Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 126 – Zarathushtra proclaims - Prayers offered devotedly shall never go unanswered - Ahunavaiti Gatha - Yasna 28 Verses 10 - 11

Hello all Tele Class friends:

Zarathushtra's first Gatha Ahunavaiti consists of 7 songs – Yasna 28 – 34. It is supposed to be named after Ahunavar, our most sacred Yathaa Ahu Vairyo prayer.

The first verse of Yasna 28, the famous Ahyaa Yaasaa Nemanghaa is covered in our weekly #9 at:

http://www.avesta.org/wzse/wzse09.pdf

Today, we are presenting the last two verses of this Ha, Yasna 28 Verses 10 and 11.

Many of you always ask me: Will Dadar Ahura Mazda fulfill my wishes by my prayer? Well, in Verse 10, Zarathushtra requests Ahura Mazda to fulfill good people's wishes and answer their prayers.

In Verse 11, he inquires from Ahura Mazda when the creation first came into being.

Today, we will use the translations of these 2 verses by Dinshaw Jamshedji Irani, father of our own professor and teacher, Prof. Kaikhosrov D. Irani. Unfortunately, Dinshaw Irani passed away a few months after he finished the Gatha translations and Prof. Irani compiled and published his book later on.

So, here are these two verses from Yasna 28 Verses 10 - 11.

Zarathushtra proclaims: Prayers offered devotedly shall never go unanswered - Ahunavaiti Gatha - Yasna 28 Verses 10 – 11:

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

- (10) At yéng ashaa-atcha voîstaa
 Vangheûshchaa daathéng Mananghô,
 Eréthwéng Mazdaa Ahuraa
 Aéibyô pérénaa aapanaaîsh kaamém,
 At vé khshmaîbyaa asûnaa vaédaa
 Khvaraîthyaa vaîntyaa sravaao.
- (11) Yé aaîsh ashém nipaaonghé Manaschaa Vohû yavaétaaîté,

Tvém Mazdaa Ahuraa frô maa sîshaa Thwahmaat vaochanghé, Manyéush hachaa thwaa é-é-aaonghaa Yaaîsh aa anghûsh pourûyo bavat.

Zarathushtra proclaims: Prayers offered devotedly shall never go unanswered - Ahunavaiti Gatha - Yasna 28 Verses 10 – 11 Translation:

(10) Those whom Thou knowest as full worthy, By reason of their Righteousness and Good Mind, For those, do Thou fulfill their desire for attainment, O Mazda Ahura.
For I well know that the words of these song offerings To Thee directed to righteous ends
Will have their blissful effect.

(11) And through these divine songs,
Forevermore shall I preserve
Righteousness and Good Mind for the people.
To enable me to apprise all,
Teach me O Mazda Ahura,
Through Thine own Spirit and Thine own Words,
The principle of creation of the first existence.

(Translation from *The Gathas – The Hymns of Zarathushtra* – Translated by D. J. Irani – Edited and with an Introduction by our own ZAGNY scholar and Professor Prof. Kaikhosrov D. Irani Page 34 – available at: <u>http://www.zarathushtra.com/z/gatha/dji/The%20Gathas%20-%20DJI.pdf</u>)

SPD Comments

Dr. Purviz Kolsawalla, in his thesis, gives translations of all 238 verses of Zarathushtra's Gathas by 17 different scholars. When you read them, you are amazed how different most of the translations are from one another.

To illustrate this point, I would like to present from his thesis translations of these 2 verses by 5 different scholars:

1. Verse 10:

Mobed Firouz Azargoshasb:

O Mazda Ahura fulfill the desires of those whom you know to be upright and enlightened, because of their purity of mind and truthfulness. I believe that no prayers offered devotedly by sincere persons with high and noble objectives shall remain unanswered on Your part.

JM Chaterjee:

To whomsoever you explain the law of rectitude and of Conscience, to him, through enterprises you make felicity perfect. I know you to be infallible and of noble fame in glory.

Prof. Stanley Insler:

Therefore, those whom Thou dost know, Wise Lord, to be just and deserving in conformity with truth and good thinking, for them do Thou fulfill their longing with these attainments. For I know that words deriving from good purpose and from love are not to be left wanting by you.

Ervad K. E. Kanga:

You fulfill the desires of those who You know to be righteous and who are the true product of Vohu Mano. I know that your Manthras which please You are very efficacious.

I. J. S. Taraporewalla

And if Thou knowest some who on account of their Righteousness and because of their Loving Heart are wise and upright, O Mazda Ahura, then do Thou fulfill their desire by granting its attainment; for assuredly I know that not unanswered by You remain devout prayers for righteous ends.

2. Verse 11:

Mobed Firouz Azargoshasb:

Through those prayers may I enjoy the gifts of Asha and Vohuman. Do Thou, O Mazda Ahura, instruct me Thyself through Thy spirit and knowledge whence did the creation came into being first, so that I may proclaim it to the world.

JM Chaterjee:

Teach me, O Ahura Mazda, from your own words as to how, I would for ever protect Conscience and rectitude. let me come over from the Phenomenon to you Noumenon, as it was at the beginning of life.

Prof. Stanley Insler:

Thou who dost guard truth and good thinking for eternity in accord with the following things, do Thou, Wise Lord, instruct me (in these very things) through the eloquence befitting Thy spirit and with Thine own mouth, the things by means of which the foremost existence shall come about here.

Ervad K. E. Kanga:

With the assistance of these maanthras I shall observe till the end of my life the righteous and pure thoughts. To declare amongst the people, O Ahura Mazda, from Your Divine Throne, teach me through Your own mouth, how this world was first created.

Dr. I. J. S. Taraporewalla

So through these prayers may I hold on myself Asha and Vohu Mano for evermore; do Thou, O Mazda and Ahura instruct me Thyself to proclaim through Thy Spirit, as though Thine own Mouth, whence the Creation first came into being.

This comparison shows how difficult it is to understand and translate Zarathushtra's Gathas.

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

Love and Tandoorasti, Soli