

From: **Jehangir Gai** <jehangir\_gai@hotmail.com>  
Date: Mon, Aug 3, 2020 at 7:07 PM  
Subject: Re: Prayer Hall  
To: Prayer Hall Trust <prayerhalltrust@gmail.com>

Dear Mr. Tamboly,

While I appreciate the promptness with which you have responded, I respectfully beg to differ with you, and would like to point out the fallacy of the arguments advanced by you.

1. There are people whose jindagan ravaan ravani and joranu have been performed, and the family does not want the entire rites performed all over again. Instead, they want to opt only for the geh sarna ceremony. It would not be right to compel the family to spend all over again for duplication of the rites. If someone were to file a complaint under the Consumer Protection Act for unfair trade practice / restrictive trade practice, it would create a problem for the Trust as well as the priest. *(Merely because no one has done this so far, does not mean that it cannot be done, or that someone may not think of filing it.)*
2. It is incorrect to say that the priest is an independent entity distinct from the Trust, as this is contradictory to the press advertisements repeatedly given by the Trust wherein the mobile number of the co-ordinator which is mentioned is that of the very same priest. This would make the Trust vicariously liable and for acting in tacit collusion with the priest.

In view of the foregoing, I am quite clear that the Trust requires to step in and resolve the issue in the larger interest of the Parsi community, rather than protect the interest of a single priest who is attempting to extort money by capitalizing on the situation at the time of a family's bereavement.

I hope you will view my letter in its correct perspective, the aim being to resolve the issue rather than have needless disputes within a miniscule community.

Best wishes and warm regards,

- *Jehangir Gai*

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**From:** Prayer Hall Trust <[prayerhalltrust@gmail.com](mailto:prayerhalltrust@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** 03 August 2020 15:52  
**To:** [jehangir\\_gai@hotmail.com](mailto:jehangir_gai@hotmail.com) <[jehangir\\_gai@hotmail.com](mailto:jehangir_gai@hotmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Prayer Hall

Dear Mr. Gai,

Further to the WA messages exchanged today in respect of charges levied by Mobeds performing obsequies at the Prayer Hall, please see the two attachments,

the first being a mail received from a community member and the other the response from the Prayer Hall Service & Maintenance Trust.

I would like to clarify that charging for specific prayers has always been our normal practice but it is only during the Covid Pandemic that religious heads / Panthakies who earlier had not allowed the first four days ceremonies of those opting for alternate methods of disposal to be allowed at Doongerwadi or at Agiaries, have now taken the stand that those whose demise have been on account of the pandemic could have the geh sarna performed at the cremation or burial sites and have the subsequent ceremonies performed at the Agiaries. This is why the Priests performing ceremonies at the Prayer Hall are insisting that till such time the pandemic does not abate and things go back to normal, they would perform all the four days ceremonies at the Prayer Hall or none at all.

Family members of those who have passed on due to covid are informed that if they wish to have only the Geh Sarna done at Prayer Hall and subsequent ceremonies elsewhere, they are free to have their Panthakies / Priests perform the same. So far, none of the Panthakies have agreed to do so.

The Priests performing obsequies at the Prayer Hall are all independent entities and not controlled by us. Whilst our coordinator Er. Framroze Mirza is paid a nominal stipend by the Prayer Hall Services & Maintenance Trust, his scope of duties are only to receive calls from families wishing to undertake cremation of the deceased, arrange for the obsequies to be carried out and by and large ensure that the Prayer Hall is maintained in pristine condition.

Whilst he is answerable to the Trustees for the scope of services as a coordinator, the services that he provides as a Priest are in his personal capacity and not within our purview.

Kind regards,  
Dinshaw K. Tamboly