

## **Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 210 – Poem: "IF" - By Poet Laureate Rudyard Kipling continued - Verses 3 - 4**

Hello all Tele Class friends:

### **A Belated Happy Mothers' Day!**

I completely forgot to wish Happy Mothers' Day to all our wonderful and amazing Mothers all over Hafta Keshwar Zamin!

Many of you replied reminding me and wishing us Happy Mothers' Day! Jo Ann and I want to thank you for the same.

However, our NAMC President Saheb Ardaviraf Minocherhomji wrote:

- **"God could not be everywhere and therefore he made mothers." -- Rudyard Kipling**

**When I inquired where he got it from, he sent the following:**



I looked up in Google and found that some quoted a Jewish saying and some say Rudyard Kipling.

So, what a coincidence for me to write about Rudyard Kipling's poem "IF" on Mothers' Day and some quoting him with the above famous Mothers' Day quote!

So, once again a very Happy Mothers' Day to all our wonderful and amazing Hafta Keshwar Zamin Mothers!

### **Rudyard Kipling's Poem "IF"**

Yesterday, we cover the first part of Rudyard Kipling's most famous poem: "IF".

Today, we will present the rest of it, Verses 3 - 4

In our lives, a small two letter word – "IF" – plays a very important role.

We use it for many different scenarios – "If I have done that; If I have seen that person; If I had eaten that dish;" etc. etc. etc..

However, a famous English Poet Laureate Rudyard Kipling of "Jungle Book" fame made this small word very famous by writing a very famous poem by its name: "IF"!

Rudyard Kipling is a well-known Victorian writer, who is known for his poetry and stories about India. Perhaps his most memorable work is The Jungle Book.

**Kipling was born in Bombay, India, in 1865.** His father, John Lockwood Kipling, was **principal of the Jeejeebhoy School of Art**, an architect and artist who had come to the colony, writes Charles Cantalupo in the Dictionary of Literary Biography, "to encourage, support, and restore native Indian art against the incursions of British business interests." He meant to try, "to preserve, at least in part, and to copy styles of art and architecture which, representing a rich and continuous tradition of thousands of years, were suddenly threatened with extinction."

Rudyard Kipling is one of the best-known of the late Victorian poets and story-tellers.

**He was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1907.**

"If-" is, without a doubt, Kipling's most beloved poem, and, along with "The White Man's Burden", his most famous. It is consistently ranked among the highest of Britons' favorite poems. It was first published in the "Brother Square-Toes" chapter of Rewards and Fairies, a 1910 collection of verse and short stories.

While the poem is addressed to Kipling's son John, it was inspired by a great friend of his, Leander Starr Jameson, the Scots-born colonial politician and adventurer responsible for what has been deemed the Jameson raid that led to the Second Boer War. The raid was intended to start an uprising among the British expatriate workers in the South African Republic, but there were complications and it was a failure. Jameson was arrested and tried, but he was already being hailed a hero by London, which was filled with anti-Boer sentiment. He served only fifteen months in prison and later became Prime Minister of Cape Colony back in South Africa.

In his autobiography *Something of Myself*, Kipling wrote of Jameson and "If-": "Among the verses in Rewards was one set called 'If-', which escaped from the book, and for a while ran about the world. They were drawn from Jameson's character, and contained counsels of perfection most easy to give. Once started, the mechanization of the age made them snowball themselves in a way that startled me. Schools, and places where they teach, took them for the suffering Young - which did me no good with the Young when I met them later. They were printed as cards to hang up in offices and bedrooms; illuminated text-wise and anthologized to weariness. Twenty-seven of the Nations of the Earth translated them into their seven-and-twenty tongues, and printed them on every sort of fabric."

In India, a framed copy of the poem was affixed to the wall before the study desk in the cabins of the officer cadets at the [National Defence Academy](#), at [Pune](#) and [Indian Naval Academy](#), at Ezhimala. In Britain, the third and fourth lines of the second stanza of the poem: "If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster / and treat those two impostors just the same" are written on the wall of the players' entrance to the [Centre Court](#) at the [All England Lawn Tennis and](#)

[Croquet Club](#), where the [Wimbledon Championships](#) are held.

The Indian writer [Khushwant Singh](#) considered the poem "the essence of the message of [The Gita](#) in English."

"If-" contains a multitude of characteristics deemed essential to the ideal man. They almost all express stoicism and reserve – the classic British "stiff upper lip." In particular, a man must be humble, patient, rational, truthful, dependable, and persevering. His behavior in response to deleterious events and cruel men is important; he must continue to have faith in himself when others doubt him, he must understand that his words might be twisted and used for evil, he must be able to deal with the highest and lowest echelons of society, and he must be able to withstand the lies and hatred emanating from others.

The virtues expressed in "If-" are devoid of showiness or glamour; it is notable that Kipling says nothing of heroic deeds or great wealth or fame. For him the true measure of a man is his humility and his stoicism. Kipling's biographer, Andrew Lycett, considers the poem one of the writer's finest and notes in 2009 that "If-" is absolutely valuable even in the complicated postmodern world: "In these straitened times, the old-fashioned virtues of fortitude, responsibilities and resolution, as articulated in 'If-', become ever more important."

So, here are the last two verses of Rudyard Kipling's famous poem: "If".

Yesterday, we cover the first part of Rudyard Kipling's most famous poem: "IF", Verses 1 - 2.

Today, in WZSE #210, we will cover the remaining verses as well as the origin of Rudyard name.

### **Poem: "IF" by Rudyard Kipling, Verses 3 – 4:**

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

If you can make one heap of all your winnings  
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,  
And lose, and start again at your beginnings  
And never breathe a word about your loss;  
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew  
To serve your turn long after they are gone,  
And so hold on when there is nothing in you  
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,  
' Or walk with Kings - nor lose the common touch,

if neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,  
If all men count with you, but none too much;  
If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,  
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,  
And - which is more - you'll be a Man, my son!

### **SPD Comments**

1. The detached Victorian hideaway called the 'Lady of the Lake', in Leek, Staffordshire, (please see the attached photo) is accessible only by footbridge and sits next to Rudyard Lake, which is also famous for being used by two historical sporting heroes.
2. The lake was the meeting place of John Lockwood Kipling and his future wife, Alice MacDonald, who were so struck by its beauty that they named their first child after the lake, the writer Rudyard Kipling, in 1865.
3. Rudyard Kipling's name was given by his parents from the beautiful Lake Rudyard in Leek, Staffordshire.
4. If you are interested in this beautiful home and have 675,000 Br. Pounds available, you can purchase this wonderful home.
5. Please see the photos at:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4462926/House-lake-gave-Rudyard-Kipling-sale.html>

**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 Jamyat, 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