

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 305: King Jamshid, Peshdaadian Dynasty, celebrates First Navroze - Kutar Brothers' Gujarati Firdausi's *Shahnama*, pages 31-32!

Hello all Tele Class friends:

Among the Parsi Community I grew up, we always called March 21st - the first day of Spring as Jamshedi Navroze. There are many variations to this day's name, and I accept all of them. Since this celebration is next Thursday, March 21st, and since Jo Ann and I will be on a Cruise with our daughter Shirin/Marv and three grandsons, we will be celebrating Jamshedi Navroze on the ship somewhere in Western Caribbean!

So, I am sending this WZSE today so as to catch up on our weeklies on time.

And what a beautiful way to celebrate this world famous Holiday by quoting a world famous Poet Firdausi Tusi about [the first Jamshedi Navroze celebration of mankind!](#)

Firdausi in his *Shahnama* states that King Jamshed was the first King who started this celebration and called it: "Ruz-e-Nav" (New Day). Hence, we will take a detour from our Weekly Z Scripture Extracts and quote from Firdausi's *Shahnama* about the first Jamshedi Navroze.

I am no scholar of Persian and my Persian pronunciations are suspect. For this, I lean on the Gujarati 10 Volumes *Shahnama* written by the famous Mahiyar and Faramarz Kutar brothers, original Persian couplets in Gujarati on left and their Gujarati translations in verse on the right. Please accept my apologies for errors ahead of time.

Growing up in our beautiful M. F. Cama Athornan Institute, we used to have a *Shahnama* recital every Sunday and a *Shahnama* recital competition once a year between us and the students of Dadar Athornan Institute. I will try to recite the selected couplets from *Shahnama* as we used to do in those days and record it for your listening pleasure.

Kutar Brothers Gujarati Firdausi *Shahnama* Volume 1, pages 31-32:

(Please hear the attached .mp3 file for its recitation)

Jahaan Anjuman shud bareh takhteh ooy,
Azaan bur shudah fur-rae bakhteh ooy.

Ba Jamsheed bur gauhar afshaandand,
Maraan rooz-raa rooz-e-nav khaandand.

Sareh saaleh nav Hormuz-o-Farvardin,

Bur-aasud az ranjo tan dehl zeh keen.

Banavruzeh nav shaahe geeteeforooz,
Bur aan takht beh shast feerooz rooz.

Buzorgaan bashaadee behyaaraastand,
Mayo roodo raameshgaraan khaastand.

Chuneen Jashneh furrokh azaan roozgaar,
Bemaandeh azaan khusravaan yaadgaar.

Kutar Brothers Gujarati Firdausi Shahnama Volume 1, pages 31-32 Translation:

Due to the increase in his personal stature,
The whole world gathered around his throne.

And all of them decorated Jamsheed with jewels,
And for sure they all call this day “Navroze”.

They all started to call this day the first day of the year on Farvardin Month
and Hormuz Day,
And they all refrain from work that day and remove all bad thoughts from
their hearts.

On this Navroze, victorious and world enlightening
King Jamsheed sat on that throne.

And in its celebration, the sages invited all to a big gathering,
And there they had wine, instruments and merry making.

Such a celebratory Jashan has been well-known
From that time in this king’s name!

(Gujarati 10 Volumes Kutar Brothers *Shahnama*, pages 31-32, translated by
me in English)

SPD Comments

1. The attached photos are from our Iran Tour with Siloo Mehta in 2006 at the Firdausi Monument in his home town Tus.

The last one is a sketch done in front of us by a famous miniaturist: Hosein Fallahi in the Nagsh-e-Jahan Square, Esfahan, Iran.

2. When our good friend Rustom Kevala was FEZANA President, he assembled a FEZANA Committee to create a book with short prayers for Navrooz. I was asked to do so. After consulting Dastours and scholars, we created a book of short prayers that can be used for Navroze. The front cover of the book is attached. You can ask a copy from our FEZANA Admin at: admin@fezana.org.

3. These couplets from Shahnama establishes King Jamsheed as the first king to celebrate Navroze.

And Firdausi mentions the famous Jashan celebrated in Jamsheed's honor ever since.

