



ZANZ Gazette

P.O. Box 251128, Pakuranga, Auckland, New Zealand www.zanz.org.nz

May, 2004

Great People are ordinary people with extraordinary amounts of determination

President's Message

ZANZ means different things to different people.

For me personally, first as Vice President and then as President of ZANZ, the last few months have been a journey of varied experiences, at times turbulent and overwhelming, sometimes humbling and at most times enriching, exhilarating and extremely fulfilling!!!

It has been a learning curve that has taken me to the absolute highs and yet plunged me to very sudden lows. Voluntary work of any nature comes with its share of brickbats. But brickbats have always been welcome by this committee, as we see constructive criticism as a medium of progress and correction. One would be foolish to expect a pat on the back all the time. But I am a firm believer in "Actions speak louder than words". The encouragement and goodwill of the community is what keeps you going and that I am proud to say, we have received in plenty.

Voluntary work is like having a second job. In fact at most times it completely takes over your family and personal life, intrudes into your privacy and mucks up your mental stability!! It requires a commitment that goes beyond the call of duty.

Yet my association with ZANZ has been to my greatest personal advantage. It has brought out my '*parsipano*' to the forefront of my being. To my mind our Zoroastrian identity begins with our quaint mannerisms, religious values, linguistic closeness and omnipresent sense of honesty, fair play and righteousness.

Zoroastrianism is a way of life.

ZANZ has created a bond between each one of us, making us members of a large family. We come together as one in times of joy and offer comfort and solace in times of grief. It has become a safe haven for us, keeping us in touch with who we are and our roots. As most Parsees do we are very vocal in voicing our differences, but at the back of it all we share a strange sense of loyalty to one another. There is an ever powering unity that ZANZ has created between us, one that offers comfort in the fact that we are not alone.

Three thousand five hundred years ago, Zarathushtra taught man to use his '*Vohumano*', the higher mind in making responsible choices in the eternal conflict between right and wrong. Zoroastrians for centuries have been a sensible and pragmatic minority and have survived and succeeded without threatening others. The old tradition of milk and honey must not die in this new country, that we all call home. The Parsees have always been significant in their fields, disproportionate to their insignificant numbers. **May our tribe grow and prosper in New Zealand**

The tenets of Zoroastrianism compel us to make '*Ushta Te*' – **Happiness unto others**, meaningful in the wider world we live in. Zoroastrianism is a conditioning of open minds striving towards happiness and perfection, by means of rationality and pursuit of truth in a changing world.

As Zoroastrians we have inherited a priceless heritage, a monumental value system of infinite wisdom. Let us treat this legacy with utmost reverence and endeavour to pass on this legacy to our future generations.

We need to draw a very fine balancing line between our past, present and future. Let us not become so westernised that we lose track of who we are and what we stand for. Let the Association continue to be a part of your life, so that your children may tomorrow, hold their heads high with pride, in their Zoroastrian existence

Rashna Tata
President - ZANZ

President Rashna Tata	Vice President Cherag Daruwalla	Treasurer Yasmin Katki	Secretary Shernaz Darukhanawalla	Committee Members Nasreen Dubash Kaiwan Mevawalla Jazeel Mistry	Co-opted Members Becky Engineer Merzin Ghadiali
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ZANZ Newsletter Compiled & Edited by Rashna D. Tata, Shernaz Darukhanawalla & Cherag Daruwalla
This Newsletter can be viewed in colour on the ZANZ website

ZANZ PATRON AWARD

Mr. Yazdi T. Mistry, a founding member of ZANZ and the President for the first five years, was felicitated and awarded the '**ZANZ Patron Award**', at the Jamshedi Navruz function on March 21st, 2004. Mr. Yazdi T. Mistry has been one of the stalwarts of our New Zealand Zarathusti community. He is one of the oldest residents of the country, and since his arrival in New Zealand, both Yazdi and his charming wife Thrity have worked tirelessly to make sure that the new Zarathusti migrants, settle down in New Zealand as comfortably as possible.

