

Reformists - what we stand for!

By Shaukat Ajmeri, Canada

Anyone who has tried to argue the Bohra reformist case is sooner or later met with this response: *if you have problems why don't you separate and start your own 'religion'*. This response is typical of a mindset that's best captured by the cliché: "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen." If the same argument were applied to the Iraqi occupation (circa 2004), you would end up telling the Iraqis, "if you can't stand the Americans, get out of Iraq."

The absurdity of this argument is obvious. But such is its insidious pull that even some reformists have begun to cleave to the idea that, indeed, we should separate and go our own way. This is dangerous thinking as it demolishes the very foundation on which the reform movement is built. But it is understandable why this thinking is catching on. As time passes we tend to lose focus of the objectives of the Bohra reform movement. Therefore it is important that

we keep reiterating the central issues we are fighting for:

1. **Accountability:** The Bohra clergy must account for the millions of dollars it collects from the community. This money should be spent on the welfare and other needs of the community.
2. **Jamaat democracy:** Members of every jamaat should have the right to elect its own council. Local jamaats should have control and ownership of local properties, including masjids, jamaatkhanas, gullas etc.
3. **End of baraat:** End the use "ex-communication." It is outdated and unconscionable instrument of control.
4. **End raza and misaaq:** These and various other "requirements" are recent innovations designed to coerce and control. Their religious validity is untenable.

5. **Limit the role of clergy:** The Dai is our spiritual leader and as such he and his clergy should stick to matters religious. Their interference in secular and social affairs of Bohras is unnecessary and unjustified.

6. **Respect and dignity:** Bohras have a right to be treated with respect and dignity by the priesthood. We are not Dai's slaves and should not be treated as such.

Now how does one resolve these issues with an act of separation? The idea of separation is dangerous, self-defeating and ultimately meaningless:

- because separation means failure. If we separate we will fail to accomplish the objectives we set out to achieve.

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Carim Currimjee to visit conference

Mr. Carim Currimjee from Mauritius, inshallah, will be attending the world Reformist conference. He is a highly respected man in his country and the Currimjee family is well regarded for its economic, social and political influences. The Currimjee family has also been an important contributor to the Reformist movement.

Below is information about Ariff Currimjee, written in the Indian Ocean Newsletter, which illustrates the extent of influence of the Currimjee family in Mauritius.

Just when Anil Currimjee left his place as president of the Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie (CCI) of Mauritius, to be succeeded by Marday Venkatasamy, director of the Filao,

another member of the Currimjee family became chairman of the Joint Economic Council (JEC a private sector coordinating body). Ariff Currimjee, son of Fakhru, former president of the now defunct Bonair group, upset the pundits by snatching victory from two heavy weight contestants to this post... The new president of JEC is 41, has a BA in economics and works as director of his companies Vieo Industries Ltd and Tricot Ltd. In the past, he has been president of Mepza and vice president of the Mauritius Employers Federation. But that was not enough to explain his rapid rise in the establishment of the private sector. By appointing Ariff Currimjee at its head, the board of the JEC has broken with an unwritten tradition which is to have a Franco-Mauritian at the post.

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Reformists - what we stand for!

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- because, even assuming that we leave the mainstream, there will always be people who would rise against the corrupt priesthood. A decadent system will always have its challengers. And if every succeeding reformist group were to go its separate ways, you can imagine the result.
- because, Dawoodi Bohra-ism is our religious-cultural identity. We share a wealth of inherited traditions, institutions, a common memory and narratives that give us our roots, a sense of belonging, a place in the world. Separation would mean an end to this glorious continuum.
- because our identity is rooted in the Ismaili Mustalian Dawoodi Bohra faith. And the seat of this faith - the Dawat - is now hijacked by a corrupt "royal family." Who knows the future Dais may be more amenable to our grievances. Separation would mean a fundamental disconnect from our faith.
- because it is our moral and religious duty to carry on the struggle. Separation would mean abandonment of Islamic principles which urge us to fight for justice and dignity.
- because separation would make nonsense of our past struggles and a mockery of our sufferings and sacrifices.
- because separation is what the Bohra clergy wants. And we shall deny it that satisfaction.

One can think of many more reasons, but these are just a few that readily come to mind.

