

## **Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 212 – Dasturji Dhalla - Homage Unto Ahura Mazda - Part 2(a) Prayer #18 - We pray for Unity, Communal, National, International**

Hello all Tele Class friends:

In our last WZSE #211, we presented a prayer from Dasturji Dhalla's book – Homage Unto Ahura Mazda.

We want to present another prayer for the Universal Unity by Dasturji Dhalla in today's WZSE.

In these days of inter-religious strifes, Dasturji Dhalla's prayer below for Universal Unity is what we need in this world among all mankind!

### **Dasturji Dhalla's excellent answer to the question: Why I should pray in Avesta/Pazand language I do not understand?**

Many of you have asked me: Why I should pray in Avesta/Pazand language I do not understand? Such questions have been asked all the times by our well-meaning Humdins. In the past, some attempts were made by writing Gujarati Monajats which we used to sing every day in our beloved Cama Institute.

But the best answer to this question was given by none other than one of our greatest Avesta/Pahlavi Scholar and prolific writer, Shams-Ul-Ulama Dr. Dasturji Maneckji Dhalla, Vada Dastur of Karachi. One of his very wonderful books is: ***Saga of a Soul -- An Autobiography***, which was written by him in Gujarati and was translated later on in English and is available at:

which I highly recommend to all of you to read. It gives details of his life in a very lucid and detailed manner.

In its [Chapter LXI : MY FAITH IN DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS \(please see the attached file and please read it\)](#), he gives a detailed background about attempts by our scholars to compose and sing prayers in Gujarati with accompaniment of a Harmonium; however, the orthodox Parsis really criticized these efforts and eventually it died down. His dear wife always kept after him to write a book of Zoroastrian prayers in English and finally after 45 years from the time he wanted to write such a book, he wrote the book of Daily Zoroastrian Prayers in English: *Homage Unto Ahura Mazda*, which is available at: <http://www.zarathushtra.com/z/article/dhalla/> and it is a wonderful book of daily Zoroastrian Prayers in English which our youths would really like it. Those who participated in our 17 Tele Classes will remember that at the end of each Tele Class, we always had a cyber Hum Bandagi with an English Zoroastrian Prayer from Dasturji Dhalla's above book. To all parents and guardians: please look up this book and make sure the young ones also look it over. It would be great if all of us have a family prayer from this book each day. So today, we will present one of these prayers from this book and hope you enjoy it: Why I should Pray in Avesta - Dasturji Dhalla's excellent alternative - *Homage Unto Ahura Mazda!*

**An extract from: *Homage Unto Ahura Mazda - Part II(a) Prayer #18***

<http://www.zarathushtra.com/z/article/dhalla/index.htm>.

(listen to the audio recording)

***We pray for unity, communal, national and international***

All men and women are members of one human species, one common stock, one family. The indissoluble bond of common humanity unites them all. They are children of one common father. Brothers and sisters are they all and are interdependent in life. What is good for anyone is good for everyone. They prosper and they progress, when they trust one another and behave with one another with brotherly and sisterly love.

Life is full of trials and tribulations and unity gives them all strength to cope with them. It brings harmony and peace within their country and gives them security against outside aggression. Common interest and common hopes, common aspirations and common destiny lead them all to combine and co-operate with one another. United by the bond of mutual trust, minds confer with minds and hearts work with hearts and they reap happiness.

When dissension in their ranks divide them and petty strifes keep them asunder, they are weakened and they suffer. Bitter enmities, mean jealousies and rancorous hatred gnaw their vitals. Everyone is up against everyone else.

The peoples of the world live upon a volcano. Strong, rapacious nations crush weak nations. Armed with the deadly weapons of modern science, war has now become the most dreadful and diabolical in all history. In vain does the lasting peace hover above the distracted world. It finds not a place to land. May everything that is discordant and leads to the chronic disturbance of peace among peoples perish, we pray.

Thou dost love all. Thou hast commanded that we should love one another as thou dost, that we may be one with one another and with thee, our lord. Thou hast poured thy love in every human heart that men and women may mutually love one another and live as brothers and sisters, bound by the indestructible bond of unity. Help us all to work for communal and national and international unity that transcends all divisions and breaks all barriers of caste and colour and creed. We long for the dawning of the day when man shall take man to his heart and woman shall take woman to her heart and walk on earth as brothers and sisters, united in thee, Ahura Mazda, thou Father of all mankind.

**SPD Comments**

1. Prayers in this Dasturji Dhalla's book cover all types of subjects of our daily life. It is a great

compendium of short daily Zoroastrian prayers in English.

2. It removes the usual complain that I do not understand what I am praying.

3. Dasturji says in the attached background chapter of his Autobiography:

“On receiving and utilizing these, many coreligionists wrote to me stating that, despite all their honest efforts, when they had simply failed to have any desire to pray in Avesta, which they could not understand, they had turned in despair to Christian prayers. But now that they had found Zoroastrian prayers in a comprehensible language they had started using them every day.”

What a wonderful tribute to Dasturji's book.

4. As I mentioned in [my previous WZSE](#), our prayers are a private communication between us and Dadar Ahura Mazda! They can be a simple Yatha and Ashem, they can be a Kusti prayer, they can be our Daily Farajyaat, they can be singing Gathas, they can be our thoughts in our language and words, etc..

Dasturji Dhalla's book is one more beautiful aid to all who wants to pray in English.

**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