In the early days Thrity and Yazdi would invite any new member to their house and introduce them to the other Zarathusti members of the community, over lunch or dinner. As the community grew, Yazdi took it upon himself, to get the communities status formalized with an association. He worked hard and faced several difficult situations, but due to his patience and perseverance, today we have this thriving and flourishing Zarathusti Association in New Zealand. Let us not forget Thrity and the family that had to put up with, the pressures of this task.

It is indeed an honour not only for this present Committee, but for every individual member of ZANZ to be able to acknowledge our gratitude and respect to the man whose vision and foresight, dedication and courage brought about the formation of ZANZ.

Yazdi and Thrity are at every ZANZ function come rain or shine, with a kind word, a very warm smile and a place in their heart for every one, young and old.

By felicitating Mr. Yazdi T. Mistry with the "ZANZ Patron Award", the community is recognizing the efforts that went into the creation of our Association and expressing our appreciation and gratitude.

Yazdi T. Mistry biography presented by Godrej Engineer

Yazdi joined the Indian Air Force in 1949 and after a short stint resigned due to health problems.

He then worked as an irrigation surveyor, in Gujarat for the new irrigation projects being constructed. Then he took on a position as manager of a manganese mine in Nagpur. Yazdi moved to Bombay in 1959 and joined Godrej & Boyce Ltd. In 1969, he was transferred to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and was the General manager for the Godrej operations in Malaysia & Singapore. In 1978 Yazdi left Godrej to start his own office equipment business in Malaysia and Singapore. After making several trips to NZ between 1986 and 1988, Yazdi set up a joint venture with a local company and migrated to NZ in early 1989.

Long history of community service:

Charter member of the Bharat Club - an organisation for Indian expatriates in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - Served on the committee for fourteen years. Was president for five years. Was made an honorary life member when he left Malaysia

Charter member of the Rotary Club of Damansara, Kuala Lumpur - Served in various capacities in other Rotary Clubs in Singapore and NZ. Achieved 100% attendance over a 22 year period and was named Paul Harris Fellow in recognition of distinguished service

Yazdi has been a Freemason for 35 years. Joined the Eden Lodge in NZ and in 1997 became the first Asian to be elected to the Master's chair in the Lodge's 120 year history and is still active in the Lodge.

ZANZ - Founding member and President for the first five years. He continues to take an active interest in the community.

Auckland Voluntary Services and Age Concern - an organisation that visits lonely elderly people in homes each week. Accredited Member since 1994 - still actively involved and visits an elderly gentleman in a nursing home each week.

World Congress for Religious Peace (WCRP) - Committee member - currently representing the Zarathusti community in NZ.

Red Cross's Meals On Wheels - Delivered food to disabled elderly in their homes for several years up until 3 years ago.

Yazdi underwent a quadruple bypass surgery in January 2000, and the doctors advised him to cut back on some of his social/volunteer activities.



Letter received from Mr. Yazdi Mistry :

Dear Rashna :

I want to thank you and your committee for the kind words and to express my appreciation to the members for designating me "Patron" of ZANZ. I am deeply honoured.

I enjoyed the reminiscing about the formative years of ZANZ and well recall the challenges we faced to get the organisation established. I fully appreciate the excellent contribution you and your committee are making.

With a group as dynamic as ours, there will always be much to do to ensure that ZANZ continues to effectively serve the needs of the Zarathustis in New Zealand. We need to increase our membership and encourage greater participation of our youth. We also need to encourage and warmly welcome non-Zarathusti family members to participate in our functions. Especially children of mixed marriages, who have had their navjote performed must be made to feel an integral part of the Zarathusti community

Finally, we should not be insular and just look inward. We need to look ahead and build a community that all New Zealanders will recognise as a wonderful addition to this multi cultural country of ours.

As your patron, I hope to continue to provide guidance and support to ZANZ and the Zarathusti community here.

Thank you again and best wishes for continued success.

