Pahlavi Nirang for the Home Front Door

Traditionally, in all Parsi homes especially in Gujarat villages, on the fifth day of Asfandardmad and the twelfth month Asfandardmad, the local Mobed would pray a special Nirang (Prayer) and then write a special Nirang in Pahlavi script, and then finish the prayer and give the paper with the hand written Nirang to each family to stick it at their front door of their home. I have seen this done year after year in my little village Tarapore and my father, Mobed Pirojshah Kawasji Dastoor, the Tarapore Panthaky, will write the Nirang for any family who wanted it for their front door.

I always wanted to know how to read that Pahlavi writing of the Nirang and what is the meaning of the Nirang prayer. I have seen this in many homes even today. Last March, I was at an Irani flat in Salsette Colony in Andheri, Mumbai, next door to my niece’s flat and was surprised to see this Nirang. I immediately asked how she obtained that Nirang and who wrote it. The lady informed me that this was the tradition from her Iranian families and she has this every year on her front door.

On closely examining, I found that the Nirang was affixed upside down! Anyway, I took a photo of this written Nirang, of course in red ink, and am presenting it below:

This started my curiosity going and just recently Behram Pastakia requested me to restart our search for the meaning of the Pahlavi Inscription on St. Thomas Crosses.
found near Chennai in South India. I have asked many of my Pahlavi Scholar friends about it in the past but of no avail. Finally, I thought about requesting the Pahlavi Scholar, Dr. Pallan Ichaporia about it and he was very helpful in deciphering the Pahlavi inscription on the crosses. Thank you so much Pallan for the same.

This made me think about the above Nirang and I requested Pallan again about the script and meaning of this Nirang. In the meantime, Pallan found in his library a very old Khordeh Avesta book printed in 1804 in which many Nirangs were included in Pahlavi and Gujarati. The Khordeh Avesta belonged to his Grand Dad Ervad Meherjiibhai Patel/Ichaporia of village Ichapore, near Surat Taluka.

The condition of this Khordeh Avesta was very bad and Pallan could not decipher this Nirang from this book. This reminded me of an old Khordeh Avesta gifted to me by our very good Parsi friends Roda and Pesi Amaria living in North Port, FL, for which I am eternally grateful.

The title page in Gujarati says (see the photo below in Gujarati):


This is a very well preserved Khordeh Avesta and I could take a photo of the pages so as not to damage the original book. I found the Nirang we were looking for in Gujarati and it is presented in two photos below.

I sent this Nirang to Pallan and he was very helpful in deciphering the Pahlavi Nirang, transliterating it and translating it in English, for which I am very grateful.

The Nirang consists of a prayer that a Mobed has to recite first then start writing the Pahlavi script of the Nirang without reciting it and then leave the Nirang Baj until the end and then give the Pahlavi script Nirang written by him to whoever wants it to affix it at their front door.

The Nirang Prayer to be recited first by the Mobed, the Pahlavi script he has to write and the final Baj he has to pray are given in Gujarati in the two photos below from this Khordeh Avesta.

I will give the English transliteration of the prayers, Pahlavi script transliteration and its meaning of the Nirang deciphered by Pallan below:
Pahlavi Nirang for the Home Front Door

Ervad Soli P. Dastur

Sep. 26, 2011
The English Transliteration of Nirang Prayer:

Pa nâm-e yazdân, ahuramazda khodâe awuzuní gorje khoreh awazâyâd, Ardibehesht Ameshâspand bêrasad. Az hamâ gunâh patet pashemânnum, az harvastân dushmata duzhukhta duzhvarshta, mem pa gêti manîd, oem goft oem kard oem jast oem bun bûd ested. Az ân gunâh manashnî gavashnî kunashnî, tanî ravânî gêti minoânî vêkhe awâkhsh, pashemân pa se gavashnî pa patet hâm.

Khshnaothra ahurahe mazdâo tarôidîte angrâhe mainyêush, haithyâvarshtâm hyat vasnâ ferashôtêmem staomi ashem. Ashem vohu 3

Fravarâne Mazdayasno Zarathushtrish vidaevo Ahura-tkaesho, (Recite here the appropriate Gâh) yasnâicha vahmâicha khshnaothräîchâ frasastayaechâ,
Ashahe Vahishtahe sraeshtahe airyamano ishyahe surahe mazdadhātahe saokayāo vanghuyāo vouru-doithrayāo mazdadhātayāo ashaonayāo,
khshnaothra yasnāicha vahmāicha khshnaothrāicha frasastayaecha.
Yathā ahu vairyo zaotā frā me mrute,
Aathā ratush ashātchit hachā frā ashava vidhwāo mraotu.