True, the Bohra clergy is very powerful and has arrogated the right to determine who is a Bohra and who is a munafiq. And that is the whole point of the reform movement:

to take that right away from an unaccountable clergy that exercises an illegitimate and unchallenged control over us.

As we all know, the clergy has responded fiercely, and at times violently, to reformists' demands. They see us as spoil-sports bent upon wrecking their gravy train. And given the financial steam and political clout it runs on, reformist successes have been few and far between.

If anything, our numbers have actually dwindled. This is not very heartening.

"The clergy has maintained a powerful grip on the community through an elaborate system of control, manipulation, indoctrination, fear and religious mumbo jumbo"

But let's not forget what we are up against. The clergy has maintained a powerful grip on the community through an elaborate system of control, manipulation, indoctrination, fear and religious mumbo jumbo. And it seems to be working, from the look of things.

But scratch the surface and you will find a ground-swell of discontent. Even so, the majority of Bohras continue to remain in the orthodox fold. Why? Their motives are many and complex, but the chief among them has to do with convenience. It's more convenient to conform. Bohras temperamentally are meek and docile. They know the consequences of sticking out their neck. And they don't.

It doesn't have to be this way though. Human beings have an inherent urge to seek a system that's just and fair (be it religious, political or social). If Bohras had a choice, they would opt for a just and fair system. But this choice is not going to fall from the heavens. It never has. We'll have to create this choice.

Some of us, trapped in this impossible "Bohra situation", often confess that things will always remain the same; that people and their nature will never change. Or that the clergy is just too powerful; we cannot make a dent on them.

But let's take history as our guide. There was a time when it was all right to burn people at the stakes; it was all right to draw and quarter people; it was all right to conquer continents through war and genocide; it was all right to own slaves; it was acceptable to deny votes to women; it was normal to deny civil rights to blacks. These acts - mostly of dominant elites - were standard operating procedure of their times.

But today our "human nature," enlightened by the values of our age, is appalled by such cruelty and oppression. This change is what progress is all about. True, the world is still in a mess - a clear sign that we will always have to fight for justice and a life of dignity.

With changing times, attitudes too change. And the attitude that today makes the Bohra clergy "acceptable" will change too. It's only a matter of time. But we'll have to fight for it. Abandoning the reformist cause will only postpone that change.

As for the clergy being too powerful, I've just this to say. Whatever happened to the Roman Empire, the British Raj and European conquest and colonialism? They are all "history" now, thanks to peoples' enduring hope and struggle for a better tomorrow.

In the larger scheme of things the Bohra clergy is a petty if vicious outfit. Our fight against it is part of the larger struggle for a just world. To paraphrase an old saying, revolution begins at home.

Shaukat Ajmeri
Canada

Peak district conquered by DBWS members

O On Monday 31 May 2004 DBWS members from around the country gathered to take part in a seven mile walk through the Derbyshire Dales. The group has raised about £800 for the Iranian earthquake appeal. So well done all of you! Here is a tongue-in-cheek account of that day.

Monday 31 May 2004

Groups of determined and hardy warriors set out to conquer the highlands and bogs of the Peak District in Derbyshire. A seven mile walk along the Derbyshire terrain lay before them.

Armed with all the necessary equipment to meet the challenge ahead - tea, cakes, sandwiches, chicken, pop and crisps - the group set off.

But hold on, before setting off, they needed sustenance - to make sure they were ready for the battle. The snacks came out and were duly shared and enjoyed by all.

After about an hour, wandering through the green fields, lead by the trusty chief in command, Salim Vanak, the group needed to lighten the load. The rucksacks were heavy and the bottles full. A much needed stop for refreshments and cakes was made and for the essential visit to the loo at the small village in the wilderness.

Now, energised and with hunger assuaged, the group was ready to strike out again. Amidst the stroll, sorry I mean, steep and hardy climb, ideas and views were exchanged and friendships evolved. Soon the group came to the perfect, safe, resting spot.



It was now or never - they were shielded from the scorching sun by the trees and the view was perfect. Yes, this was the time - time for lunch. Sandwiches and cutukbatuk were shared and the group rested their weary legs. After much jovial banter, the group regained their stamina and will to tackle the remaining, uncharted terrain (well, THEY hadn't been there before!) that lay ahead.

