

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 386: Commentary on Ahunavar – Yathaa Ahu Vairyo – Dialog Between Ahura Mazda and Zarathushtra – Yasna 19 – Verses 16 – 21

Hello all Tele Class friends:

151st Birthday Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

Gandhiji was born on October 2nd, 1869. On Friday, it will be 151st anniversary of his birthday. He was a world leader in non-violent protests for injustice. Unfortunately, we have not learnt his lessons and we see violent confrontations among people all over the world. We hope to have a non-violent world soon.

Seasonal Mehergaan Parabh:

By Seasonal calendar, on Friday, October 2nd, 2020, it will be Meher Maah and Meher Roj, a Parabh (auspicious) Day – the famous Mehergaan festival! We Parsis usually just have a Parabh Jashan and that's it! Our Irani Humdins on the other hand really know the significance of the festival and celebrate it with almost the same pomp as Nowruz. (see the attached photo).

However, since most of them follow Fasli (seasonal) calendar, the correct seasonal time for Mehergaan is around October 2nd.

According to Firdowsi Shahnameh, on this day, King Faredoon vanquished evil Zohak and confined him on Mount Damavand.

Mehergaan was celebrated in an extravagant style at [Persepolis](#). Not only was it the time for harvest, but it was also the time when the taxes were collected. Visitors from different parts of the [Persian Empire](#) brought gifts for the king all contributing to a lively festival.

During pre-Islamic and early Islamic Iran, Mehergaan was celebrated with the same magnificence and pageantry as [Nowruz](#). It was customary for people to send or give their king, and each other, gifts. Rich people usually gave gold and silver coins, heroes and warriors gave horses while others gave gifts according to their financial power and ability, even as simple as an apple. Those fortunate enough would help the poor with gifts.

Gifts to the royal court of over ten thousand gold coins were registered. If the gift-giver needed money at a later time, the court would then return twice the gift amount. Kings gave two audiences a year: one audience at [Nowruz](#) and other at Mehergaan. During the Mehergaan celebrations, the king wore a fur robe and gave away all his summer clothes.

For this celebration, the participants wear new clothes and set a decorative, colorful table (see the attached photos). The sides of the tablecloth are decorated with dry [marjoram](#). A copy of the [Khordeh Avesta](#), a mirror and a *sormeh-dan* (a traditional eyeliner or [kohl](#)) are placed on the table together with rosewater, sweets, flowers, vegetables and fruits, especially pomegranates and apples, and nuts such as almonds or pistachios. A few silver coins and lotus seeds are placed in a dish of water scented with marjoram extract.

A burner is also part of the table setting for *kondor/loban* (frankincense) and *espond* (seeds of *Peganum harmala*, Syrian rue) to be thrown on the flames.

At lunch time when the ceremony begins, everyone in the family stands in front of the mirror to pray. *Sharbat* is drunk and then—as a good omen—*sormeh* is applied around the eyes. Handfuls of wild marjoram, lotus and sugar plum seeds are thrown over one another's heads while they embrace one another.

In 1960s the Postal Service in *Tehran* issued a series of stamps to commemorate Mehergaan Festival.

For further reading on Mehergaan:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mehregan>
http://www.iranreview.org/content/Documents/Mehregan_Thanksgiving_Festival.htm

We in NA should celebrate Mehergaan festival with our Irani Humdins at its correct seasonal time on October 2nd. It can be a very good Children Class material!

Commentary on Ahunavar – Yathaa Ahu Vairyo

In our last 3 WZSEs #383 - #385, we presented first fifteen verses of the unique commentary on our Ahunavar – Yathaa Ahu Vairyo – Yasna 19. Since there are 21 verses of this Yasna 19 (that is quite interesting coincidence since Yathaa Ahu Vairyo also have 21 words!), today, we complete this commentary with its last six verses.

Today, we will complete Ahunavar (Yathaa Ahu Vairyo) Commentary – Yasna Haa 19.

In this Haa, Ahura Mazda instructs Zarathushtra about the great efficacy of reciting Ahunavar.

So, here are the last 6 verses of Yasna 19 – Commentary on Yathaa Ahu Vairyo.

Commentary on Ahunavar – Yathaa Ahu Vairyo – Dialog Between Ahura Mazda and Zarathushtra – Yasna 19 – Verses 16 – 21

(Please hear the attached .mp3 file for its recitation)

Prayer Text	Translation
(16) Aétatcha vacho Mazdaao-ukhtem thri-afsmem chathru-pishtrem pancha-ratu raaiti hankerethem. kaaish héh afsmaan. humatem hûkhtem hvarshtem.	(16) In the prayer uttered by Mazda, there are three stages, four classes and five lords; it makes the gifts complete. What are these stages made of? Good thoughts, good words and good deeds.
(17) Kaaish pishtraaish. aathrava rathaéshtaaoo vaastroyo fshuyaas hooitish.	(17) What are the classes made of? The religious leader, warrior, farmer and

