

## **Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 233 – Farvardin Yasht (Farokshi) - Some Highlights and Interesting Inferences – Verses 16, 97, 147**

Hello all Tele Class friends:

### **Farohar Pendant**

How many of you beautiful ladies wear Farohar pendant?

In this attached photo, my dear wife Jo Ann wears her Farohar pendant 24/7.

This is a photo taken at the Disney Breakfast in Orlando with one of our three Grandsons, Zain!

Farohar or Fravashi is the Guardian Angel in our Zoroastrian beliefs and you will see this worn by many Zoroastrian ladies.

### **Farvardin Yasht Contents**

*Fravashi* is generally translated as the “Guardian Spirit/Angel.” It occurs for a total of 539 times in the extant Avesta. Of these, 353 times are in the Farvardin Yasht. This Yasht (Veneration) is devoted to *Fravashi*. It is the longest Yasht in the extant Avesta with 157 verses. The Mehr Yasht, in honor of Mithra, the deity of Pastures and Covenant, is the second with 146 verses, and the Aban Yasht, in honor of Aredvi Sura Anahita, the River Deity, is the third with 133 verses.

The Farvardin Yasht has two distinct parts. The part played by the Fravashis in the affairs of Ahura Mazda, the creation and the human life is elaborated in verses 1-86 and the second part venerates by name each of the 261 male and female Zoroastrians of the first three generations, who were the pioneers in spreading the Good Religion of Zarathushtra (verses 87-129 and 139-142). It also venerates 18 Kings and heroes of the pre-Zarathushtrian times (verses 130-138). Here in this Yasht and elsewhere in the Avesta, we pray the following for the Fravashis:

**Ashāunām vanguhish surāo spentāo fravashayao yazamaidé.**

**We remember with reverence the holy, good, brave, prosperity giving Farohars of the holy people.**

In Farvardin Yasht, the usual phrase repeated many times accompanied by the name of the person is as follows:

**Stipoish Ravato ashaono fravashim yazamaidé.**

**We worship the Fravashi of the holy Stipoish, the son of Ravato;**

**A total of 279 male and female worthies of Zoroastrian Religion are revered by name in Farvardin Yasht; however, we may know only 10% of these historical stalwarts of our religion! More research is needed to identify these remaining ones and may be one of you can take up that challenge!**

## Fravardin Yasht: Its History, Place, Time and the Probable Date of Asho Zarthustra

In the FEZANA Journal Spring 1994, Dr. Pallan Jr. Ichhaporia presented the following for Farvardin Yasht:

“Where Was It Composed?” Fravardin Yasht was composed in the Eastern parts of the Iranian lands and is probably earlier than the westward migrations of the Iranian tribes. This is based on the internal evidence within the yasht itself. There is not a single indication of any word pertaining to the geography of the western lands, except perhaps only **one word** “maazainya” (**an** adjective) having **a** western element. All the other ethnic and geographical references are to Central Asia, maybe the modern day Afghanistan and some parts of North-Western Pakistan.

When Was It Written? The yasht is pre-Zoroastrian, but composed much later, after the passing away of Asho Zarthustra. The Assyrian history on Parusa dates from 844 BC and Madui from 836 BC [Burrow, Proto- IndoAryan, p. 138]..

Thus the western migratory movements cannot be later than 900 BC and so the yasht cannot be placed later than this date.

Date of Zarthustra from the Yasht. There are seven generations of righteous Zarthustis, the leading personalities of their times, mentioned in this yasht, giving us a time-span of at least 170 years. One can clearly find the seven generation Of Ahum.stut, Saena, Zigri, Vitkavi *and* Utayuti. Thus we have  $900 + 170 = 1070$  years. We can add to this at least 200 years when Saena appeared with 100 disciples (Yt13.97). This gives  $1070 + 200 = 1270$  years BC. This is the possible date of Zarthustra as seen from this yasht.”

### Farvardin Yasht – Some Highlights and Interesting Inferences

Today, we will present some highlights and interesting inferences from Farvardin Yasht.