Feeding the wildlife, keeping an eye on the route, with messages and instructions being passed from the front line to the commander in

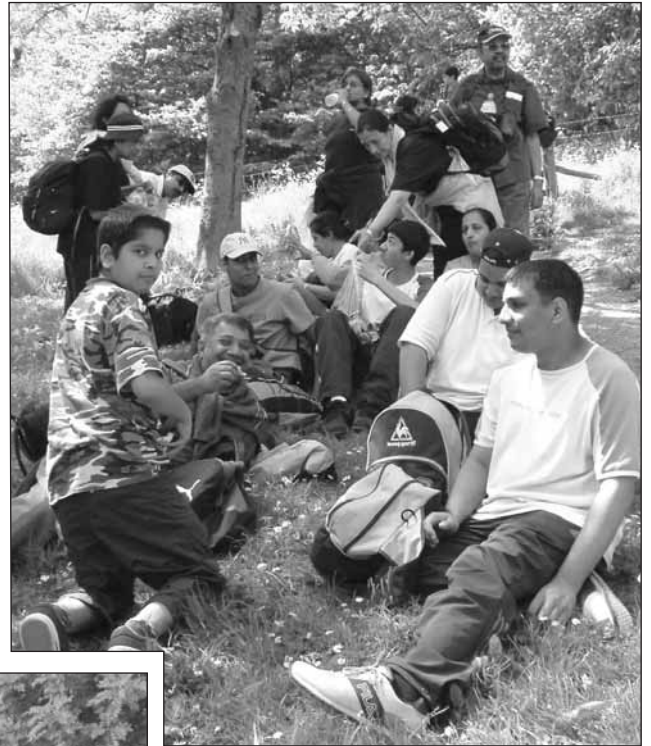


chief through the essential walkie talkies, so generously provided by Rahim Sulemanji, the rest of the brigade marched on for another hour or so.

Then they came across the pretty, little resting spot where they met up with those who had missed the beginning of the march. Now, the group was fully united and it was time for the final leg of the walk.

This couldn't be done however without a little sustenance along the way. The remaining portions of food and drinks were consumed as the group looked forward to reaching their final destination - the car park.

They had reached the very last section of the arduous trek. And, it was THE CLIMB. The climb was steep, the climb was the final enemy, the climb was like no other climb. The group sweated, puffed and panted. Some despaired of ever making it



to the top, but the remarkably fit and agile Shirin Kapasi went back down, like a true hero to help those less able to persuade their legs to carry them over the final hurdle.

And then, hurray, at last, they were all at the top. They had all made it! They had completed the seven mile walk. What a sense of achievement! They congratulated each other, pleased with the accomplishment.



Soon it was time to get into their cars and start their journeys back home - Leicester, Peterborough, Birmingham, London. But, wait, before this, it was time to have something proper to eat.....

Conference update

30 July - 1 August 2004 at the Hanover International hotel, Daventry.

The bookings are coming in thick and fast. We have representations from about ten different countries. Delegates will be attending from Mauritius, Canada, USA, Sweden, Saudi Arabia, Kenya, India, Kuwait, France etc.

Registration

It is not too late to register. You can:

- register on line by visiting the following web site <http://www.dawoodi-bohras.org.uk/index.asp>
- telephone Bushra on 0121 523 9353 or on her mobile 07930 549876
- send in your form to Bushra Vanat, C/o Jivaji Auto Factors, 97B Lozells Road, Lozells, Birmingham B19 2TR
- fax it to Bushra on 0121 523 7657.

You will need to register if you want a delegate badge and a delegate pack. And, the conference organisers want to make sure there is enough food for everyone and they need to know how many to cater for.

Registration will close on 22 July 2004 so please do it as soon as possible.

Monday 2 August, picnic in Wales

Three days won't be enough! To make the most of the opportunity of this international gathering, the conference organisers are arranging a picnic and trip out to Wales on Monday 2nd August. This will be a relaxed atmosphere where you can carry on the discussions of the conference and get to know each other. Further information about this trip will be available at the conference. You can also contact Anika Kinkhabwalla on 0121 772 3953 or Nasreen Rajabali on 0121 605 0290 for further information.

