

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 295: Equality of Women and Men in Zoroastrian Religion and Praise for the Zoroastrian Youth – Aiwisruthrem Geh – Verses 8 - 9

Hello all NAMC Mobeds and friends:

Late Professor Emeritus Stanley Insler

It is with extreme sadness that we hear about sudden passing away of Professor Emeritus Stanley Insler!

“Stanley Insler was Professor Emeritus of Linguistics at Yale University, the Edward E. Salisbury Professor of Sanskrit and Comparative Philology in the Department of Classics. He was a scholar of ancient Indo-Iranian languages and texts. His research focused on Sanskrit, Vedic, Avestan, Zarathustra and the history of Zoroastrianism, metrical texts of the Pali Buddhist Canon, Indian narrative literature, Silk Road Studies, and the Gāthās of Zarathustra.”

His best works: *The Gathas of Zarathushtra* – is a wonderful book for all of us from a Western Scholar, very popular with many Zoroastrians.

He also contributed to: *An Introduction to the Gathas of Zarathushtra*, Editor Dina McIntyre.

His insight into Gathas is quite illuminating.

He will be sorely missed in the Gatha community.

Jo Ann and I expressed our deepest sympathies to his family, friends and Yale colleagues.

May his soul rest in Garo Demaana (The House of Songs)!

Five Gehs in our Zoroastrian Religious Day

Our Zoroastrian Religious Day is divided into five distinct Gehs: Haavan Geh from Sun Rise to 12 noon; Rapithwan Geh from 12 noon to 3 PM; Uziran Geh from 3 PM to Sunset; Aiwisruthrem Geh from Sunset to 12 midnight; and Ushahin Geh from 12 midnight to Sun Rise.

We have prayers for each of these Gehs and they are supposed to be recited after our Kusti Prayer, 101 Daadaar Ahura Mazda names, and Sarosh Baaj prayers in our daily Farajiyat prayers. For each Geh, certain Nyaayeshes and Yashts are suggested to be prayed after the Geh.

In all these five Gehs, a recurring phrase occurs – **“Ashavanem Ashaheh Ratum Yazamaideh”** meaning – **“We praise the Righteous, The Lord of Righteousness.”**

Praise for the Zoroastrian Youth – Aiwisruthrem Geh – Verse 8

It is quite interesting to note that in the Verse 8 of Aiwisruthrem Geh, our Zoroastrian Youths

are praised, of Good Thoughts, Words, and Deeds.

Equality of Women and Men in Zoroastrian Religion – Aiwisruthrem Geh – Verse 9

In our Zoroastrian Religion, equality of women and men has been preached from the very beginning starting with Zarathushtra himself in his Gathas. In Gathas, there are many mentions of Zarathushtri Women and Men. Some of these are:

Vohu Kshshtra Gatha – Yasna 51 – Verse 22 presented in our previous WZSE #20 at:

<http://www.avesta.org/wzse/wzse20.pdf>

This verse is paraphrased later in our one of the 3 Pillars of our Religion – the Yengheh Haataam Prayer, which also mentions Women and Men.

Zarathushtra gives Blessings at the wedding of his youngest daughter Pouruchisti to Jaamaaspa Hvaogva in Vahishtoisht Gatha – Yasna 53 – Verse 5 and this verse advises all Marrying couples to love one another in righteousness for a long and happy married life. We covered this in our WZSE #153 at:

<http://www.avesta.org/wzse/wzse153.pdf>

And finally in our wonderful Brotherhood of Mankind prayer: Aa Airyemaa Ishyo, Zarathushtri Women and Men are praised. We covered this in our WZSE #144 at:

<http://www.avesta.org/wzse/wzse144.pdf>.

Besides the Gathas, we have many instances in our scriptures of the Equality of Women and Men as in Satum no Kardo – The Prayer for the Departed, and at many places in Farvardin and other Yashts.

With this background, let us present these Aiwisruthrem Geh Verses 8 – 9 today:

Equality of Women and Men in Zoroastrian Religion and Praise for the Zoroastrian Youth – Aiwisruthrem Geh – Verses 8 - 9

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

(8) Yavaanem humananghem huvachanghem hushyaothnem

hudaenem ashavanem ashahéh ratum yazamaidéh;

yavaanem ukhdho-vachanghem ashavanem ashahéh ratum yazamaidéh;

khaetva-dathem ashavanem ashahéh ratum yazamaidéh;

danghaa-urvaesem ashavanem ashahéh ratum yazamaidéh;

humaaim pairi-jathnem ashavanem ashahéh ratum yazamaidéh;

nmaanahé nmaano-pathnim ashavanem ashahé ratum yazamaidé.

**(9) Naairikaamcha ashaonim yazamaidéh;
fraayo-humataam, fraayo-hukhtaam, fraayo-hvarshtaam,
hush-haam-saastaam, ratukhshathraam ashaonim,
yaam Aarmaitim Spentaam, yaaoscha teh ghenaa, Ahura Mazda.
naremcha ashavanem yazamaidéh,
fraayo-humatem, fraayo-hukhtem, fraayo-hvarshtem,
visto fraoreitim, evisto-kayadhem,
yenghéh shyaothnaaish gaethaao asha fradentéh,
Zarathushtrotemahéh rathwo yasnaaicha vahmaaicha
Zarathushtrotememcha ashavanem ashahéh ratum yazamaidéh.**

Equality of Women and Men in Zoroastrian Religion and Praise for the Zoroastrian Youth – Aiwisruthrem Geh – Verses 8 - 9

**(8) We praise the youth of Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds,
And Good Faith, the righteous, the Lord of Righteousness.
We praise the youth, praying God, the righteous, the Lord of Righteousness.
We praise the patriotic person, the righteous, the Lord of Righteousness.
We praise the righteous man coming from the land,
the Lord of Righteousness.
We praise the missionary of good wisdom,
the righteous, the Lord of Righteousness.**

**And we revere the Lady of the House,
the righteous, the Lady of Righteousness.**

**(9) We praise the righteous woman, richest in good thoughts,
Good words and good deeds, well and properly instructed,
Leader of her household, and truthful,
And who is like Spentaa Aarmaiti Ameshaaspad, the Bountiful Immortal,
And Oh Hormazd, like other Feminine Powers created by you.**

**We praise the righteous man, richest in good thoughts,
richest in good words and richest in good deeds,**

**steadfast on the Religion and ignorant of sins;
through whose actions for the worship of the highest Dastur, and for his praise,
the world gets prosperous by means of Righteousness.
We praise the highest Dastur, the righteous, the Lord of Righteousness.**

(Translation by Kangaji – English *Khordeh Avesta* – Pages 101 - 103)

SPD Comments

1. In my limited knowledge of our scriptures, I have not come across praises for our youths until I saw Verse 8 above from Aiwisruthrem Geh. Very interesting indeed!
2. The reference for a missionary of our Religion in Verse 8 above is also very interesting. We also find such a reference to missionaries coming back to Iran in Yasna 42 – Verse 6 which is covered in our WZSE #225 at: <http://www.avesta.org/wzse/wzse225.pdf>
3. The mentions of Righteous Women in Verses 8 and 9 above are quite interesting to note, especially comparing them to Spentaa Aarmaiti Ameshaaspand and other Women Angels, which are Avan, Din, Ashishvangh and Aastaad.

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

Love and Tandoorasti, Soli