
PARSI, THY NAME IS CHARITY

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PILGRIM 1: Are there any Zoroastrians still in Iran?

MANI: Irani Zoroastrians, Parsi Zoroastrians.

PILGRIM 2: We are Zoroastrians.

PILGRIM 3: We are Zoroastrians. 7 of us have come.

PILGRIM 4: And they are all from Parsi colony. These all.

MANI: Haan. [foreign] From Dadar Parsi colony.
[crosstalk]

PILGRIM 1: Did you come from Iran?

PILGRIM 5: From Iran not from Bombay.

PILGRIM 3: Not from Iran, from Bombay.

PILGRIM 1: But in Iran still are there Zoroastrians?

PILGRIM 6: Very few.

PILGRIM 1: So still there are.
[crosstalk]

PILGRIM 7: Zoroastrians are few in Iran now. Mostly they are Iranis.

MANI: Iranis are in Iran there are Irani Zoroastrians. And Irani Muslims. It was the persecution from the Muslims that made the Irani Zoroastrians, some most of the families leave Iran and come and settle here. And there used to be a lot of lovely stories. And I used to love to listen to stories from older people when I was little you know. Old people, I would always be. So, we were helped because you see we belonged to it. So the Parsi community took us. The ones they were. Parsi community has been an affluent community. Has been from you know self-made people. They've earned and they've been the biggest philanthropists.
[crosstalk]

Yes. So, they would say, "Parsi thy name is charity". That's a famous slogan. And.

PILGRIM 3: And when we die also do the charity.

MANI: Yeah.

PILGRIM 3: We give our body.

MANI: Yes, yes. But you know the first hospital for children the Parsi did. First newspaper, all the first benefiting the people.

PILGRIM 3: Yes, Tatas.

PILGRIM 8: Tata's is Parsi.

[crosstalk]

MANI: So.

PILGRIM 3: JRD hospital.

MANI: So, when the Iranis. When I say Iranis I mean the recent ones come. When they came naturally we needed jobs. So they would offer us jobs in their homes you know. Treating us like a family. But giving us the job. There would be ones who would cook, ones who will. My father became a gardener at one of the Parsi homes. I think it was the Petite bungalow in Pune.