(After this, Mobed starts writing the Pahlavi Nirang on a piece of paper in Red ink without reciting it.)

**English transliteration of the Pahlavi Nirang is as follows (courtesy Pallan Ichaporia):**

Pad nâm î Dâdâr Ohrmazd!

Rōz Spandarmad Mâh Spandarmad,
Bastom zafar hamâg xrafstarân,
Dēwân drōzân jâdûgân perîgân,
Sâstârân kayagan karbân winâhgârân uzân gurgân stahmagân;
Pad nâm î Yazdân,
Pad nâm î Nêw-Frêdôn,
Pad nâm î Tištâr-stârag,
Pad nâm î Sadwēs-stârag,
Pad nâm î Wanand-stârag,
Pad nâm î awēšân stâragân Haftôring.
Ashem vohû 1.

(After this, the Mobed completes the Nirang Bâj Prayer as follows:)

**English Translation of the above Pahlavi Nirang (courtesy Pallan Ichaporia):**

In the name of the Creator (Dâdâr) Ohrmazd.
Day (roz) Spandârmad. month (mah) Spandârmad.
Bind together all the mouths of obnoxious creatures, Demons, liars, sorcerers, witches, Tyrants, Kavis (bad rulers), enemies hostile to Zarathushtra, sinners, idol-worshippers, wolves, oppressors.
In the name of Yazdan(God).
In the name of brave Fredon.
In the name of star Tishtar.
In the name of star Satwas.
In the name of Star Wanant.
In the name of stars Hapataroing (Great Bear).
Ashem Vohu 1.

Sep. 26, 2011
(Recite in low tone) Ahuramazda Khodâe awazuni-e-mardum mardum sardagân, hamâ sardagân, hambâyaste vehân oem Behdin Mâzdayasnân, ägâhi, ästavâni neki rasânad; aedun bàd.

(Recite aloud)
Yathâ Ahu Vairyo….2.

Yasnemcha vahmemcha aojascha zavarecha Āfrinâmi,
Ashahe Vahishtahe sraeshtahe airyamano ishyahe surahe mazdadhtahe saokayâo vanghuyâo vouru-doithrayâo mazdadhtaayâo ashaonayâo,

Ashem Vohu 1.

Ahmâi raéshcha, khvarenascha,
Ahmâi tanvô drvatâtem,
Ahmâi tanvô vazdvare,
Ahmâi tanvô verethrem,
Ahmâi íshtîm pourush-khvâthrâm,
Ahmâi äsnâm-chit, frazañtîm,
Ahmâi dareghâm dareghô-jîtîm,
Ahmâi vahashtem ahûm ashaonâm,
Raochanghem vîspô-khvâthrem,
Atha jamyât, yatha äfrinâmi!

Ashem Vohu Vahishtem asti,
Ushtô asti,
Ushtô ahmâi,
Hyat ashâi Vahishtâi ashem.

Hazardrem baëshazanâm
Baëvare baëshazanâm
Hazardrem baëshazanâm
Baëvare baëshazanâm
Hazardrem baëshazanâm
Baëvare baëshazanâm

Ashem Vohu Vahishtem asti,
Ushtô asti,
Ushtô ahmâi,
Hyat ashâi Vahishtâi ashem.

Jasa-mê avanghe mazda!
Jasa-mê avanghe mazda!
Jasa-mê avanghe mazda!
Amahe hutâshtahe huraođhahe,
Verethraghnahe ahuradhâtahe,
Vanaîñtyâoscha uparatâtô,
Râmano khvâstrahe,
Vayaosh uparô-kairyhe,
Taradhâtô anyâish dâmân.
Aêtat té vayô, ýat té asti speñtô-mainyaom;
Thwâshahe khvdhâtahe,
Zravānahe akaranahe,
Zravānahe dareghō-khvadhātahe.
Ashem Vohu Vahishtem asti,
Ushtā asti,
Ushtā ahmāi,
Hyat ashāi Vahishtāi ashem.

Kerfeh mozhd,
Gunāh guzāresh-nerā kunam,
Ashahî ravān dushāram rā,
Ham kerfeh hamā vehā ne,
Haft-keshwar zamīn,
Zamīn-pahānā,
Rud-drānā,
Khorshid-bālā,
Buñdehād bē-rasād,
Ashō bēd dēr zī!

Atha jamyāt, ýatha āfrînāmi!

Ashem Vohu Vahishtem asti,
Ushtā asti,
Ushtā ahmāi,
Hyat ashāi Vahishtāi ashem.

The Mobed then gives the written Pahlavi Nirang to whoever wants it to be a fixed to their front door.

This completes this Nirang.