore (24.56 per cent), are still behind the Gujarati-Parsi combine. And that says a lot because the PSUs would include oil companies,

banks, engineering and others. The Parsi promoters include Tatas, Godrej and Wadia.

Fire (Aatash) is revered by the Parsis as a manifestation of purity.

Vatan ane Dharma par sada deho Jaan, Sada rehjo Aatash na pasban.

Aee Aatash thi koi cheeg ala nathi, Aee Aatash vina bol-balanathi,

Aee Aatash vina kul jug andahkaar, Aee Aatash karse sankat nivaar.

Sarne jhukao o Zarhustrian, Aee Aatash karse Roshan Jahan.

It is a well know fact that Parsis are known for philanthropy and **“Parsi thy name is Charity”**

Jai-Jai Garvi Gujarat, Bharat Bhaagya Vidhata

(CEO, Wizz O Tech)



It is a well know fact that Parsis are known for philanthropy and “Parsi thy name is Charity”

સ્ત્રી : સુખ -સમૃદ્ધિની આધારશીલા



ડૉ. આરતી પટેલ

સ્ત્રી-સશક્તીકરણના આયામ

૧. કન્યા કેળવણી અને ઉચ્ચશિક્ષણ થકી સ્ત્રીને શિક્ષિત અને દીક્ષિત બનાવવી.
૨. તન અને મનથી સંપૂર્ણ સ્વસ્થ બનાવવી.
૩. સ્ત્રીને પગભર કરવી-આર્થિક ઉપાર્જન કરતી કરી તેને વધુ સ્વતંત્રતા બક્ષવી.
૪. સ્ત્રીને સર્વાંગી વિકાસની બધી તકો પૂરી પાડી સમર્થ બનાવવી.
૫. સ્ત્રીને મળેલા સર્વ અધિકારોથી માહિતગાર કરવી, જાગ્રત કરી જરૂરી બધા કાયદાઓની સ્ત્રીને જાણકારી અને સમજ આપવી અને વાસ્તવમાં સ્ત્રીને મળેલા અધિકારોની તેને ઉપભોક્તા બનાવવી.
૬. ઝડપી સામાજિક પરિવર્તન માટે કાયદાકીય, શૈક્ષણિક અને સાંસ્કૃતિક ક્ષેત્રે ક્રાંતિકારી પગલાં ભરી ઘરમાં અને જાહેર જીવનમાં પુરુષના સહયોગથી સ્ત્રીની સક્રિય ભાગીદારી અને ક્ષમતા-સક્રિયતા વધારવી, જેથી સ્ત્રીને સંપૂર્ણ સમાનતા અને પૂરેપૂરી સ્વતંત્રતા મળે અને તે સર્વાંગી વિકાસ સાધી શકે.

ઉપરોક્ત વિવિધ આયામોને કેન્દ્રસ્થાને રાખી સ્ત્રીઓમાં ચેતના પ્રગટાવવાની પ્રક્રિયા-કાર્યવાહી એટલે સ્ત્રી-સશક્તીકરણની પ્રક્રિયા જેટલી ઝડપી અને અસરકારક થશે તેટલી સ્ત્રીને વધુ સક્ષમ અને સમર્થ બનાવી શકાશે. વાસ્તવમાં સ્ત્રી-સશક્તીકરણની પ્રક્રિયા ધીમી રહી છે, કારણ કે સદીઓથી પુરુષોનું સમાજમાં આધિપત્ય રહ્યું છે અને બીજું

અગત્યનું પરિબળ એ છે કે સદીઓ જૂનાં સામાજિક, ધાર્મિક અને સાંસ્કૃતિક મૂલ્યોમાં પરિવર્તન લાવવાની પ્રક્રિયા ગોઠવવાની ધીમી ગતિએ થાય છે. સામાન્ય રીતે મૂલ્ય પરિવર્તનની પ્રક્રિયા બહુ ધીમી અને લાંબાગાળાની હોય છે. સ્ત્રીને સમર્થ કરવા માટે અનુસરણીય સૂત્રો :

દીકરો અમારો દીકરો લગ્ન કરે ત્યાં સુધી દીકરી અમારી દીકરી, અમે જીવીએ ત્યાં સુધી

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સ્ત્રી અબળા નથી પણ સબળા છે, જગમાં નારી છે મહાન, સ્ત્રીને પુરુષ સમોવડી બનાવી, સુખ શાંતિ કાજે પૂરાં કરો તેનાં બધાં અરમાન

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દીકરી અમારી મોંઘામૂલની, જતન કરીએ તેનું દિલથી.

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એક માતા સો શિક્ષકની ગરજ સારે, જ્યારે તે શિક્ષિત-દીક્ષિત હોય ત્યારે

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સ્ત્રીભૂણ હત્યા અટકાવીએ, મહાપાપનો ગૃહઉદ્યોગ બંધ કરીએ.

(પ્રોફેસર, શિક્ષણ મહાવિદ્યાલય, ગૂજરાત વિદ્યાપીઠ)

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