

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 163 – Homage To Gathas - Staota Yasna - Yasna 55 - Verses 1 - 3

Hello all Tele Class friends:

Staota Yasna – Yasna 14 - 58

21 Nasks: Gathic, Datic and Had-Maanthrik

The legend tells us that our holy Prophet Zarathushtra compiled all the knowledge known at the time in 21 Nasks (volumes).

They were divided into 3 groups of 7 each.

They were:

- Gathic or Staota Yasna containing hymns;
- Datic meaning legal;
- and Hadha-Maantrik meaning other insightful thoughts.

Alexander The Accursed (356 – 323 BCE) destroyed all our Avesta of Hakhamanian time.

King Vologases I of Parthian Dynasty (reign: 51 – 78 AD) tried to collect all the available remnants of them.

Finally, they were all revived in Sassanian times but again completely destroyed by the Arabs.

An outline of all the 21 Nasks is given in Dinkard (a 10th century CE Pahlavi text), an encyclopedia of the Zoroastrian Religion beliefs and customs written by a number of authors in post-Arab invasion Iran.

In current times, it was thought that except Yasna, Visperad, Vendidad and Khordeh Avesta, all the remaining Naskas were lost.

However, lately, scholars believe that a part of the Staota Yasht Nask, Staota Yasna, is intact in the 72 Haas (chapters) of our Yasna.

Its 14 – 58 Haas comprise the Staota Yasna which contains all 5 Gathas of Zarathushtra, 7 Haas of Yasna Haptanghaaiti and other Haas of Yasna within its total 72 Haas.

In this Staota Yasna Haas, Yasna Haa 55 is particularly referred to as Staota Yasna (words of praise and worship), written in Gathic Avesta.

In our 162 WZSEs, we have presented many verses from Zarathushtra's Gathas. However, we have not covered any prayers which gives Homage to the Gathas.

According to Kangaji, Staota Yasna Haa 55 is the Homage to Gathas.

Dasturji Firoze Kotwal and Prof. James Boyd, in their book: A Persian Offering – The Yasna: A Zoroastrian High Liturgy, on page 116, describes the contents of this Staota Yasna Haa 55 as follows:

“Reciting alone, the zot celebrates the entire compilation of the five Gathas. All that we are and have is dedicated to the holy hymns, which are the very food and clothing of our souls.

These hymns are the Bestower of all rewards in the next world, and in this life are the source of good wisdom, righteousness, charity and knowledge. They are worthy of study, to be learned and taught, the very makers of renovation.“

This Staota Yasna Haa 55 has 6 verses. Today, we will cover the first 3 verses of this Haa.

So here is the first 3 verses of the Staota Yasna Haa from Yasna 55 Verses 1 – 3:

Homage To Gathas - Staota Yasna - Yasna 55 - Verses 1 – 3

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

(1) Vîspaaos gaéthaaoscha tanvascha azdebîshcha ushtaanaanscha kehrrpascha tevîshîshcha baodhascha urvaanemcha fravashîmcha pairicha dademahî aacha vaédhayamahî aa-at dîsh aavaédhayamahî gaathaabyo spentaabyo ratukhshathraabyo ashaonibyos.

(2) Yaao no henti gaathao harethravaitîshcha paathravaitîshcha mainyush-kharethaaoscha, yaao no henti urunéh vaém kharethemcha vastremcha, tao no henti gaathao harethravaitîshcha paathravaitîshcha mainyush-kharethaaoscha, tao no buyaann humizhdaao a-sh-mizhdaao asho-mizhdaao paro-asnaai anguhéh pascha astascha baodhanghascha vee-urveshteem.

(3) Taa no ama taa verethraghna taa dasvara taa baéshaza taa fradatha taa varedatha taa havangha taa aiwyaavangha taa hudhaaongha taa ashavasta taa fraaraaiteh taa vîdushéh.

uz-jamyann yaa staota yésnya yatha hîsh fradathat Mazdaao yéh sevishto verethrajaao fraadat-gaétho paathraai ashahéh gaéthanaanm harethraai ashahéh gaéthanaanm suyamnanaanmcha saoshyantaanmcha vîspayaoscha ashaono stoish.

Homage To Gathas - Staota Yasna - Yasna 55 - Verses 1 – 3

(1) We present hereby and we make known, as our offering to the bountiful Gathas which rule as the leading chants within the appointed times and seasons of the Ritual, all our landed riches, and our persons, together with our very bones and tissues, our forms and forces, our consciousness, our soul, and Fravashi.

(2) That which Gathas may be to us, which are our guardians and defenders, and our spiritual food, yea, which may be to our souls both food and clothing, such are these Gathas to us, guardians, and defenders, and spiritual food, even such they

are, both food and clothing to the soul. And may they be to us for this our offering abundant givers of rewards, and just and righteous ones, for the world beyond the present, after the parting of our consciousness and body.

(3) And may these Praises of the Offering come forth, and appear for us with power and victorious assault, with health and healing, with progress, and with growth, with preparation and protection, with beneficence and sanctity, and abounding with gifts toward him who can understand; yea, let them appear (with free liberality to the enlightened), let them appear as Mazda, the most beneficent, has produced them, He the one who is victorious when He smites, and who helps the settlements advance, for the protection, and the guarding of the religious order of the settlements which are now being furthered, and of those which shall bring salvation to us, and for the protection of the entire creation of the holy and the clean.

(From YASNA 55 - THE WORSHIP OF THE GATHAS AS CONCLUDED, THAT OF THE STAOTA YESNYA AS BEGINNING.

http://www.ishwar.com/zoroastrianism/holy_zend_avesta/yasna/yasna_55.html

From English translation by James Darmesteter, Dhalla, B. N. Dhabhar, L. Mills, J. H. Peterson, C. Bartholomae taken from <http://www.avesta.org/avesta.html>)

SPD Explanation:

1. This is a wonderful Homage to those Holy Songs composed in poetry by none other than our own Vakhshur-e-Vakhshuraan Zarathushtra Spitamaan!

2. It once again emphasizes (as our previous WZSEs # 56, 57, and 58 present) the need for all of us to sing the Gathas daily rather than each one of them recited by us only once a year on the corresponding Gatha Day.

3. Dr. Purviz Kolsawala in his Ph.D. thesis states:

“The Gathas gives us courage, success, happiness and a happy energy which keeps the body and the mind free from sins, increase in Divine progress, increase in faith, asking for help, puts the energy in the body on the level plane, gives good Yazatic energy, the intelligence of Vohûmana's Baodhang (good intelligence), clothes of righteousness, lawful energy and giver of knowledge.”

4. He further states:

“The prayers of the prophet which are Staota Yasna are worthy of the strength of the mind, worthy of following the tarikat (prescribed prayers and rituals), worthy of achieving the benefits, worthy of teaching the laws, worthy of teaching the benefits to others, worthy of maintaining the goodness while praying, worthy of keeping the attention while reciting the

names, worthy of study and worthy of leading to Frashokerétî. “

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