

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 179 – Dr. Khosro Khazai (Pardis) - Assembly of Magi - Vohu Khshathra Gatha - Yasna 51 Verse 15

Hello all Tele Class friends:

Vakhshur-e-Vakhshuraan Zarathushtra's Gathas have been translated by a number of scholars, Eastern as well as Western. One of them is Dr. Khosro Khazai (Pardis), an Iranian Zarathushtri, who received his Doctorate in 1978 from the Universities of Brussels and Ghent in Belgium. He is a specialist in Middle Eastern and Central Asian Studies, focusing principally on the history of Persian civilization, archeology, linguistics and ideas. He was one of the founders of the European Center for Zoroastrian Studies, Brussels, Belgium. One of his nine books is *The Gathas – The Sublime Book of Zarathushtra*, published by European Center of Zoroastrian Studies, its English version in 2007.

As I was reading this book, I was very much interested in the chapter on page 31 – **The Assembly of Magi**. He presents two Gatha verses for this subject and today we will present his verse from Vohu Khshathra Gatha – Yasna 51 Verse 15.

Let me quote Dr. Khazai:

“The Assembly of Magi

More than 3700 years ago Zarathustra created the first fellowship for those who were seeking to understand the phenomenon of existence through wisdom. He called it the "Assembly of Magi".

In this assembly, the members, called "magavan", could talk about existence, life, death, happiness, serenity, love, separation, deception, wickedness, friendship, based strictly on Wisdom.

Zarathustra's pupils called him "manthran", the Teacher, the Master.

Magi is a plural word, which was used 2000 years later in Bible, referring to the "three magis". This word comes from "maga", a word that has been repeated eight times in Gathas. It means great, high in wisdom, those who search through wisdom "khratu".

In his Gathas, Zarathustra has devoted seven stanzas to praise, with the best words, the members of the Assembly of Magi – "magavan":

He then presents two Gatha verses: Yasna 33 Verse 7 and Yasna 51 Verse 15.

Today, we will present Vohu Khshathra Gatha – Yasna 51 Verse 15 with his translation:

Assembly of Magi – Vohu Khshathra Gatha - Yasna 51 Verse 15

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

(15) Hyat mizhdem Zarathushtro magavabyo choisht paraa,
Garo demaaneh Ahuro Mazdaao jasat pouruyo,
Taa ve Vohu Mananghaa Ashaaichaa savaaish chivishi.

Assembly of Magi – Vohu Khshathra Gatha - Yasna 51 Verse 15

(3) The reward that Zarathushtra
has promised to the Assembly of Magi
is the Abode of Songs
which from the start
has been the place to reach
Ahura Mazda.
I give you this good news
which is achieved through
Good Thought and Righteousness.

(Dr. Khosro Khazai - *The Gathas – The Sublime Book of Zarathushtra*,
published by European Center of Zoroastrian Studies, its English version in 2007)

Dr. Khosro Kazai further remarks:

Three thousand years later. one of the greatest Persian poets, Hafez, of 14th century, praised as much as he could and with infinite veneration “The Master of the Assembly of Magi” or “pir e moghan”. referring to Zarathushtra throughout his “Divan”.

He heard the message of freedom from the “the Master of the Magi”, and found the light of God in his tavern of wine:

“If in the Assembly of Magi, they cherish me
it is because the fire that never dies, burns in my heart”

“The Master of Magi recites the words of wisdom
But you fanatic, I regret, I don’t believe you”

“As long as the taverns and wine exist
I shall sing the praises of the Master of Magi”

SPD Comments:

1. Dr. Khazai has a very interesting name for “magavan” – The Assembly of Magi.
2. The most beautiful comparison he makes is between Zarathushtra’s Gathas and the famous Persian Poet Hafez in his very famous poetry book: Divan.
3. In our very famous short prayer – Aa Airyemaa Ishyo – Yasna 54 – Verse 1, the Brotherhood of Mankind is mentioned.

It can be understood as the expanded version of the Assembly of Magi.

4. In his Thesis, Dr. Purviz Kolsawalla states for this verse the following:
“The reward which Zarathustra had promised to his disciples and ultimately to all his followers, is that if they **choose** to follow his teachings, there is a place in Garo Demané where Ahura Mazda in all His Glory resides, will be available to them. There are only two qualifications to achieve this reward, good thoughts and righteousness. An easy enough a concept, but very difficult to achieve in this sinful world.”
5. “Insler mentioned that in this verse Zarathustra intends to contrast the proper behavior of the faithful founded upon truth and good thinking with the evil behavior of the deceitful described in the preceding verses.”
6. “He also repeats the theme that the ways of deceit will lead one to hell, but the ways of truth and good thinking will lead to heaven. Insler explains that this verse and Ha 45.10 belong together in the sense that the enactment of truth and good thinking by men in this world give strength to God, whereby he can offer them salvation in the next world.”

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