“Monaajaats are Zoroastrian devotional songs. The word Monaajaat is from the Persian language, and the earliest Monaajaats were in Persian, many of them composed by Dastur Mullan Firoz bin Kaus.”

“Later, Monaajaats were composed in Gujarati, the language understood by the majority of Zoroastrians. The earliest Gujarati Monaajaats were published in the mid19th century on historical and religious subjects, usually at the back of Khordeh Avesta books.” (Dr. Ervad Ramiyar Karanjia - https://ramiyarkaranjia.com/2017/07/21/what-are-monajats-tmy-jame-jamshed-of-9-7-17/)

“Sir Dr. Ervad Jivanji J. Modi gives an illustrative description of the prayer Monaajaat concerning its function for the believer as an outlet of religious emotions: “It is a prayer in which the person praying holds, as it were, a converse with his God and pours forth his own inward personal feelings of devotion and expression of humility”. This definition of Zoroastrian Monaajaat stresses the individuality and intimacy of the prayer which is suited to build up a very close personal relationship to God in the form of a dialogue. In contrast to the official Zoroastrian prayers which are composed in the ancient Avestan language, the language of the Monaajaat is normally the mother tongue of the praying person, Persian or Gujarati, so that the believer is able to follow each formulation of the prayer.” (http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/monajat-i)

In our beloved MF Cama Athornan Institute, we used to have a Monaajaat booklet with 15 or so Monaajaats in it, all in Gujarati. All these Monaajaats were written with rhymes. Our Duty Teacher in charge of our morning and night prayers will select one of these Monaajaats and we had to sing them every day. And of course, the last official routine just before going upstairs to bed is to line up in two lines facing one another and singing that beautiful Khudaavind Khaavind Monaajaat ending with “Goodnight Sir”! Those were the wonderful days!

We have presented many a Vakhshur-e-Vakhshuraan Zarathushtra Spitamaan’s words from his 17 Gatha songs but have never presented a Monaajaat in his praise which is quite overdue in our 307 WZSEs. So today we will present a beautiful Gujarati Monaajaat in praise of Zarathushtra written by none other than that wonderful Parsi Poet Firoze Rustomjee Batliwalla, also the author of Khudaavind Khaavind and the famous Parsi anthem – Chhaiye
In the Monaajaat below, the first sentence will be the English transliteration of the original Gujarati poem, followed by its English translation.

Please understand I am no Gujarati or Parsi Gujarati scholar, and even with my best efforts, please accept my apology for any mistakes in my translation.

In this Monaajaat for the praise of Zarathushtra, the last part of each word is the repetition: “Asho Zarathosht Paygambar” meaning “Righteous Zarathushtra Prophet”. In the Monaajaat, these three words are supposed to be repeated three times and they give a very good ending to each verse. So I have decided to use these three original words as is after the first time so as to give the original three words of the Monaajaat and we want you to recite them as is in Gujarati.

In the following transliteration, the Gujarati word tehn, te with a nasal sound, is used. I have transliterate it as tehn and please do not think it is a spelling error – it is nasal te.

This Monaajaat has 8 verses so we have decided to present the first four verses today and then present the rest next week in WZSE #309.

With this long drawn out background, let us present the first 4 verses of this beautiful manaajaat:

**Monaajaat – In the Praise of Asho Zarathushtra – Firoze Rustomjee Batliwalla – Verses 1 – 4**

(Please hear the attached .mp3 file for its recitation of the entire 8 verses)

2. Amaaree daad tehn leedhee, tajaawee tehn badee deedhee,

1. The best of all, the real guide, The Righteous Prophet Zarathushtra.
2. You took care of all of us, you remove all vices from all of us,
You brought us all on good path, Asho Jarthosht Paygambar.

3. Jagatneh kaaja tehn dukhneh, lidhu maantheh tajee sukhaneh,

3. For the sake of the world, you took all our troubles upon yourself leaving your happiness,

Kidho dukhno dileh nahee dar, Asho Jarthosht Paygambar.

You did not fear taking up these troubles, Asho Jarthosht Paygambar.

4. ladaaee tuhn ladyo satanee, Ahura Mazda nee mahobatanee,

4. You fought battles for the truth, for Ahura Mazda’s love,

Mukee maaloh, maheloh, jahr, Asho Jarthosht Paygambar.

Leaving possessions, palaces, valuables, Asho Jarthosht Paygambar.

SPD Comments:

1. Many Gujarati Monaajaats are written in the praise of Zarathushtra by a number of Parsi Poets, like the one above.
2. Word Paygambar is actually a Persian word – Paygaambar – Paygaam = message, bar is the imperative of the Persian verb Bordan = to carry, and so Paygaambar = message carrier = messenger = Prophet.

The rest of the Monaajaat will be presented in our next WZSE #309.

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
अशो ज्योतिष्ठनी सिखतमां

१ सरस सपुष्टे बरो रेखर, अशो ज्योतिष्ठ पथयमार; कुळ तारा वन ऊपर, अशो ज्योतिष्ठ पथयमार.

२ अभारी लाळ ने लीली, तवावी न लखी लीली; उतारी ने का राहेर अशो ज्योतिष्ठ पथयमार.

३ नवने कान ने हुँजने, लियु भांवे तत्त सुनने; दिखे हुँजनो दिले नड़ दर, अशो ज्योतिष्ठ पथयमार.

४ लाई तुं लायो सतती, अदुर्मणनी महोगतती; मूली मालो, मखेलो, जल, अशो ज्योतिष्ठ पथयमार.

५ भुजानी राह पर बाली, अतोईने सहा पाणी; सहा राख दिखो परजर, अशो ज्योतिष्ठ पथयमार.

६ भई, असान, अंधां, निखु ने बांधी नाल; बलो तुं ने का तालेर, अशो ज्योतिष्ठ पथयमार.

७ पहूं सहू आहिरीनो लानो, बिधा जानो करी नानो; कबो तुं रेंजुमार कर अशो ज्योतिष्ठ पथयमार.

८ लले दादांने सुमानो, जनम ज्योतिष्ठने आपानो; मुख्यू नैवी सुमोंतुं पर, अशो ज्योतिष्ठ पथयमार.

(अथ - हीरोज कृतमख नाटलीवाला)