

## **Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 235 – Zarathushtra exposes Karpans and Kavis - Ahunavaiti Gatha – Yasna 32, Verses 1 - 2**

Hello all Tele Class friends:

### **Four and a Half Years of WZSEs!**

Thanks to your loyalty to our WZSEs, we have completed 4 ½ years of weeklies and now embark on the next weekly today. I am gratified with all you out there who have been faithfully following these weeklies. Let us hear from you.

### **Zarathushtra exposes Karpans and Kavis**

The first Gatha of our Vakhshur-e-Vakhshuraan Zarathushtra Spitamaan is Ahunavaiti Gatha. It is based on one of our pillars of the religion: Ahunavar Prayer. It contains seven songs (Haas) – Yasna 28 – 34 with 99 verses.

In one of these Haas, Yasna Haa 32, Zarathushtra talks about the evil-doer getting rich by defrauding common innocent people. He identifies them as Karpans (evil priests) and Kavis (evil Princes).

Here is what Dr. Purviz Kolsawalla in his Ph. D. Thesis states about this Haa:  
His title for this Haa is: **The Aberration of Evil, The Opposition:**

It deals with persons who are fraudulent and practice the evil. They are worshippers of **Daévas** or false gods. The princes and priests who followed the old evil cult are exposed here.

These people were full of superstitions and had deviated from the path of righteousness. Lack of knowledge and wisdom is the root cause of evil. The priests who are called Karpan or mumblers were steeped in evil ritual and made a handsome living fooling the gullible laity.

The princes called **Kavi** had become degenerate and were steeped in luxury at the expense of their own subject. The two formed a coalition, which using the old religion of the Daévas exploited the ordinary people. People were kept in ignorance so that they could not see the truth and protest against injustice. ....

A reference is also made whereby the priests and princes indulged in drunken orgies by consuming intoxicating liquors in their ceremonies. This is alluded to as consuming Haoma as an intoxicating drink. The misuse of a very beneficial plant like Haoma was strongly objected to by Zarathustra.

Our own late Prof. Kaikhosrov D. Irani, as the Editor with a very wonderful Introduction to his father's "Introductory Lectures on Gathic Themes" states:

Ahunavaiti 5 [Y 32]. This Ha is concerned with the evil-doer. The evil-doers Zarathushtra focuses on were the practitioners of the earlier cult of tribal aggrandizement. They had rituals of military preparation which not only excused but justified human and animal slaughter. These worshippers are being condemned. The first verse indicates that they have copied some modes of worship of the Mazda Yasnie community. This has Zarathushtra making an appeal to Ahura Mazda that he and his supporters be accepted as the authentically religious. Upon receiving an affirmative response in the second verse, Zarathushtra provides detailed account of their evil actions, their destructive social practices, and their resulting evil fate in after-life. (D. J. Irani – *Gathas The Hymns of Zarathushtra* – Page 10.)

With these wonderful introductions of this Haa, let us present today Ahunavaiti Gatha, Yasna 32, Verses 1 – 2:

### **Zarathushtra exposes Karpans and Kavis - Ahunavaiti Gatha – Yasna 32, Verses 1 - 2**

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

(1) Akhyaachaa khaetush yaasat  
Ahyaa verezenem mat airyamnaa,  
Ahyaa daevaa mahmi manoi  
Ahurahyaa urvaazemaa Mazdaao;  
Thwoi dutaaongho aaonghaamaa  
Teng daarayo yoi vao daibishenti.

(2) Aeiby Mazdaao Ahuro  
Saaremno Vohu Mananghaa,  
Khshathraat hachaa paiti-mraot  
Ashaa hush-hakhaa khvenvaataa;  
Spentaanm veh Aarmaitim  
vanguhim varemaidid haa-neh anghat.

### **Zarathushtra exposes Karpans and Kavis - Ahunavaiti Gatha –**

#### **Yasna 32, Verses 1 - 2**

(1) Relatives, comrades, and friends are worshipping Thee  
for the sake of enjoying the best luck.

The devil worshippers are also praising Ahura Mazda,  
the Lord of Life and Wisdom.

It is the desire of all people to be the messenger  
of Thy Message O my Lord!

and to keep away those who hate calling Thy name.

(2) Ahura Mazda the Lord of Life and Wisdom  
ruling over the world through His Wisdom and Knowledge,  
answered to them as follows:

“We have chosen for Thee the holy Aramaiti  
which is a good friend to illuminous Asha.

therefore, try to make her your own forever.”

(From *Translation of Gathas the Holy Song of Zarathustra*, from Persian into English by Mobed Firouz Azargoshasb, March 1988, San Diego, California. Abbreviated AZA.)

### **SPD Explanation:**

1. Aramaiti referred to in the second Verse above refers to Spentaa Aarmaiti.  
Prof. Irani explains:  
“Spenta Armaity: The Holy Attitude. Theologically, it is the attitude of Piety toward the Source of Being and the Ultimate Truth; Ethically, it is the attitude of Benevolence, a concern for the Good. It may be characterized as Right-Mindedness.”
2. In the later verses of this Haa, Zarathushtra provides details about their evil actions and their final fate in after-life.
3. In later WZSEs, we will cover some of these verses.

**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!)**

Love and Tandoorasti, Soli