Central contact station

If you need to contact anyone about the conference during the three conference days, you can ring the following numbers: Moiz Rajabali 079 58 38 45 81
Abdullah Vanat 079 73 25 30 18

How to get to Hanover International Hotel

Hanover International Hotel and Club
Daventry, Sedgemoor Way, Daventry
Northamptonshire NN11 5SG
Tel: +44 (0)1327 307000
Fax: +44 (0)1327 706313
<http://www.hanover-international.com/daventry>

Road

From the M40: exit at Jn. 11 onto the A361 to Daventry, joining the A45; at the first roundabout follow signs for Kilsby M1 North.

From the M1 South: exit at Jn. 16 onto the A45 to Daventry; when there, exit right at first roundabout and follow signs to Kilsby M1 North.

From the M1 North: exit at Jn. 18 on the A428, and follow signs to Kilsby; then take the A361 to Daventry, the hotel is on the left at the first roundabout.
Coventry - 30 minutes
Rugby - 15 minutes
Northampton - 20 minutes

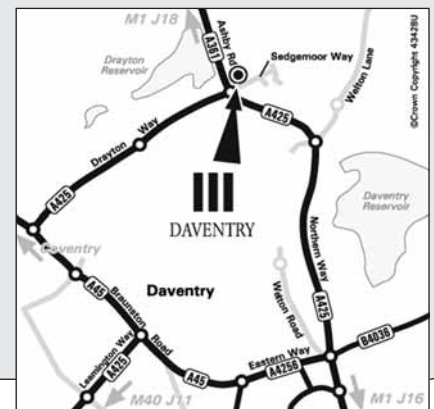
Banbury - 30 minutes
Leicester - 45 minutes
Birmingham - 1 hour
London - 1.5 - 2 hours

Rail

Rugby Station - 20 minutes by car
Long Buckby Station - 10 minutes by car
Birmingham New Street - 1 hour by car
Leicester - 45 minutes by car

Air

Birmingham Airport - 45 minutes by car



Childcare

Activities for children have been organised on Saturday and Sunday. Playworkers and childminders will look after the children and do a variety of activities and games with them. So you can enjoy the conference without any distractions! If you haven't already done so, you must let the conference organisers know if you need childcare, please ring Bushra on 0121 523 9353.

Topics for discussion

- 1 Roving Mullah Saheb. There is a lack in the West and Africa for persons who can render services to perform religious ceremonies and to deliver Vaez. We want to see if we can recruit a person who can travel to various reformist centres and train our own people.
- 2 Mecca, Medina, Karballa and globalisation of Reform movement. Can we organize our own accommodation and service of our own Mullah to help with these? If we can, it will not only cut costs, but will give an opportunity for Reformists from different parts of the world to meet and perform pilgrimages in our own ways.

3 We would like a mini conference within the conference for the youth. Can the youth tell us what their perception of their future as Reformist is? Have they any aspirations as Reformists? Can we help them realise their aspirations?

4 We seem to have varied ways in which we practice our rituals. Can we synchronise our practices? Would a dress code (not compulsory) help with our identity? Should Reformist organisations have same name with different suffix identifying region or town?

5 Religious publications. Kothar is starving the community of valuable literature. Can we help preserve, translate and publicise our heritage?

Other items

- 1 Recognition of the work of our scholars, philanthropists and heroes.
- 2 Reports from Reformist organisations worldwide.

Ideas for discussions are still flowing in. The timetable and discussion topics may have to be amended to accommodate new ideas.



The 2004 Conference program

Friday 30th July

- 18:00 Registration and snacks
- 19:30 Tilawat and Translation
- 19:30 Welcomes, introductions, including the Regional Committee and ice breaker games. Ismailbhai Poonawalla, from the USA
- 20:45 Namaaz, dinner and social

Saturday 31st July

- 07:00 Breakfast. (Registration from 9.00 - 9.30 am)
- 09:45 Tilawat, translation and dua
- 10:05 Official opening - Regional Committee Members
- 10:20 Regional committee reports
- 10:45 Inter-activities
- 10:50 Reports overseas delegates

- 11:15 Break
- 11:45 Setting the scene: the context for Reformism
- 12:05 Welcome by Rt. Hon. Tim Boswell M.P.
- 12:15 Workshop introductions
- 12:55 Overseas delegates report on their activities - Introduction to workshops
- 13:15 Namaaz and lunch
- 14:45 Workshop sessions
- 16:30 Break
- 17:00 Question time: Your chance to ask the panel some questions
- 18:00 Free time
- 19:30 Gala Dinner till late - The theme for the gala dinner on Saturday night is Bollywood. So come along all dressed up and ready for some entertainment Indian style.