<p>vîspaya arena hachimna nairéh ashaonéh arshmanangha arshvachangha</p> <p>arsh-shyaothna. ratush mareta daéno-saacha. yéngéh shyaothnaaish gaéthaa ashafraadentéh.</p>	<p>craftsman. To give respect to the lords, to be obedient to the religion, to these classes, holy man should work with good thoughts, good words and good deeds, through whose deeds the holiness of world's products increases.</p>
<p>(18) Kaya ratavo, nmaanyo vîsyo zantumo dakhyumo Zarathushthro pukhdho. aaonghaam dakhyunaam yaao anyaa rajoit Zarathushtroit. chathru-ratush ragha Zarathushtrish. kaya anghaao ratavo. nmaanyascha vîsyascha zantumascha Zarathushthro tûiryô.</p>	<p>(18) Who are the lords? Of the house, street, province and land and Zarathushtra who is the lord in all lands except Raha. In Zarathushtra's Raha there are only four lords. Who are the lords? Of the house, street, district and the fourth is Zarathushtra.</p>
<p>(19) Kat humatem. ashavanem manas-paoiryô. kat hûkhtem. maanthro spento, kat hvarshtem. Staotaaish asha-paoiryaaishcha daamébeesh.</p>	<p>(19) What is the righteous thought? First the righteous thoughts of the wise people. What is the righteous word? Holy law (Maanthra). What is the righteous deed? Songs praising the religion and the righteous acts of the righteous foremost people.</p>
<p>(20) Mazdaao fraamraot, chîm fraamraot, ashavanem mainyaomcha gaéthîmcha. chvaans fraamraot fravaakem, vahishto khshayamno. chvantem, ashavanem vahishtemcha avaso-khshathremcha.</p>	<p>(20) Mazda said these (words). Who did he say it to? He declared it to the holy people in this world and in Divine world. Who is He? The complete Lord. Who did he declare? To the holy man who does not exercise authority wantonly.</p>
<p>(21) Baghaam ahunahéh vairyééh yazamaidéh. ahunahéh vairyééh yazamaidéh frasarathremcha framarethremcha fragaathremcha fraayashtîmcha.</p>	<p>(21) The gift of Ahunavar is revered. Ahunavar is revered by singing, reciting, chanting and invocation.</p>
<p>Yenghe haataanm aa-at yesneh paiti vangho, Mazdaao Ahuro vaethaa ashaat hachaa Yaaonghaam-cha, Taans-cha taos-cha yazamaideh.</p>	<p>Among the living beings whoever is better in acts of worship, of which Ahura Mazda Himself is aware, on account of HIS Holiness, all such men and women we revere.</p>

(Prayer Text is from *Yajashneh Baa Nirang* by Ervad Tehmuras D. Anklesaria in Avestan script, 1926 CE, transliterated by me. Translation from *Yasna and Vispered* Translated into

Gujarati by Ervad Kavasji Edalji Kangaji – Bombay 1886 – translated into English in his PhD Thesis by Dr. Purvez Kolsawalla)

SPD Explanation:

1. It is very interesting to have commentaries in Avesta Yasna for our three pillars of our Religion – Yathaa, Ashem and Yenghe Haataam.
2. Ragha, mentioned in the Verse 18 above, was the centre of the kingdom and hence did not need a fifth chief. Kanga mentions that the fourth lord is Zarathustra who is the leader of the Zarthustrian religion or of the Magha. The Magha were the lord of the Ragha town.
3. According to this commentary, it is very important to chant Ahunavar as well as to live by its message. So, in my regular quest for finding a tune for Yathaa Ahu Vairyo, I found the tune of a very old song from Hindi Film: “Zindagi Hai Pyaar se”. Some Parsis have used this tune to sing Parsi fun song: “Soonabai Laambaa” which is available at:

<https://zoroastrians.net/?s=parsi+songs&orderby=relevance&order=DESC>

I have [attached my rendition of Yathaa Ahu Vairyo](#) using this tune.

I have also found a tune for Ashem Vohu using a Monaajaat we learnt in our beloved Cama Institute: “Aavo Aavo Aatash ne nami Vadhaavo”. I have also [attached this to this WZSE](#).

4. Please remember that I also have found the famous tune of Ode To Joy to sing Aa airyemaa ishyo with the accompaniment of a clarinet by Dr. Daryush Mehta which is at:

<http://www.avesta.org/wzse/wzse312.pdf>

5. In our previous two WZSEs, #134 and #135, we presented a commentary on our Ahmaai Raescha prayer from Aafrin-e-Rapithwan at:

<http://www.avesta.org/wzse/wzse134.pdf>

<http://www.avesta.org/wzse/wzse135.pdf>

but it is in Pazend language.

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

In HIS service 24/7!

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

Love and Tandoorasti, Soli



CZC Mehergan Celebration 2020.



Mehregan Table in UCTI University of Malaysia 2011



Mehregan Table Persian Festival of Autumn in UCTI University of Malaysia by Persian Students, 2011.

ZAMWI celebrates Mehregaan 2020



ZAMWI CELEBRATES MEHREGAN

SATURDAY OCTOBER 3 @7:00 PM

A CELEBRATION OF LIGHT,
FRIENDSHIP, KINDNESS, AND LOVE

Photo by Sima Bastani