Warm regards,

Yazdi T. Mistry

Our ordinary membership has increased to a total of 130 members. With the following 28 new members on board since July, 2003. Our life membership stands at 25 members.

Outstation :

- 1) Amrolia Yezdi & Kashmira
- 2) Bilimoria Rohinton

In New Zealand :

- 1) Bhajiwalla Hutokshi & Bomi
- 2) Bomanbehran Meherdad
- 3) Contractor Shahnoor
- 4) Daruwalla Anahita
- 5) Daruwalla Kurush & Shernaz
- 6) Dorabjee Kaizad & Zubrin
- 7) Dumasia Sherry & Mehernosh
- 8) Engineer Bakhtawar
- 9) Engineer Nazneen
- 10) Ghadiali Minoo & Margaret
- 11) Gourabian Binaifer & Kuresh
- 12) Irani Faranak & Sohrab
- 13) Irani Sheriar & Mahnaaz
- 14) Irani Nevielle & Anahita
- 15) Katila Mahiyar & Parizad
- 16) Kermani Porus & Daliah
- 17) Medhora Pervin & Kersi
- 18) Mevawalla Kaiwan & Yasmin
- 19) Mistry Delna & Jamshed
- 20) Mody Viraf & Roxana
- 21) Patel Zubin & Monaz
- 22) Pesuna Yezdi & Jasmine
- 23) Soorty Kelly & Sanober
- 24) Tata Piran
- 25) Turel Rustom & Tanaz
- 26) Wadia Zubin



Welcome to this world little Zarathustis!

- 1) Baby boy, Kayan to Daliah & Porus Kermani—26th July, 2003
- 2) Baby girl, Freya to Farzana & Zubin Mehta—5th September, 2003
- 3) Baby boy, Khusrav to Hutokshi & Bomi Bhajiwalla— 5th October, 2003.
- 4) Baby Boy, Malcolm to Ruzbeh & Zarir Shroff— 29th April, 2004

Navjote : The following children were initiated into the Zoroastrian faith

- 1) Jefferina Siganporia
- 2) Zeeba Shahlori
- 3) Darion Shahlori
- 4) Zeenia Irani
- 5) Jason Davierwalla
- 6) Jehan Kateli



W e d d e s

Aspi Ustad weds Zeenia Anklesaria

Shahnoor Contractor weds Khuscheher Mistry

Delnaz Engineer weds Merzin Ghadiali



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Tel : 2716692

ZANZ DIARY

FROM JULY 2003 TO DATE

21st August, 2003 : Parsi New Year Celebrations. The evening began with a thanksgiving Jashan performed by eight priests, followed by a fun filled evening of housie, dance and dinner attended by 200 people.



11th October, 2003 : Elocution Competition—60 enthusiastic participants from a wide range of ages, the youngest being four years old and the oldest being 50+ impressed the audience with their amazing oratory skills. Winners were -

Group I: (4 to 6)
 1st Jehangir Homavazir
 Farrah Mistry
 2nd Farshid Daruwalla

Group II: (7 to 10)
 1st Roxanne Sarkari
 2nd Malcolm Damania
 3rd Karmin Homavazir

Group III: (11 to 15)
 1st Shanaya Sarkari
 2nd Zeenia Dubash
 3rd Tinaz Karbhari

Group IV: (16+)
 1st Perzen Darukhanawalla
 2nd Kaikobad Karbhari
 3rd Nasreen Dubash

The evening ended on an enjoyable note with lovely snacks made available at the food stalls

12th October, 2003 : World Conference on Religions & Peace (WCRP) -

The Zoroastrian Community in Auckland was represented by their children who sang 'I am Proud to Be a Zoroastrian' and 'The mark of a True Zoroastrian' at St. Matthew Church—An Interfaith service to mark the week of prayer for World Peace organised by WCRP, Auckland, New Zealand.

ZANZ treated all participating children after the evening to a delicious meal at McDonalds.

15th November, 2003 : Housie & Biryani Evening :

Always a huge draw with over 130 people coming forward to tempt Lady Luck followed by a hearty biryani and chicken meal.