Sunday 1st August

- 07:00 Breakfast
- 10:00 Tilawat and translation
- 10:05 Reports
- 10:15 Asghar Ali Engineer - Tradition of Bohras and Western society
- 10:40 Workshop reports, discussions, and agreements
- 11:30 Break
- 11:45 Priority action from workshops
- 13:15 Namaaz and lunch
- 14:45 Not just a talking shop - making it all happen - fund-raising
- 16:30 Presentations
- 17:00 Closing speech - Regional Committee Members Barbeque

Please note: Conference programme may be subject to change

Registration Form

<p>Name <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/></p> <p>Address <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/></p> <p><input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/></p> <p><input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/></p> <p><input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/></p> <p>Phone (inc international and area codes) <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/></p> <p><input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/></p> <p>Fax (inc international and area codes) <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/></p> <p><input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/></p> <p>Email <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/></p>	<p>Names of people attending the conference. To help us plan the programme and activities for children and young people, please state ages of children and young people below the age of 35 years.</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 80%;"></th> <th style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">Age</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Age	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/>
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Which hotel have you booked IBIS Hanover International Neither

Please return form to Bushra Vanat, c/o Jivaji Auto Factors, 97b Lozells Road, Lozells, Birmingham B19 2TR

Reactions to Sayedna newspaper article

**To the Editor, Indian Express,
Express News Service**

**Sub: News Item "To Pakistan,
to wish Dr. Sayedna happy
birthday" in Mumbai Newline
dated June 3, 2004.**

The above news item, presumably as usual inserted by the Sayedna establishment, with comments from Dr. Saifuddin Bapai and Saikh Abdeali Bhanpurwala, both henchmen from the same establishment, was really shocking, especially because it found a place in a prestigious newspaper like the Indian Express.

The news item claims "Sayedna is regarded as a highly respected leader worldwide. He always promotes the secular image and values of India."

Far from this claim the truth is that Sayedna Mohammed Burhanuddin is a highly autocratic leader who suppresses the human rights of his own followers on a large scale. Two inquiry commissions, Justice Nathwani and Justice Tiwetia Commissions, have already established this truth. Indian Express had written the editorial "Religious Intolerance" dated 18 February 1981, on the shocking report of these commissions. The editorial along other things says "Nathwani Commission has confirmed grave allegations of extraction of money and swearing blind allegiance to the Sayedna."

In fact we the members of Dawoodi Bohra Community known as Reformist Dawoodi Bohras are demanding democratic functioning of community affairs and Sayedna tries to crush our voice of dissent ruthlessly, often with murderous attacks on us. He promotes violence openly and many prominent personalities including late Jayaprakash

Narayan have written letters to Sayedna to stop this violence but their letters were not even acknowledged, which is enough to show the height of arrogance.

Your correspondent has apparently not bothered to find out whether Gen Parvez Musharraf had sent a special plane and made Sayedna a state guest of Pakistan. Musharraf is a Sunni leader. What interest does he have in Sayedna who curses Sunni Muslim khalifas openly?

Sayedna invites highly communal leaders like Shiv Sena chief, Bal Thakrey and Narendra Modi and presents them valuable gifts in order to protect his self-interests.

In this democratic age and in democratic country he calls himself Sultan and his children as prince and princess and lives a luxurious life in palaces, known as Saifee Mahal and Badri Mahal. Not only this, he commands that his followers should consider themselves as his slaves and write before their names as Abde-Sayedna, meaning Slave of Sayedna. So much for his claim of promoting India's secular image and values!

In the UK, USA and other countries government inquiries have been going on with regards to bogus trusts set up by him for illegal transfer of money. He was expelled from Tanzania for such illegal transfers.

By spending crores of rupees he manages to meet world leaders and then publishes books with his colour photographs with world leaders and distributes them widely again to impress some more world leaders and game goes on. This is done for his glorification and to impress and compel

his followers for further submissions to his dictates. He or his establishment also does this to discourage officials in various government agencies who are inquiring into misappropriation of community funds.

