

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 266: Jamwaani Baaj - Prayer before meals - Yasna Haptanghaaiti - Moti Haptan Yasht, Yasna 37 Verses 1-3

Hello all Tele Class friends:

Late Ambassador Jamsheed Kekobad Marker:

It is with utter sadness to note the passing away of our Parsi stalwart, Ambassador Jamsheed Marker in Karachi yesterday – 6/21/2018.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamsheed_Marker

Jo Ann and I knew him and Arnaz quite well and we visited them many a times in their St. Petersburg home. They both were very nice and hospitable to us all. I personally was amazed at all the accomplishments of Jamsheed as Pakistan's Ambassador for 30+ years in many countries. After his UN Mission in Timor, he wrote his memoirs on that project and gave me his signed copy of it which is a wonderful book. He also presented me with a signed copy of his dad's two volume memoirs – A Petal From The Rose. He used to talk about his mom to be 100 years old soon and when we were visiting them, his mom called from Karachi and he let me talk to her. On her 100th birthday, I called Jamsheed in Karachi and talked to his mom wishing her Happy Birthday. Next year, we were invited by Arnaz and Jamsheed to their Karachi home when we were visiting Mumbai. During our stay in Karachi, his mom's one year anniversary came and I was requested by Jamsheed to perform the anniversary Jashan for her in their home which I did. Jo Ann and I and the whole Zarathushtri community all over the world will miss a great stalwart of our community!

We offer our sincerest condolences to Arnaz, Nilufer, Minu and his family! May his soul rest in Garo Demana (The House of Songs)!

Janwaani Baaj

Growing up in our little Tarapore village where my dad was Panthaki for over 50+ years, I clearly remember the daily ritual at the meal time. In those days, the father or the head of the family ate first alone and then the rest of the family ate.

My dad always ate first, and he was served his meals in a big "Khumchaa" (metal tray) and he sat on his favorite chair on the table in our huge verandah. Before he started to eat, he will do two rituals without fail: the first is to pray "Jamwaani Baaj" (prayer before meals) and then at lunch time, he will make a "Book" (small morsel) of rice for our dog Tipu who is always sitting near him on the verandah waiting for his "book". For the dinner, he will have a piece of rotli with something on it for Tipu. While eating, dad will never speak until finished and after leaving the Baaj with the ending prayer and giving his "Book" to Tipu on the steps to our home. After he is done, we all ate our meals sitting on the ground inside the home. This ritual was followed religiously by many families in Tarapur and other villages.

In our beloved MF Cama Institute, we all had to pray also Jamwaani Baaj before our meals. (Please see the attached photo)

As mentioned in many of our previous WZSEs, many of our Khordeh Avesta prayers were

composed from the Gatha, Yasna, Visperad, and Vendidad verses and Jamwaani Baaj was also from Yasna Haptanghaaiti – Moti Haptan Yasht – Yasna 37 Verse 1.

So today we will cover Jamwaani Baaj and the next two verses of Yasna 37, and next week we will cover the rest of the Yasna 37 verses.

So here are the first three verses of Yasna Haptanghaaiti, Yasna 37, Verses 1 - 3:

Jamwaani Baaj – Prayer before meals - Yasna Haptanghaaiti - Moti Haptan Yasht - Yasna 37 Verses 1 - 3

[\(Please listen to the .mp3 file attached to this WZSE\)](#)

**(1) Eethaa aat yazamaideh Ahurem Mazdaam,
Yeh Gaamchaa ashemchaa daat,
Apaschaa daat urvaraoschaa vangunish,
Raoschaaoschaa daat bumimchaa vispaachaa vohu.**

**(2) Ahyaa khshathraachaa mazenaachaa hvapanghaishchaa
tem at yasnanaam paurvataataa yazamaideh;
Yoi geush hachaa shyeinti.**

**(3) Tem at ahurayaa naameni Mazdaavaraa Spentotemaa yazamaideh,
Tem ahmaakaish azdibishchaa ushtaanaishchaa yazamaideh,
Tem ashaaunaam fravashish naraamchaa naairinaamchaa yazamaideh.**

Jamwaani Baaj – Prayer before meals - Yasna Haptanghaaiti - Moti Haptan Yasht - Yasna 37 Verses 1 – 3 Translation:

(1) We worship here in this way the Creator Ahura Mazda who created the cattle and corn, water and trees, the lights of the sky and the earth and above all these all other good things.

(2) On account of Ahura Mazda's sovereignty, greatness, and intrinsic merit, do we worship HIM with the pre-eminence of the "yasnas" (prayers).

(3) We worship Ahura Mazda with such names as Ahurian, pleasing Mazda, the most bountiful. We worship HIM with our own bodies and life – with heart and soul. We worship HIM and the Fravashis of the righteous men and women.