4. According to our very good Scholar friend, Fariborz Rahnooman:

"In 1725 BCE Zarathushtra the sage of ancient Iran who was also a distinguished mathematician and astronomer is believed to have coined the word "Now Rooz" which means the "New Day" as against 'Sal e Nou' which means "New Year". It was to record the phenomenon that occurred on the New Year day of 1725 BCE in Sistan near lake Hamoun where Zarathushtra had his ancient planetarium. In 1725 BCE the Vernal Equinox coincided with Sun Rise at Sistan, located at 62 degrees longitude, whereby the New Year and the New Day began at the same time."

5. Fariborz further states that King Darius I celebrated Now Rooz in 487 BCE at Apadana Palace, Persepolis:

"This phenomenon has also been archeologically recorded in history when the Now Rooz of 487 BCE was celebrated at Takth-e-Jamshid (Persepolis). On the spring equinox of 487 BCE Now Rooz was celebrated when the first rays of the rising sun coinciding with the equinox, lighted the square stone set in the central hall of the Apadana palace at Takht e Jamshid. This celebration was pre-planned, the Persian scholars and astronomers had pre-calculated this event and Darius the Great had designed the Apadana palace for this great natural event."

6. Above we mentioned about the Shahnama Annual Competition between Dadar Athornan and our beloved M. F. Cama Athornan Institutes.

Every year, our beloved Sanjana Saheb was in charge of the selected Shahnama verses in Persian as well as in Gujarati and we had to commit them to memory and recite them in front of all during our weekly Sunday Shahnama Classes.

On the appointed competition day, we were escorted by him to the BPP Offices in Fort and Dasturji Kutar would be the competition examiner. Each boy on his turn will sing the allotted verses in front of him. After all boys recited their verses, he will announce the first three winners.

7. The winners then were allowed to attend the final presentations of Awards always at the then Cawasji Jehangir Hall near Kaalaa Ghodaa. One of the teachers would take us walking to the Andheri Station where we take a train to the Church Gate Station and from there walk in pairs to the C. J. Hall.

8. Besides receiving the Awards (usually some religious/historical books), the highlight was always the presentation of Firdausi's life by none other than the orator par excellence Dasturji

Kutar Saheb!

We who were honored to attend this Annual Award Function multiple times, had heard the same presentation by Dasturji Kutar every year but all of us were always on the edge lost in his oratory and the mastery of Firdausi and his Shahnama.

9. The three most famous couplets that he will always recite were:

Persian:

Ma gooyi keh Aatash parastand boodan!

Parastandeh Paak Yazdaan boodan!

English Translation:

Do not say that they (Zarathushtris) are Fire Worshippers!

They worship Holy Yazdaan (Daadaar Ahura Mazda) through Fire!

And the other famous couplet in Persian:

Basee ranjeh bordan dar een saal-e-see!

Azam zandeh kardam badeen Farsi!

English Translation:

For thirty years I toiled very hard (to write this Shahnama),

(And in so doing) made this Shahnama (the history of the Kings) world famous in Farsi language! (SPD comment: not in Arabic)!

10. And Firdausi's famous retort to Timur Lang when he visited his tomb after conquering Iran:

Persian:

Timur is supposed to declare in front of Firdausi's Tomb:

Sar az kabra bardaar va Iraan beh-bin,

Javaanie Shiraan-e-Turaan beh-bin

Translation:

(Oh Firdausi!) Get your head out of your tomb and see your dear Iran!

See the bravery of the young Turanian Lions!

And the legend says:

As Timur was leaving the tomb, there came the voice from the tomb:

Persian:

Guzastand shiraan azin margzaar

Kunad rube-e lang injaa shikaar

Translation:

After the brave Iranian Lions have left,

The lame Jackals have come out for the hunt!

What a retort!! Remember, Timur had a lame leg!!

Those were the wonderful days growing up in our beloved M. F. Cama Athornan Institute.