Today Sayedna is 93 years old and he celebrates his birthday on a grand scale, every year since the last 50 years spending crores of rupees from community funds. He also spends large amounts on media advertisements with false claims. With violence he has terrorized entire communities which follow his dictates silently and gathers in large numbers wherever and whenever they are called.

Sayedna Mohammed Burhanuddin is a religious leader of a microscopic community of 10 to 12 lakhs Bohras world over. A most insignificant number of followers in comparison to other religious leaders. Other religious leaders like Pope John Paul, Shankerachariya, Dalai Lama, Aga Khan and all other Sunni or Shia leaders, with much bigger followings never find need to make such Tamashas every year because their work speaks for them. The Sayedna's intellectual or financial contribution in social, national or international affairs is nil.

Whether it is the Babri Masjid dispute, Gujarat riots or Iraq war he has never spoken against misdoings and injustice. His mission is only his self-glory and not to heal suffering from his own community, let alone humanity at large, which should be a basic role of any religious leader.

Saifuddin Insaf

Executive General Secretary,
The Central of Dawoodi Bohra
Community

Another letter to the Indian Express Editor

Dear Sir,

Your News Item in Today's Newspaper about "Shanti Na Dut -Syedna Saheb" by Nuruddin Hathiyari and Yusuf Card Wala is full of unworthy praises and full of nonexistent accomplishments of Syedna Sahib.

The truth is this Syedna Saheb has not contributed anything towards peace in India or abroad. In the time of the great earthquake of Gujarat he did not visit the affected community members and during the communal riots of Gujarat he continued to feast at Indore while lot of community members had lost everything. He and his family have collected crores of rupees from his followers in the name of religious taxes and from time to time has announced the bogus schemes of constructions of schools, colleges, hospitals etc for the community just to collect more funds to go in their coffers.

The Saifee hospital which is being constructed in Bombay has been done entirely by the donation of the community members including a big donation of 52 crore rupees by one individual Mr Asraf Dahodwala of Boston, USA. Ask Mr Hathiyari and Mr Cardwala if they can please name the 400 colleges and hospitals which are built by Syedna sahib - See if they can even come out with you can count with your fingers!

Instead of preaching for peace this Syedna Sahib and his father Syedna Taher Saifuddin have carried out ruthless campaign of terror to silence the reformists who wanted the democratization and accounting of the community affairs.

I kindly request you to do some research before publishing such distorted and untrustworthy news about the Syedna Sahib.

P.S.- Every birthday Syedna Sahib and his so called sheikhs love to pay the newspapers to publish the bloated praises of Syedna Sahib.

Thank you
Isufali Kundawala,
Duncanville, Texas, USA

Obituaries Huseinabai Valiji

This was a speech given by Fatema at her mother's funeral.

Billmillah hiraman niraheem

Assalam alaikum

I write this on behalf of my dad, myself, Hafiz, Abid, Shenaz, Hassan and Abdullah.

We all ant to thank our beloved ma, all our kakas, kakis, mamas, mamis, fayjees and fuajees, to all our cousins both here and far away on other continents. To all the jamaats, but especially Leicester.

To lots of families including the Valijis, Tajbhais, Motffai's family, Vanats, Alibhais, Sulemanjis, Kaderbhais, our wonderful neighbours and friends. To everyone who came to cook today and behind the scenes. Please forgive me if I've forgotten anyone.

All your love and support over the years of mum's life, the good times like our mishags, our weddings, our surprise parties and the bad times. At times of loss and recently over the year, mum has battled with her health. Mum is my rock. As you know she was a fighter and full of strength. All your help and comforting got mum and all of us through these happy and sad times.

May Allah bless you all dearly. For all the letters, cards, telephone calls, words, hugs, allowing me to talk at 2.00 and 3.00 in the morning, for all the supplies of rotis, saks and food (you can keep it coming, I won't say no!). I'll keep up the supply of mum's Rice Krispies!

We will miss you mum like crazy. We're all hurting now but hear this, we knew when her caller Allah came to get her. All her wishes will come true, most she did herself, by may Allah give me the strength to fulfil those that were left, inshallah.

We had the time to say to her all that was in our hearts and she to tell us what was in hers.