December 20th, 2003 : Christmas Party -

Over 65 children dressed in their best were



entertained by Lollipop the Clown and his magic tricks. Santa arrived with his huge bag of goodies and handed out the much awaited presents. A total success!!!

December 31st, 2003 : New Year's Eve Dinner & Dance :

Celebrations at Punjabi Dhaba. Over 200 members and friends came together under one roof to usher in the New Year with loads of fun, food and



games. Heaps of masti and maaja. The party went on till the wee hours of the next morning.



ZANZ DIARY

January 25th : Picnic to Wenderholm :



Two buses started from Highland Park carrying around 110 members to Wenderholm. A day full of games and goodies with family and friends. A huge success with members, clamouring for more such events!!!!

March 21st : Jamshedi Navruz Celebrations :

The auspicious day of Jamshedi Navruz began on the right note with a solemn morning Jashan conducted by eight priests. Our members came in great numbers and we had a record turnout of over 200 people. It was a wonderful sight to see so many parsees gather together under one roof united in their prayers. As usual members had made voluntary contributions of rawa, malida and sev. It is at times like these that the urgency of our own prayer hall is felt even more.

The evening programme commenced with the felicitation of our Founder President, **Mr. Yazdi T. Mistry**. He was presented the '**ZANZ Patron Award**' which consisted of a plaque, certificate and gift, at the hands of our current President, Rashna Dorab Tata.

Mrs. Freny Khambatta was the first recipient of the **ZANZ Service Award** for her absolute commitment and dedication to ZANZ. Needless to say it required a lot of persuasion to get this very modest lady to agree to accept the award.

"It's the Time to Disco" – A fun filled music and dance extravaganza. The Oscar and Grammy's all rolled into one! A presentation of amazing talent and imagination, choreographed and performed by our youth. A fantastic effort, mainly on the part of **Nasreen Dubash and Viraf Todywalla**. It had the audience applauding for more. The evening ended on a really high note with a great dinner and dancing to the tunes of our popular DJ Andy. Certainly a day to remember

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Many ZANZ Members have benefited with 100% satisfaction

ZANZ DIARY

April 3rd – Guardian Trust Financial Services : took us through the finer details of trusts, wills and financial planning. This extremely informative evening was open to all and the volume of interest could be judged by the full hall and questions to the speakers at the end of the session. Certainly, an eye-opener for most of us there.

April 24th - Volleyball & Throwball Match :



73 participants ready to re-live their old 'baug and colony days'

Volley Ball Winners—Jer Baug consisting of Porus Irani, Farhad Contractor, Jamshed Mistry, Merzin Ghadiali, Yezdi Cooper,

Volley Ball Runners up—Tata colony consisting of Kersi Khambatta, Kersi Pedder, Ketan Sawant, Khushroo Contractor, Mehernosh Kotwal, and Nazneen Sukhia.

Throwball Winners - Kazveen Peddar, Rhea Mehta, Delnaz Ghadiali, Kashmira Medhora, Rashna Tata and Porus Kateli

Throwball Runners up - Ferzeen Irani, Bilkish Vazifdar, Nazneen Sukhia, Jarafshan Mistry, Shernaz Darukhanawalla, Zenia Dubash and Sharukh Khambatta

Upcoming Player—Boy : Jehan Peddar

Upcoming Player—Girl : Farzeen Irani

Outstanding Player (Mens) : Kersi Peddar

Outstanding Player (Womens) : Kazveen Peddar

Winners were felicitated with medals and certificates.

The participants and spectators had a fun filled day and went home a very happy lot. Food stalls with Biryani, Tandoori Chicken, Cutlets, Chicken Rolls, Bhakras, Puri Bhaji, Gajjar Halwa, Tea and cold drinks kept everybody well fed and contented!



