

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 354: Vakhshur-e-Vakhshuraan Zarathushtra Spitamaan's First Sermon – Ahunavaiti Gatha – Yasna 30, Verses 1, 3 - 4

Hello all Tele Class friends:

Happy Sepandaarmazgaan! (The Persian Valentine's Day)

In our Zoroastrian calendars, all 12 months and 30 days are named after an angel. Whenever the name of a day falls on the same month name, we have a celebration. Asfandaard (our Iranian Brethren calls it Sepandaarmaz or Isfaand) Ameshaaspad is the fifth day in Zoroastrian calendars and 12th month. Hence, Asfandaard Day and Asfandaard Month is called Asfandaardgaan (Iranian word: Sepandaarmazgaan). According to Fasli calendar, it falls on 18th February this year, which is tomorrow.

Asfandaard Ameshaaspad is the guardian of Mother Earth. Hence, Asfandaardgaan is a celebration for Mother Earth, all Mothers and women.

Here is some information on Sapandaarmazgaan from:

<http://bodazey.com/sepandarmazgan.html>

“Sepandaarmazgaan is an Iranian and Zoroastrian festival that was celebrated on the 5th day of the month of Isfand. It is the celebration day of love towards mothers and wives, and also a celebration of earth in ancient Persian culture. This day is dedicated to Spentaa Aarmaiti, Spandārmad in Middle Persian,

Sepandaarmazgaan is the celebration day of Love, Friendship and Earth in ancient Persian culture. The word Sepandaarmazgaan in modern Persian is taken from Middle Persian Spandaarmad which in turn is based on the Avesta language Spəntaa Āarmaiti, the feminine angelic spirit of the Earth.

This day is registered on Bahman 29th in the Iranian Calendar, February 18th, only 4 days after Valentine's Day. Thousands of Iranians observe the celebration day every year.

Persians have a rich culture with many great feasts based on natural occasions that have been mixed up with happiness & Joy. In the feast of Sepandaarmazgaan, Earth was worshiped, and women venerated. On this day, Women and girls sat on the throne and men and boys had to obey them and bring them presents and gifts. In this way, men were reminded to acclaim and respect women.

Also Sepandarmaz is Earth Guardian Goddess. It is the symbol of humbleness; it means modesty towards all creation. These are the qualities attributed to Earth that spreads beneath our feet, thus the symbol of modesty and love. As human beings, there are creatures that we find unpleasant and repulsive, but Earth is not like us. She embraces all creatures the same and loves them equally; like a mother who

loves all children alike. In our ancient culture, mother is symbolized by Sepandaarmaz or earth. Have you ever seen a Love more sacred than Mother's Love to her children?"

Jo Ann and I wish all the mothers and women and of course our Mother Earth a Happy Sepandaarmazgaan!

Vakhshur-e-Vakhshuraan Zarathushtra Spitamaan's first sermon:

Vakhshur-e-Vakhshuraan Zarathushtra Spitamaan's first sermon is in Ahunavaiti Gatha, Yasna 30.

In its first Verse, Zarathushtra lays out the boundaries of his sermon: Listen with an open mind, think and decide using your Vohu Mana (Good Mind) what to do (Verse 2), and two spirits and the consequences of your choice between them

(Verses 3 – 4), etc.

Let us present its first Verse:

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

**1. At taa vakhshyaa ishento yaa
Mazdaathaa hyat-chit vidusheh,
Staotaachaa Ahuraai yesnyaachaa
Vangheush Manangho
Humaazdraa ashaa yechaa
yaa raochebish daresataa
urvaazaa.**

Vakhshur-e-Vakhshuraan Zarathushtra Spitamaan's First Sermon – Ahunavaiti Gatha – Yasna 30, Verse 1 - English Translation:

**Now to those eager for truth and wise persons
I shall speak about the two phenomena
and shall explain the way of praying Mazda Ahura
and praising Vohuman, the good thought.
I shall explain the sacred lore of Asha, the truth as well
so that ye may attain perfection and thereby realise
the light of truth and enjoy the blessing of paradise.**

(Translation of *Gathas the Holy Song of Zarathustra*, from Persian into English by Mobed Firouz Azargoshasb, March 1988, San Diego, California!)

The second Verse we have covered in our WZSE #30 and is at:

Today, we will cover Verses 3 – 4 of this sermon:

Vakhshur-e-Vakhshuraan Zarathushtra Spitamaan's First Sermon – Ahunavaiti Gatha – Yasna 30, Verses 3 - 4

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

**3. At taa mainyû poûruiyéh
yaa yémaa khafénaa asravaatém,
Manahichaa vachahichaa shyaothanôï
hî vahyo akémchaa;
aaoschaa hudaamongho éresh
vîshyaataa noît duzh-daaonghô.**

**4. Atchaa hyat taa hém mainyû
jasaetém paourvîm dazdéh,
Gaemchaa ajyaaîtîmchaa yathaachaa
anghat apémém anghûsh,
Achishtô drégvataam at
ashaaunéh vahishtém manô.**

Vakhshur-e-Vakhshuraan Zarathushtra Spitamaan's First Sermon – Ahunavaiti Gatha – Yasna 30, Verses 3 – 4 English Translation:

(3) The twain spirits which appeared in the world of thought in the beginning were good and evil in thoughts, words and deeds. The wise will choose rightly (of the said two thoughts), but the unwise shall not do so and shall go astray.

(4) When these two spirits reached together life and not life were created. The followers of untruth and wicked persons shall face the worst mental situation but the followers of truth and righteous persons shall enjoy the best mental state or mental comfort. This situation shall continue for eternity.

(Translation of Gathas the Holy Song of Zarathustra, from Persian into English by Mobed Firouz Azargoshasb, March 1988, San Diego, California!)

SPD Comments:

1. I just realized from the MF Cama Institute Roster that Mobed Azargoshasb was an ex-student of our wonderful MF Cama Institute (1929 – 1936)! His Grandfather and Father were Dasturs in Iran and so also, he.
2. Mobed Azargoshasb had two footnotes for the above two verses as follows:
 - a. The two spirits are Spentas and Angra Mino or the two opposite powers, good and evil: positive and negative or creative and destructive thoughts.
 - b. Not life does not mean death, but it is a sort of living full of fraud, lie, corruption, evil character and a life which cannot be called a true living. The life which seems rather like death than living. Not life is therefore a living not at all beneficial to the community at large.
3. In the above two verses, Vakhshur-e-Vakhshuraan Zarathushtra succinctly presents the Good and Evil spirits and the consequences for the people who choose either one of them.

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

Love and Tandoorasti, Soli

Happy Sepandarmazgan

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**Persian Day to Celebrate
Love, Friendship, Earth
&
Women**



valentines_iran_sepandarmazgan