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

Love and Tandoorasti, Soli

Firdausi Monument.jpg



Firdausi Statue



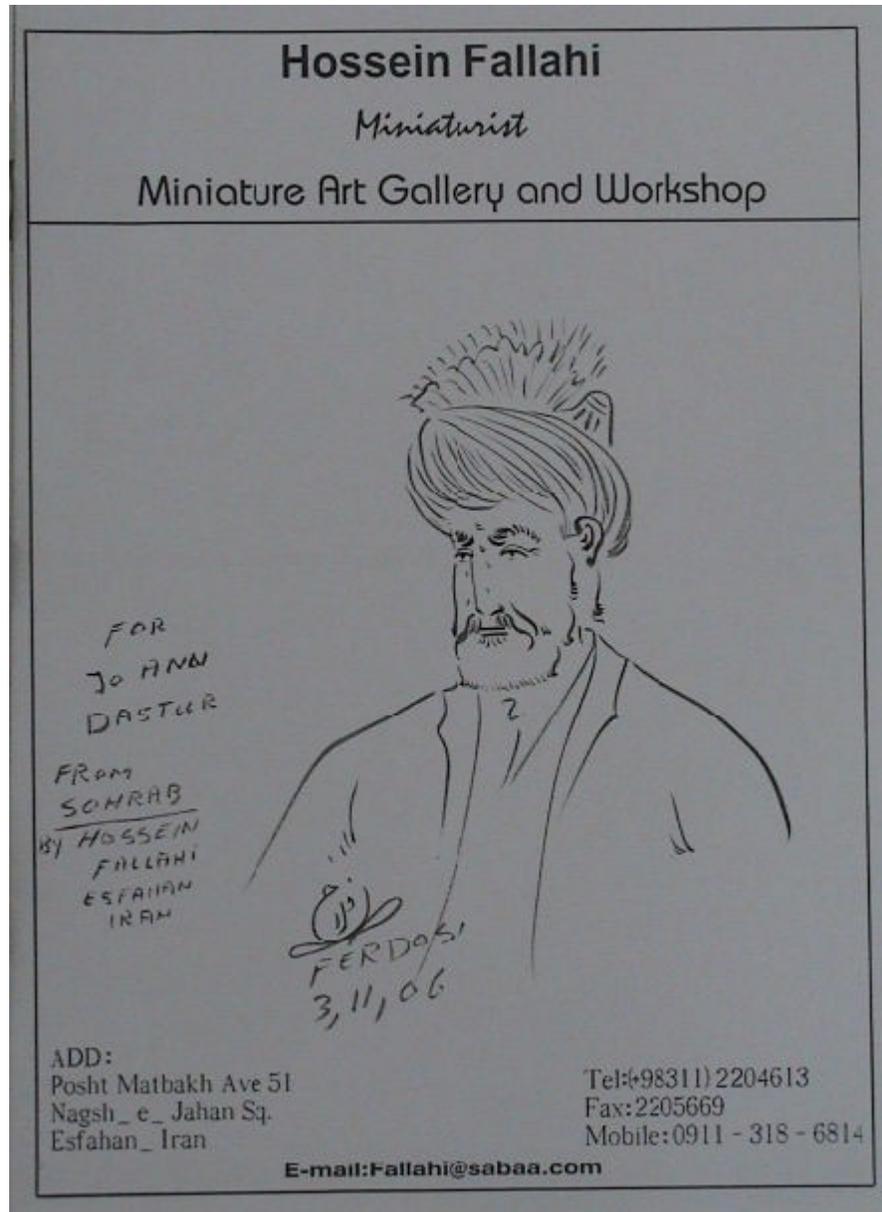
Firdausi Tomb



Shahnameh Opening Lines

بنام خداوند جان و خرد	خزاین برتر اندیشم برنگردد
خداوند کجیسان گردان سپهر	روز زنده ماه و نامید و منته
ز نام و نشان و گمان بر آست	نگارنده بر شده گوهر آست
کجی نامم بذازگه با پستان	فراوان بود اندرون آستان
پراکنده در دست بر موبدی	از او جسمه برده هر جزوی
کجی سپاهان بود بتجان شاد	ولیر و بزرگ و خردمند شاد
پر شوهند روزگار سخت	گذشته سخن با هم باز بست
ز هر کوشی موبدی سپاه خود	بسیار و درو این نامه را کرد کرد
بر سپیدشان از راه و گیان	وزان نامداران و مستحق گوان
گدگستی با غا ز چون آشنده	که آیدون با خوار گدگ آشنده
چگونه سپه آمد بر نیگ آختری	برایشان همه وز گند آوری
بخستند پیش یکایک همان	نمناهی شانان و گشت همان

Hossein Fallahi Ferdosi Sketch



Naurooz Prayer Book Front Cover

**Hamā Anjuman Prayers for Naurooz
In English, Farsi and Gujarati**



Haft Sheen Tables for Naurooz

**Assembled by Ervad Soli P. Dastur
with the help of
FEZANA Naurooz Planning Committee**