“ KHAVANU, PIVANU NE RAMVANU”

KARATE CAMP

Saturday 8th May 2004 opened bright and sunny. A cavalcade of cars took the Samurai's, the Dragon's and the Ninja's to the Chosen Valley Christian Camp at Ramarama. The beginning of an exciting and action packed day - the annual Karate Competition of the Parsi Karate Class. The students of the class were full of enthusiasm, energy and drive. They put in their very best to win points for their team. After dark it was fun time with impromptu song and dance performances, followed by a walk in the night called 'The Burma trail'. The next morning was crisp, foggy and sunny again. The competition was fierce but friendly, and the decanthalon was the highlight of the day. Then the venue shifted to the Ramarama Community Hall with more competitions. The hall shook with the shouts and the cheering of the excited participants. The camp ended with the prospect of a wonderful time again next year. Sensei Adil Sarkari has for the past five years run karate classes for the community and our children with utmost dedication and we are indeed grateful to him.

Update on Fortnightly Prayer Classes held by ZANZ:

Love for my religion and an eagerness to teach small children along with the support of elders and Ervads of the community, has made me take an interest in the ZANZ Prayer Class. It is very heartening to see 40 children on an average attend the classes regularly every fortnight.

Along with the physical and mental growth of a child, it is very necessary for all parents to make sure that our children always remain proud and aware of their Zarathusti heritage. It is our moral duty to imbibe the values of Humata, Hukata and Havarasta in our children, as they will grow to be the torch bearers of our faith.

During the last few months we have had a lot of activities like colouring competitions, quiz competitions for the older children and story sessions. We are indeed indebted to Ervad Hormuz Patel and Ervad Freddie Gonda for conducting the prayer sessions for adults and children

Consistent performance from the following children has been observed by us in respect of regular attendance, recitation of prayers, class participation etc.

- 1) *Janine Spencer*
- 2) *Jefferina Siganporia*
- 3) *Farrah Mistry*
- 4) *Rohaam Mistry*

Well done kids.

We have a wealth of knowledge to share and a lot of activities planned for the future. Parents are requested to bring their children regularly to the prayer classes and help us preserve the Zarathusti way of life

Shernaz Darukhanawalla—Secretary

The Managing Committee wishes to thank the following :

- 1) *Cyrus Wadia for helping us in preparing the telephone directory and maintaining our website.*
- 2) *Yezdi Dastur for offering his services at the ZANZ Picnic*
- 3) *Rushad Anklesaria for donating the plaques that were presented to Mr. Yazdi T. Mistry and Mrs. Freny K. Khambatta*

AVESTA PRAYERS

Avesta prayers are perfect
Because of trial or pain
Continue in thanksgiving
Do not begin to blame
Even when the times are hard
Fierce winds are bound to blow
God is forever available
Hold on to what you know
Imagine life without His love
Joy would cease to be
Keep thanking Him for all the things
Love imparts to all
Move out of "Camp Complaining"
No weapon that is known
On earth can yield the power
Praise can do alone
Quit looking at the future
Redeem the time at hand
Start every day with worship
To "thank" is a command
Until we see Him coming
Victorious over evil
We'll run the race with gratitude
Exalting Ahura Mazda most high
Yes, there'll be good times and yes some will be bad, but
Zarathushtra the glorious is always there.

Update on Yoga Classes : An activity run by the association every Tuesday from 6.45 p.m. to 8.15 p.m. Classes are conducted by Sheriar Irani. He shares his thoughts and knowledge with our members.

Today more and more people the world over are turning towards Yoga to benefit from what it has to offer in the increasingly stressful world that we live in.

Yoga is an ancient Indian art which has come down from a great past. Yoga can be described as a 'Sadhana, a Quest'. The path of Yoga takes one to one's Ultimate Goal in life, Salvation. Starting from the gross element (body), it takes one up to the subtle (mind), terminating at the subtlest (soul) with the experience of a state of Supreme Bliss. Although this may appear to be a dream to most, as we have neither the time nor the patience to realize such a dream. Yet we can still benefit from Yoga if we find some time to practice Asana's and Pranayama. Regular practice helps one strengthen one's body bringing lightness, subtleness and making it resistant to diseases as it exercises not only the physical body but the physiological body, which helps ensure proper functioning of the endocrine glands that are responsible for the proper regulation of hormones Secreted within the body.