#### 1. Religious Discussions with a Rig Veda Rishi’s son – Farvardin Yasht – Verse 16:

In this Farvardin Yasht Verse 16, a name appears from the Rig Vedic period as follows:

[\(Please hear the attached .mp3 file for its recitation\)](#)

(16) Aaonghaam raya khvarenanghacha,  
oos naa zayeiti vyaakhanō vyaakhmōhu gūshayat-ukhdho,  
yo bavaiti khratu-kaatō;  
yo naaidyaaonghō, gaotemahe parō-yaaoo parshtōit avaaiti.

(16) On account of the lustre and glory of those Fravashis,  
the head of an assembly and the interpreter of religious verses in assemblies  
is born with greatness; who is the lover of wisdom;  
and who has come out victorious from the controversy about the religion  
with Nodhas, the son of Gaotema.

[\(Kangaji English Khordeh Avesta Ba Maeni pp. 424-425\)](#)

The following explanation is given by Kangaji in its Footnote, quoting Dastur Darab

Sanjana:

“Avesta *gaotema* can be the exact Sanskrit equivalent 'Gotama'.  
According to the English booklet published in the year 1898 A.D. entitled:

**The Reference to *Gaotema* in the Avesta, by Shams-ul-Ulema Dastur Darab Sanjana:**

There were many Gotamas; of them two persons attract our attention a good deal:

1. Rushi Gaotama; 2. Gotama Buddha, the Founder of Buddhism.

The first Gotama was the fifth Rushi.

References about this Rushi Gotama as well as his son Nodhas are from Rigveda.

Moreover, in 1887A.D. Rev. Windischmann stated that the word 'nāidyāonghō' which is associated with 'Gaotemahe' is Proper name.

From this Dastur Darab concludes that 'Nāidyāongha Gaotema' of Avesta is the same as 'Gaotama Nodhas' of the Rig Veda.

Besides Professor Max Muller fixes the age of Rushis to 1500 B.C.; from this the age of the Farvardin yasht can also be estimated.”

**This verse then hints the Age of Farvardin Yasht around 1500 BCE.**

## **2. Saena – the first teacher with 100 pupils – Farvardin Yasht – Verse 97**

As mentioned above, the second part of Farvardin Yasht venerates by name each of the 261 male and female Zoroastrians of the first three generations, who were the pioneers in spreading the Good Religion of Zarathushtra (verses 87-129 and 139-142).

One of them is the illustrious teacher who had 100 pupils under him!

[\(Please hear the attached .mp3 file for its recitation\)](#)

**(97) Saenahé Ahum-stuto ashaono fravashim yazamaidé.  
Yo paoiryo sato-aethryo frakhshtata paiti aaya zemaa.**

**(97) We worship the Fravashi of righteous Saéna, the son of Ahûm-stuta, who first came into prominence as the possessor of one hundred disciples on this earth.**

This sentence praises a righteous teacher spreading the Good Religion of Zarathushtra to 100 pupils.

## **3. An Oblique Reference for “Muktad na Behrā“ with Water and Flowers – Farvardin Yasht - Verse 147)**

In this verse, we may find an oblique reference for the use of water and flowers during Muktad days. It could be inferred that the Fravashis are happy in the midst of water and flowers:

[\(Please hear the attached .mp3 file for its recitation\)](#)

**(147) Aora vanguhish upa-shaeta yaao aapo,**

**yaaoscha urvaraao yaaoscha ashaonaam fravashayo.  
Idha frithaao paiti-zantao buyata;  
Ahmya nmaaneh idha aathravano  
Dakhyunaam manyenteh vangheush ashaheh  
Uzgeurvayanteh jasteh ahmaakem  
Avangheh suraao yushmaakem yasnaheh sevishtao.**

**(147) O ye good waters, trees and the Fravashis of the righteous people!  
May you abide down here!**

**May you be loved and welcomed here in this house!**

**O Fravashis! Here in this house the Aathravans (priests) of various  
countries  
think of the good righteousness.**

**O heroic and most beneficent Fravashis!  
for seeking your help and for your worship,  
our hands are lifted up with entreaty.**

(Translation from Ervad Kangaji *Khordeh Avesta Baa Maaeni* translated in English -  
Pages 494 - 495)

**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!)**

Love and Tandoorasti, Soli

DSC04644.JPG\_s.jpg

