

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 189 – Ahura Mazda is the Best Ruler and the role of charity - Yasna Haptanghaaiti - Moti Haptan Yasht - Yasna 35 Verse 4 - 5

Hello all Tele Class friends:

Moti (Larger) Haptan Yasht is familiar with many Parsis/Iranis as the Yasht in Khordeh Avesta sandwiched between Hormazd and Ardibehesht Yashts. But few of them know that the eight Kardaas (chapters) are taken from Yasna Haas 35 – 42, popularly called Yasna Haptanghaaiti (YH). These 8 Haas in Yasna are embedded between Gatha Ahunavaiti (Yasna 28 – 34) on one side and Gatha Ushtavaiti (Yasna 43 – 46) on the other side.

The first seven Haas (35 – 41) are the original composition of the YH whereas Haa 42 was added later on in praise of the previous 7 Haas.

YH is composed in the same Gathic Language as the Zarathushtra's Gathas, called Gathic or "Older Avesta, the earliest surviving document in any Iranian language, presumably dating from the late second millennium BCE." (Prof. Almut Hintze, please see attached book cover). Most of the scholars believe that YH was composed by the immediate disciples of Zarathushtra; however, some believe that YH was composed by Zarathushtra himself.

Gathas were composed in poetic form; whereas, YH is in prose format, but with a slight poetic inclination.

In Gathas, Zarathushtra himself is portrayed, many times communicating with Ahura Mazda. However, "YH is a liturgy intended to be recited during a religious ceremony. References in the text itself to the actual situation indicate that a group of people is assembled around a ritual fire, *aatar*, for the purpose of worshipping their god, Ahura Mazda, or 'Lord Wisdom'." (Prof. Almut Hintze).

Further to this above statement, many words in YH end in "mahi", referring to we, instead of "mi" referring to I or me.

Last week, we covered the first three verses of the first Haa (chapter) of YH. We now continue with the next two verses of the same Haa.

Please note that the whole first Haa of YH, Yasna 35, is in adoration and worship of Ahura Mazda. We will cover the rest of the verses of Yasna 35 in subsequent WZSEs.

Verse 5 of this Haa is a special verse to be recited three times. Very few Avestan

scripture verses are recited three times, indicating the importance of this Yasna 35 verse. Our very familiar prayer Ashem Vohu is one of them.

This verse is also repeated in Gahambar Afargaan prayer which was covered in our WZSE #184 at:

<http://www.avesta.org/wzse/wzse184.pdf>

With this YH background, let us present Yasna 35 Verses 4 - 5:

Ahura Mazda is the Best Ruler and the role of charity - Yasna Haptanghaaiti - Moti Haptan Yasht - Yasna 35 Verse 4 - 5

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

**(4) Gavoi adaaish taaish shyaothanaaish
Yaaish vahishtaish fraeshyaamahee
raamaachaa waastremchaa dazdyai,
surunwataschaa asurunwataschaa,
khshayantaschaa akhshayantaschaa.**

**(5) Hukhshathrotemaai baat khshathrem,
ahmat hyat aibi-dademahichaa,
chishmahichaa,
hawaanmahichaa hyat Mazdaai Ahuraai,
Ashaachaa vahishtai. (recite 3 times)**

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**(4) We who are the learners of the knowledge of the religion
and the unlearners,
the powerful and the powerless,
wish to give happiness to ourselves
and the pastures for our cattle
through charity and best deeds.**

**(5) May there verily be the Kingdom
to the Best Ruler Ahura Mazda!**

**We dedicate our mind to Ahura Mazda
Who Himself is supreme Righteousness;
We acknowledge Him
And regard Him as our own! (Verse repeated 3 times)**

(Translation from [Ervad Kangaji's English Khordeh Avesta Pages 174 - 176](#))

SPD Explanation:

1. Ali A. Jafarey, an Avestan scholar, has translated many Zoroastrian scriptures such as Gathas, YH, etc. He presents one verse of the 241 Gatha verses each day in a Zoroastrian Conference under the heading: "A thought a day, to practice, say and pray", with a summary substance and a pondering point. After 241 days, he covers other Avesta scriptures including YH in Supplements to complete a year of 365 days. You can find them at:

<http://www.zoroastrian.org/GathaSongs/aglance.htm>

2. From the above reference, for the 246th day, he states in Summary Substance:

"The congregation prays for a world in which the best of deeds bring peace and settled living of sufficiency for all, whether learning (in modern usage literate) or still illiterate, enjoying power and wealth or the ruled and needy. They pray for a good life for all without discrimination."

3. For the 247th day, he states:

"The praying Congregation wishes power to the most powerful being, a good being – Mazda Ahura. They also wish power for the Universal Law of precision."

4. Kangaji informs us that the verses to be recited three times are called: thrishaamruta – thrish = three, mruta = to be recited.

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!)

(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