Thus with proper and sincere practice of Yoga Asana's, one can change not only one's life but one's outlook towards it as well.

ZANZ ACHIEVERS - - - - Congratulations !!!! **We wish you the very best**

Our ZANZ Member, Darius Mistry's company - Imagetext was selected for the following awards for the year 2003/04

- 1) A dobe channel partner for the year 2003/04 from among 123 Australian and New Zealand Adobe dealers. There was only one company in New Zealand chosen for this award.
- 2) Received the top Apple Dealer award from among 23 NZ dealers for sales achievement in the year 2003/04.
- 3) Among the 2 Dealer Principals given the best achievement in the Apple Channel from among 36 dealer principals within New Zealand

Cherag Daruwalla passed the New Zealand Certification for In-Shore Launch Masters

Viraf Todywalla - Qualified and awarded the Farmers 'Awesome Service Award' Badge, Also chosen as one of three staff across NZ for Farmers March Operation Delight

ACADEMIC :

Rohaam Mistry (5 years) - Principal's Award for excellent story writing for two consecutive terms in 2003 from Wakaranga School

Perzen Darukhanawalla - Te Kenawa House Distinction Award 2003 from Macleans College

SPORTS & CULTURAL

Roxanne Medhora - Three consecutive wins at Club Level for Junior Tennis & represented Macleans College at Counties, Manukau at semi-finals 1st in Asia 2003 Dance competition

Kashmira Medhora & Farzeen Keranian - 3rd in Asia 2003 Dance competition

Kaikobad Karbhari - represented Macleans College in the School First XI Cricket Team and bowled extremely well in the matches held at Adelaide and Melbourne. He was honoured by Macleans College for his excellent performance

Zirak Vazifdar - has been selected to play Soccer for Auckland University. He represented the University at the University Games in Dunedin

Jazeel Mistry is participating in the Mr.India New Zealand Competition to be held on 22nd May, 2004. We wish him the very best.

Seasons

In winter when the fields are white,
I'll sing a song for your delight.

In spring when woods are getting green,
I'll try and tell you what I mean.

In summer when the days are long,
Perhaps you'll understand the song.

In autumn when the leaves are brown,
Take pen and ink and write this down!

By: Vizina Rao

Year 8, Bucklands Beach Intermediate

Youth Corner

The Zoroastrian Way of Life

"Life is a battle between the forces of good and evil. The material world is the battlefield, and Good thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds are the weapons." All battles, big or small can be won with these weapons.

The true Zoroastrian spreads happiness unto everyone. The true Zoroastrian is expected to lead a virtuous life and must always rise against any injustice or oppression. The true Zoroastrian should on no account be a party to injustice, tyranny or wickedness. And such is the life of the true Zoroastrian.

Founded in Persia, probably around 7th century B.C. by the prophet Zarathushtra, "Zoroastrianism is the oldest of the revealed world-religions, and it has probably had more influence on mankind, directly and indirectly, than any other single faith" - It has laid claim to being the first Monotheist religion, the first Universal religion. Thirteen hundred years later, Zoroastrianism endures. In the desert plateau of Yazd, 350 miles southeast of Tehran, the flame of [faith](#) still burns, although among ever fewer [people](#) - the devotees around the world now dwindling to less than 200,000.

Zoroastrianism is a reminder of the mysterious ways of the religious faith. There is, in the [Zoroastrian](#) creed, a simplicity that defies challenge - "Humata, Hukhata, Havarshata" - think good, say good, do good and fight evil. Good thoughts are very important in life for, in their absence, there cannot be progress on the spiritual path. Thinking good, alone, is not sufficient. One must have the courage to speak "the Truth and nothing but" all the time. There is no place for hypocrisy or duplicity in the life of a true Zoroastrian. Performance of good deeds is equally important. The supreme Power of God, in the aspect of 'Kshatra Vairya' comes to Him who engages himself in hard work and service to others. These are the three commandments to lead a perfect life. From the time a child is able to understand social dynamics, right and wrong are clearly defined and the child is made responsible for his/her thoughts, words and deeds in the 'Navjote ceremony', where the child is initiated into the Zoroastrian faith.

