

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 205 – Kutar Brothers' Gujarati Firdausi's Shahnama on the first Jamshedi Navroze - Pages 31 - 32!

Hello all Tele Class friends:

Among the Parsi Community I grew up, we always called March 21st - the first day of Spring as Jamshedi Navroze. There are many variations to this day's name and I accept all of them. Since this celebration is next Tuesday, I thought it would be nice to quote Firdausi about this first Jamshedi Navroze celebration.

Firdausi in his Shahnama states that King Jamshed was the first King who started this celebration and called it: "Ruz-e-Nav". Hence we will take a detour from our Weekly Z Scripture Extracts and quote from Firdausi's Shahnama about the first Jamshedi Navroze.

I am no scholar of Persian and my Persian pronunciations are suspect. For this, I lean on the Gujarati 10 Volumes Shahnama written by the famous Mahiyar and Faramarz Kutar brothers, original Persian couplets in Gujarati on left and their Gujarati translations in verse on the right. Please accept my apologies for errors ahead of time.

Growing up in our beautiful M. F. Cama Athornan Institute, we used to have a Shahnama recital every Sunday and a Shahnama recital competition once a year between us and the students of Dadar Athornan Institute. I will try to recite the selected couplets from Shahnama as we used to do those days and record it for your listening pleasure.

Kutar Brothers Gujarati Firdausi Shahnama Volume 1 Pages 31-32:

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

**Jahaan Anjuman shud bareh takhteh ooy,
Azaan bur shudah fur-rae bakhteh ooy.**

**Ba Jamsheed bur gauhar afshaandand,
Maraan rooz-raa rooz-e-nav khaandand.**

**Sareh saaleh nav Hormuzo Farvardin,
Bur-aasud az ranjo tan dehl zeh keen.**

**Banavruzeh nav shaahe geeteeforooz,
Bur aan takht beh shast feerooz rooz.**

**Buzorgaan bashaadee behyaaraastand,
Mayo roodo raameshgaraan khaastand.**

Chuneen Jashneh furrokh azaan roozgaar,
Bemaandeh azaan khusravaan yaadgaar.

Kutar Brothers Gujarati *Firdausi Shahnama* Volume 1 Pages 31-32 Translation:

Due to the increase in his personal stature,
The whole world gathered around his throne.

And all of them decorated Jamsheed with jewels,
And for sure they all call this day “Navroze”.

They all started to call this day the first day of the year on Farvardin Month
and Hormuz Day,
And they all refrain from work that day and remove all bad thoughts from
their hearts.

On this Navroze, victorious and world enlightening
King Jamsheed sat on that throne.

And in its celebration, the sages invited all to a big gathering,
And there they had wine, instruments and merry making.

Such a celebratory Jashan has been well-known
From that time in this king’s name!

(Gujarati 10 Volumes Kutar Brothers *Shahnama*, pages 31-32, translated by
me in English)

SPD Comments

1. The attached photos are from our Iran Tour with Siloo Mehta in 2006 at the Firdausi Monument in his home town Tus.

The last one is a sketch done in front of us by a famous miniaturist: Hosein Fallahi in the Nagsh-e-Jahan Square, Esfahan, Iran.

2. These couplets from Shahnama establishes King Jamsheed as the first king to celebrate Navroze.

3. And Firdausi mentions the famous Jashan celebrated in Jamsheed’s honor ever since.

4. Above we mentioned about the Shahnama Annual Competition between Dadar Athornan and our beloved M. F. Cama Athornan Institutes.

Every year, our beloved Sanjana Saheb was in charge of the selected Shahnama verses in Persian as well as in Gujarati and we had to commit them to memory and recite them in front of all during our weekly Sunday Shahnama Classes.

On the appointed competition day, we were escorted by him to the BPP Offices in Fort and Dasturji Kutar would be the competition examiner. Each boy on his turn will sing the allotted verses in front of him. After all boys recited their verses, he will announce the first three winners.

5. The winners then were allowed to attend the final presentations of Awards always at the then Cawasji Jehangir Hall near Kaalaa Ghodaa. One of the teachers would take us walking to the Andheri Station where we take a train to the Church Gate Station and from there walk in pairs to the C. J. Hall.

6. Besides receiving the Awards (usually some religious/historical books), the highlight was always the presentation of Firdausi's life by none other than the orator par excellence Dasturji Kutar Saheb!

We who were honored to attend this Annual Award Function multiple times, had heard the same presentation by Dasturji Kutar every year but all of us were always on the edge lost in his oratory and the mastery of Firdausi and his Shahnama.

7. The three most famous couplets that he will always recite were:

Persian:

Ma gooyi keh Aatash parastand boodan!

Parastandeh Paak Yazdaan boodan!

English Translation:

Do not say that they (Zarathushtris) are Fire Worshippers!

They worship Holy Yazdaan (Daadaar Ahura Mazda) through Fire!

And the other famous couplet in Persian:

Basee ranjeh bordan dar een saal-e-see!

Azam zandeh kardam badeen Farsi!

English Translation:

For thirty years I toiled very hard (to write this *Shahnama*),

(And in so doing) made this *Shahnama* (the history of the Kings) world famous in Farsi language! (SPD comment: not in Arabic)!

8. And Firdausi's famous retort to Timur Lang when he visited his tomb after conquering Iran:

Persian:

Timur is supposed to declare in front of Firdausi's Tomb:

***Sar az kabra bardaar va Iraan be-bin,
Javaanie Shiraan-e-Turaan be-bin***

Translation:

**(Oh Firdausi!) Get your head out of your tomb and see your dear Iran!
See the bravery of the young Turanian Lions!**

And the legend says:

As Timur was leaving the tomb, there came the voice from the tomb:

Persian:

***Guzastand shiraan azin margzaar
Kunad rube-e lang injaa shikaar***

Translation:

**After the brave Iranian Lions have left,
The lame Jackals have come out for the hunt!**

What a retort!! Remember, Timur had a lame leg!!

Those were the wonderful days growing up in our beloved M. F. Cama Athornan Institute.

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!

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

(Aafrin Pegaamber Zartosht, from [Ervad Kangaji Gujarati Khordeh Avesta Baa Maaeni](#) – Page 424, adapted Aafrinaamahi - we wish instead of Aafrinaami – I wish, in the original)

Love and Tandoorasti, Soli

Firdausi Tomb



Firdausi Monument



Firdausi statue