Dad, Ma, Naz, Abid, Hafiz, Hassan, and Abdullah and everyone else in the family, we will be OK - a new angle is watching over us, so keep strong. Mum is a daughter, darling wife, the best mum we could have, a ben, a faijee, a mammi, a kaki, a bhabhi and, as Abdullah would say, "My bestest nani" anyone could ask for.

We all love and miss you. May Allah grant her a well deserved place in Janaat and everlasting peace.

"From Allah we come and to him we return."

Thank you and wasalaam.

Fatema Maje

In memory of a loving wife and mum, Huseinabai Valiji, we miss you so much.

Cancer is so limited

It cannot cripple love
It cannot shatter hope
It cannot corrode faith
It cannot eat away peace
It cannot destroy confidence
It cannot kill friendship
It cannot shut out memories
It cannot silence courage
It cannot invade the soul
It cannot quench the spirit

Yusufali Kamruddin

Our sincere condolences to the family and wife of Mr. Yusufali Kamruddin who passed away on Friday 7th May 2004. Yusufali kaka was a veteran Reformist whose belief in the reformist cause was like a rock in the community and never wavered or swerved. He will be much missed by all but especially the Birmingham Jammats.

Roving Mullasaheb

As Reformists we need to provide for our own religious rituals and ceremonies. Not only have we shown we can do it, we want to spread the learning. The idea of the roving mullasaheb is to have a religious teacher to travel between UK, Canada, America, Kenya, Mauritius and other centres to provide guidance and instruction to members who want to learn about performing our various rituals and ceremonies.

(Extract from the United Reformist Dawoodi Bohra Conference 2004 programme)

We already have a sizeable number of candidates/students who are interested in the above scheme. There are a lot of other Reformists who may be interested in the above scheme and we have not managed to contact yet.

If you or someone else you know, who may be interested then please contact:

Hatim Rajabali on 0044 1276 501596 or email at hatim@e-foreknowledge.com before the Conference on 30th July 2004.

Half English Half desi

Q: What did the green peas say?

A: Nothing. They just "mutter"ed.

Q: What did the potato say when it answered the phone?

A: "Aaloo?"

Q: What did the fat car say?

A: I'm a mota car.

Q: What did the confused egg say?

A: I don't unda-stand.

Q: Where do earrings go on holiday?

A: Bali

Q: What do shrimps sing on Christmas?

A: Jhinga Bells.

Q: What did the half eaten naan say?

A: I wish I was puri.

Q: What language do carrots speak?

A: Gajar-ati.

Q: What do you call a poet with one hair on his head?

A: Ik-bal.

Q: What did Domino pizza said to Pizzahut Pizza in Mumbai Traffic?

A: Pizza - "HUT"

DBWS Star

Shakil has been very busy lately look at all he has achieved

- Best Cadet at Merchant Taylors Combined Cadet Force
- 100 Hour Award from Millenium Volunteers
- Full Guild Colours from Aston Students Guild, for DJ Co-ordinator and Entertainment Representative of the optics Society
- Working towards the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
- Raised £100 for Charity by shaving his head
- Raised £250 for Comic Relief by having his legs waxed!!! Ouch!

Sent by Shakil's proud mum,
Zarina Hirani

Azeem Sulemanji

Congratulations for coming FIRST in the Regional Finals of the "Rotary International Youth Speaks Competition" which took place in January 2004 in Earthlingborough. He both wrote and read two speeches. The first was on "String Theory", which got him into the District Finals. His second speech on the "Human Brain" with which he won the Regional Final Competition.

'WELL DONE AZEEM', we are proud of you
With Love from, Dad, Mum & Sister Sabina

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Humma** on passing her driving test.

Best wishes from

Nasreen phoopi Moiz Mamoo Aquil and Afroze.
What a star!



Well done!

Anika Kinkabwalla showed her true colours by gaining an award from her employers, Deloitte, for her outstanding contribution to the company. The award, "made on a quarterly basis recognises exceptional contributions made by members of staff outside of the management group. The partners and managers all recognise that everyone within A&A has worked extremely hard over the last six months. These awards recognise and reward 'one-off' contributions that are exceptional when compared to the norm for that role and level".

Congratulation Anika, a well deserved recognition for your work.

Visit the Dawoodi Bohra Reformist website for news and views on Reformist activities: <http://www.dawoodi-bohras.com>

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The views expressed are entirely those of the authors and may not reflect those of the editor or publisher.

AZAD