

## WZSE – Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 29.

Hello all Tele Class friends:

In US and Canada, Thanksgiving Holiday is the biggest family oriented celebration!

In US, it started in 1621 when the original Pilgrims celebrated a very good harvest season by a feast with the native American Indians thanking the God and them for their help in having a great harvest year.

This annual celebration has been continued over centuries, at various times. Finally, on December 26, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a joint resolution of Congress fixing the national Thanksgiving Day to the fourth Thursday in November which we are still observing in US.

And today, Thursday November 28th 2013, we will all celebrate Thanksgiving in USA with our families and friends!

In Canada, the Canadian Parliament in 1957 proclaimed Thanksgiving to be observed on the second Monday of October.

In Zoroastrian Religion, from time immemorial, we are enjoined to celebrate six Gahambars each year giving thanks to Daadaar Ahura Mazda for HIS

wonderful six creations: Sky, earth, water, vegetation, animals and human beings!

In Gaahambaar Aafrin, Daadaar Ahura Mazda proclaims each of HIS six creations, to be celebrated on fixed five days of our Zoroastrian calendar.

This is for HIS first creation of Sky:

### Gaahambaar Aafrin (Pazand language) Prayer:

Gaahambaar yasht, va maidhyo-zarem-gaah naam nehaad,  
Ardivahisht-maah, Dae-pa-maher-roz khur-roz gaah girad,  
Dae-pa-maher-roz sar bahod,  
Maidhyo-zaremyehe bud!  
Ku vinaarashne aasmaan andar aan zamaan paedaa be-kard.  
Awaa Ameshaaspandaan myazd kard.  
Mardumaanach pa ham angushite aawaayad kard.

### English Translation:

Gaahambaar was consecrated and the celebration was called

Maidhyozarem,  
In the month of Ardibehesht upto the day of Dae-pa-Meher.  
Starting with the Khorshed Roj (day) and ending in the fifth day of Dae-pa-Meher Roj,  
The Maidhyozarem Gaahambaar was celebrated by creating the Sky!  
And I, Ahura Mazda, celebrated this Gaahambaar with the Amshaashpands  
with a Myazda (celebration)!  
The human beings should also perform the Myazda (celebration) among  
themselves the same way!

(Gaahambaar Aafrin Stanza 8 – English Translation  
by me from Kangaji Gujarati Khordeh Avesta pp. 447)

Just as we Zoroastrians are enjoined to celebrate six Gaahambaars to give thanks to Daadaar Ahura Mazda for HIS innumerable blessings to us, we in USA and Canada celebrate Thanksgiving for giving thanks to Daadaar Ahura Mazda for all HIS blessings to us with our families! Thanksgiving in US is the biggest secular Celebration Holiday for the families!

In this spirit of Thanksgiving, let me translate the first two stanzas of a Monaajaat in Gujarati that we used to sing in our beloved M. F. Cama Athornan Institute, giving thanks to Daadaar Ahura Mazda as follows:

### Gujarati Monaajaat:

Daadaar Dayaalu kem karee hu wisaroo tuja upakaar!  
Dayaalu wisaruu tuja upakaar!

Wan bhaade dharati te didhi, wan bhaade jala dhaar!  
Deedho muja jeeva kaaja mufata te,  
Pavana tano aadhaar,  
Dayaalu wisaruu tuja upakaar!

Surya chandra ni ajab roshni, Megha pade nava dhaar!  
Aganeet taara chamkaawe chhe, Gagana tano wistaar,  
Dayaalu wisaruu tuja upakaar!

### English Translation:

Oh Kind Daadaar, how can I forget all your blessings to us!  
Oh Kind one, how can I forget all your blessings to us!

Without any rent, you gave us this beautiful Mother Earth,  
And without rent the water all over!

And YOU gave for my benefit the wind for free!  
Oh Kind one, how can I forget all your blessings to us!

The amazing light of the Sun and the Moon,  
And the falling rain for our benefit!  
Innumerable stars twinkling for us,  
With the vast spread of the sky!  
Oh Kind one, how can I forget all your blessings to us!

(Gujarati Monajaat from M. F. Cama Athornan Institute, translated by me)

SPD Comments:

What a wonderful way to give thanks to Daadaar Ahura Mazda for all HIS blessings to us, by celebrating Gaahambaars, by singing such wonderful Gujarati Monajaats and the last but not the least, by celebrating annual Thanksgiving Day with the whole family and friends!

May such Thanksgivings remain with us for ever!

**May the Flame of Fellowship, Love, Charity and Tolerance burn ever eternal in our hearts so we can do HIS work with humility, diligence and eternal enthusiasm!**

**Atha Janyaat, Yatha Aafrinaamahi! (May it be so as we wish!)**

Love and Tandoorasti, Soli