

WZSE – Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 25.

Hello all Tele Class friends:

Many of our Khordeh Avesta prayers are attributed to Dasturan Dastur Adarbad Mahrespand, the Mobedaan Mobed (high priest) in the reign of the illustrious Sassanian Emperor Shahpur II (309 – 379 AD).

As mentioned in our previous Weekly Quotes, many of our daily prayers have stanzas taken from Zarathushtra's Gathas, Yasna, Visperad and Vendidad.

e. g. Our daily Kemnaa Mazdaa Prayer's first 2 stanzas and the last sentence is from Gathas and 3rd stanza is from Vendidad.

Almost all of Aatash Niyaaesh is taken from Gathas and Yasna Haa 62.

In a Jashan Ceremony, if there are two or more Mobeds participating, the lead Mobed is Joti and his helper is Raathwi. Raathwi helps arrange all the requisites for Jashan and also attends to the sacred fire during the ceremony. Besides tending the fire by feeding it with **Sukhad** (fragrant sandalwood), Raathwi also performs Aatravakhshi (Guj. Aatrokshi). This is an enactment, when Raathwi establishes a connection with the **Chamach** (ladle) to the **Afargaanyu** (fire vase) and all the participating Mobeds join in by holding hands. This action symbolizes the attunement of all the performing Mobeds, through Fire, with the Divine spirit of Ahura Mazda.

The Jashan ceremony is initiated with the recital of Aatash Niyaaesh and Doaa Naam Setaaeshne prayers by all Mobeds taking part in the Jashan ceremony standing up. There are three occasions in Aatash Niyaaesh when the Aatravakhshi (connection with fire) is performed. **The 2nd Aatravakhshi** is performed **starting** with the recital of three **Ashem Vohu** followed up with **At toi aatrem** prayer and **ends** with **.....Ashem Vohu**. This prayer is taken from the Zarathushtra's Gathas, Yasna 34.4 and today we will present this very famous stanza: (UNDERSTANDING AND PRACTICE OF JASHAN CEREMONY BY ERVAD JEHAN BAGLI and ERVAD ADI UNWALA, NAMC Members).

Gatha Ahunavaiti – Yasna 34.4 – (Aatash Niyaayesh) AVESTA PRAYER

At toi Aatarem Ahuraa, ajonghvantem ashaa usemahi
asishtem,
Emavantem, stoi-rapentem, chithraa-avanghem;

At Mazdaa daibishyante, zastaa-ishtaaish dereshtaa
aenanghem.

English Translation :

Therefore, O Ahura, we long for Thy
mighty Fire of Thought

which is enduring, blazing Flame
bringing clear guidance and joy to the
true believer,

but as for the destruction loving, this
quickenning Flame overcomes his evil in
a flash.

(Translation from *Songs of Zarathustra* by Dastur FA Bode & Pilloo
Nanavutty)

SPD Comments:

This is the first time Aatash in mentioned by Zarathushtra in his
Gathas.

**May the Flame of Fellowship, Love, Charity and Tolerance 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