

Code of Civil Conduct

Peace and Unity:

Progress is possible only through peace, and peace is possible only with unity. Hence if we want our Community to progress and our religion to flourish, peace and unity is not a choice or an option, but an inevitable course of action.

Peace cannot come about by treading on the toes of others, hurting the sentiments of people and destroying precious legacy. IN order to achieve peace and harmony, it is necessary to have

1. **Respect** for peoples viewpoints, whether we agree with them or not. This includes respect even for those who cannot defend and speak for themselves.
2. **Tolerance** gives rise to understanding, love and forgiveness. These are the virtues of a mother. If we learn these three values, hatred will stay far away from us.
3. **Obedience** to a person, community, idea, message or a cause is an important aspect for achieving unity. For obedience to set in, we should realise that our sense of “right” may not always be correct and hence other’s sense of right has to be respected and understood.

Being at peace with oneself and others is an art, which needs to be inculcated. We need to learn to be at peace in concentric circles, starting from our own self, then progressing to the ones close to us and later reaching out to family members, neighbours, society, town, country and the world at large. Once we understand that God is a part of everything, it will be very difficult for us to hate anyone, as hating anybody would then be like hating God Himself.

Hamazor:

The word *Hamazor* means “united in spiritual energy”. It means the inner strength essential for being assertive and affirmative. *Hamazor*, a beautiful concept, is very difficult to put into practice because of our individual wishes, desires and beliefs and sense of personal rights and wrongs.

In order for *Hamazor* to work, we need to have empathy for others, irrespective of their beliefs and leanings. In order to develop empathy, it is essential to have understanding and tolerance towards fellow men.

The four fundamental teachings of our religion encapsulated in the **Jasa me avanghe mazda** prayer are a fitting **code of conduct** for all to lead to a state of *Hamazor*:

1. *Fraspaayokhedhraam* “Unity which leads to progress”
2. *Nidhaanasnaithishem* “not using force/violence (where not necessary)”
3. *Khaetvadathaam* “self-dedication – service for a cause”
4. *Ashaonim* “Truthfulness and sincerity.”

Our scriptures tell us that all of us are liable to *gunah* “sin”. We are exhorted to sin as little as possible. Since all of us commit mistakes it is imperative that we adopt a forgiving attitude to mistakes committed by others knowingly or unknowingly. Thus Forgiveness becomes an important aspect of *Hamazor*, that is “uniting in spiritual energy.” However, this does not take away from the concept of Justice or Divine Justice. Corporeal as well as spiritual justice is meted out to those who do not learn their lessons inspite of repeated teachings and forgiveness.