
PARSI vs. IRANI

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PILGRIM 1: Mani what's the difference between Parsis, Zoroastrians and Iranis?

MANI: There's no. It's only a difference of time.
[crosstalk]

So, the ones we call Parsis are Irani. Are from Persia. They migrated to India 1400 years ago or 1200 years ago you see. Now the ones that now who's surnames are all Irani, Irani, Irani they're not necessarily related but they are recently. Like a century ago. Like my father came, my uncle came, my aunt came from Iran, from Persia. My mother was born here. Just she was conceived there and 4 days after landing in India, in Bombay she was born. She didn't like Bombay. She loved Pune. She would always say [foreign]"The Pune is a corner of paradise." I don't know about it anymore but it was still at the time.

So, when I was a child I would really you know wanted to get a rise out of her I'd remind her of the fact that she was born in Bombay. Oh she would you turn around and say, "You." [Mani and pilgrims laughing]

PILGRIM 2: But your surname was also Irani no?

MANI: Yes, yes, yes.

PILGRIM 3: So, there's no distinction from a religious point of view?

MANI: No, no. Only our calendars very delightfully. Our calendars vary by a month. So Zoroaster.

PILGRIM 3: When you say ours, the Parsis and the Iranis?

MANI: According to the Zoroastrians was born twice. A month later. Yeah.

PILGRIM 3: A distinction between which calendars?

MANI: It's the same. Our Gujarati calendar. But a month's difference in time settings. So the Irani New Year happened just now and the Parsi New Year will happen a month later. But it's good for us. We enjoy both. [general laughter]
[crosstalk]

Anything to celebrate.

PILGRIM 2: The Parsis are always there. [general laughter]

Eat, drink and be merry. That's the Parsis.

PILGRIM 3: All might go to the same temple.

PILGRIM 2: Yes, fire temple.

MANI: Oh yes.

PILGRIM 2: Because we believe in fire.

MANI: It's the same, absolutely the same. But there was a difference in the culture of the first generation of those who came from Persia. Like recently, I'm talking about. The ones who were Iranis, you know, they were different from the ones who had settled here long ago.

PILGRIM 3: Right.

MANI: But it only took a couple of generations to catch up and match up and all that. But there was that difference.

PILGRIM 1: So social distinctions just by rituals.

MANI: There were, there were undoubtedly.