(Kangaji's English Khordeh Avesta - Haftan Yasht Large - Pages 179

- 180)

SPD Explanation:

1. Prof. Almut Hintze has written a detailed book – *A Zoroastrian Liturgy – The Worship in Seven Chapters – Yasna 35 – 41* in which she gives word by word translations as well as some copious notes on Yasna Haptanghaaiti and I highly recommend it to all for

further study.

2. Bombay Parsi Panchayat created a Gahambar Fund of Rs. 150,000 in 1920's. All 6 Gahambars were religiously celebrated. Each cost about Rs. 780 (Rs. 20 – 25 for religious part) for a public dinner called “Niyat” (lit. caste dinner to the whole community). Public Invitation went around and about 2000 – 3000 took part in the “Niyat”! Sir Jamshedji Jeejeebhoy, the 1st Baronet, set apart a large fund for the Gahambar Celebrations, not only in Bombay but also in Navsari, Surat and Bharuch.
3. At these Gahambars, Mobeds eat from plantain-tree leaves placed on a cloth on the ground, tables being still taboo to them. They take their meals in baaj i.e. in silence. (please see the attached photo circa 1910's)
4. After all the food is served out to all on the plantain leaves, one attendant shouts: “Baaj Dharo, Saahebo!” = “Mobed Saahebo, now begin the Jamwaani Baaj and eat your meal in silence!” And all of them will pray the Jamwaani Baaj and eat in silence.

Those were the days!

May the flame of Paak Iranshah burn ever eternal in our hearts!

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!

In HIS Service 24/7!

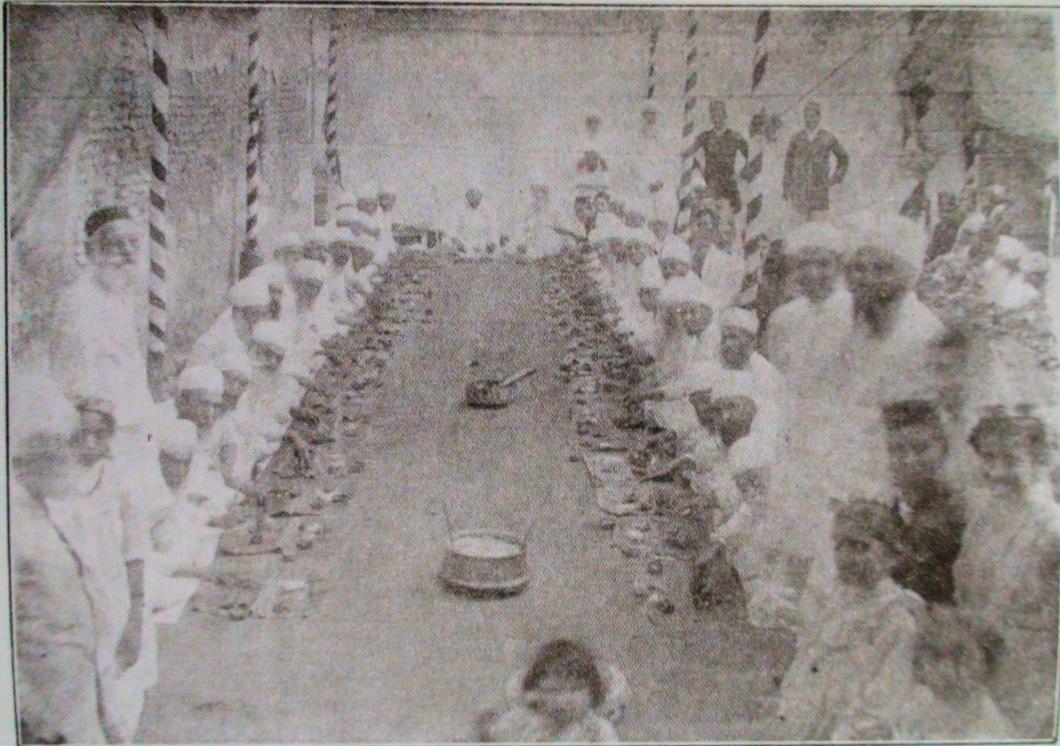
Atha Jamyaat, Yatha Aafrinaamahi! (May it be so as we wish!)

Love and Tandoorasti, Soli

MFCAl Students praying Jamwaani Baaj



Mobeds eating on the ground at a Bombay Gahambar



Mobeds (=Parsi-priests) at a Gahambar (=Seasonal) Feast.

They eat from plantain-tree leaves placed on a cloth on the ground, tables being still tabu to them. They take their meals in *baj*, i.e. in silence.—(See p. 352, footnote 291, *ante*.)