Zoroastrianism respects the seven elements of nature - man, cattle, fire, sky and metals, earth, water and plants, not as separate entities but as the holy creations of 'Ahura Mazda'. These 'Amesha Spentas' are worshipped on special days throughout the year. The Zoroastrians are avid antecedents of nature. To corrupt nature is considered to be 'evil'. Thus, even in death, the true Zoroastrian is not buried, or cremated but "exposed" to the sun, thereby burning away the pollutants of the body and soul. This traditional form of exposure is cheap, clean, and an equal mode of disposal where the rich receive no special treatment than the poor.

"If one follows the teachings of the holy Zarathustra thoroughly, which are the basic trilogy of good thoughts, words and deeds and abides by it completely, it is a religion that makes one proud and it is a religion that does lead to the path of truth".

"USHTA TE"(May happiness be unto you always)

Perzen Darukhanawalla
Form VI
Macleans College

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By: Vizina Rao**Year 8, Bucklands Beach Intermediate****Youth Corner****The Zoroastrian Way of Life**

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The true Zoroastrian spreads happiness unto everyone. The true Zoroastrian is expected to lead a virtuous life and must always rise against any injustice or oppression. The true Zoroastrian should on no account be a party to injustice, tyranny or wickedness. And such is the life of the true Zoroastrian.

Founded in Persia, probably around 7th century B.C. by the prophet Zarathushtra, "Zoroastrianism is the oldest of the revealed world-religions, and it has probably had more influence on mankind, directly and indirectly, than any other single faith" - It has laid claim to being the first Monotheist religion, the first Universal religion. Thirteen hundred years later, Zoroastrianism endures. In the desert plateau of Yazd, 350 miles southeast of Tehran, the flame of [faith](#) still burns, although among ever fewer [people](#) - the devotees around the world now dwindling to less than 200,000.

Zoroastrianism is a reminder of the mysterious ways of the religious faith. There is, in the [Zoroastrian](#) creed, a simplicity that defies challenge - "Humata, Hukhata, Havarshata" - think good, say good, do good and fight evil. Good thoughts are very important in life for, in their absence, there cannot be progress on the spiritual path. Thinking good, alone, is not sufficient. One must have the courage to speak "the Truth and nothing but" all the time. There is no place for hypocrisy or duplicity in the life of a true Zoroastrian. Performance of good deeds is equally important. The supreme Power of God, in the aspect of 'Kshatra Vairya' comes to Him who engages himself in hard work and service to others. These are the three commandments to lead a perfect life. From the time a child is able to understand social dynamics, right and wrong are clearly defined and the child is made responsible for his/her thoughts, words and deeds in the 'Navjote ceremony', where the child is initiated into the Zoroastrian faith.

Zoroastrianism respects the seven elements of nature - man, cattle, fire, sky and metals, earth, water and plants, not as separate entities but as the holy creations of 'Ahura Mazda'. These 'Amesha Spentas' are worshipped on special days throughout the year. The Zoroastrians are avid antecedents of nature. To corrupt nature is considered to be 'evil'. Thus, even in death, the true Zoroastrian is not buried, or cremated but "exposed" to the sun, thereby burning away the pollutants of the body and soul. This traditional form of exposure is cheap, clean, and an equal mode of disposal where the rich receive no special treatment than the poor.

"If one follows the teachings of the holy Zarathustra thoroughly, which are the basic trilogy of good thoughts, words and deeds and abides by it completely, it is a religion that makes one proud and it is a religion that does lead to the path of truth".

"USHTA TE"(May happiness be unto you always)

Perzen Darukhanawalla
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