

# **Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 321: Thou dost bury me under the burden of thy gifts, Ahura Mazda - Dasturji Dhalla - Homage Unto Ahura Mazda - Part I(a) - Prayer 13**

Hello all Tele Class friends:

## **7WZYC in LA July 1 – 6, 2019**

FEZANA and California LA CZC Association hosted the 7<sup>th</sup> World Z Youth Congress in LA. NAMC were invited by FEZANA to have a session on Friday July 5<sup>th</sup> 9:30 – 11:00 AM together with a group of Young Z Mobeds from Australia, India, London and USA. NAMC President Arda-e-Viraf Minocherhomji was in charge of this session. Arda requested Mobed Tehemton Mirza and me to also participate in this session.

During the first 35 minutes of the session, Arda, Tehemton and I gave a PowerPoint slides presentation on “**Zoroastrian Values and Beliefs**”, starting with - Who wrote about Zarathushtra being chosen to be Ahura Mazda’s Prophet, and the values and beliefs like Humility, Truthfulness, Atash, Happiness, Wealth, Charity, etc.

The other Young Mobeds who participated were: Ervads Zerkxix Bhandara, LA, Sheherzad Pavri, London, Jimmy Madon, London, Karl Desai, Sydney, Australia, Adil Minocherhomji, Utah.

And we were honored to have Ms. Meher Pavri, Toronto, a well-known Opera and Theater singer, who sang the 4 Gatha Verses from our presentations. This was the first time that I remember such a singing of Gatha Verses was done.

Then the session was opened up for questions from the audience and we had a long line of young Zs asking various questions, answered satisfactorily by Young Mobeds.

The whole morning session can be viewed at:

<https://www.facebook.com/fezana1/videos/403526706926493/?t=2857>

I have attached a clip photo from this video of all the participants.

## **Dasturji Dhalla – Homage Unto Ahura Mazda:**

Let me take this opportunity to repeat a previous WZSE introduction of Dasturji Dhalla – Homage Unto Ahura Mazda. Hope you do not mind hearing his wonderful explanation about why he wrote this book – **Homage unto Ahura Mazda!**

Many of you have asked me: Why I should pray in Avesta/Pazand language I do not understand?

Such questions have been asked all the times by our well-meaning Humdins.

In the past, some attempts were made by writing Gujarati Monajats which we used to sing every day in our beloved Cama Institute.

But the best answer to this question was given by none other than one of our greatest Avesta/Pahlavi Scholar and prolific writer, Shams-ul-Ulama Dr. Dasturji Maneckji Dhalla, Vada Dastur of Karachi. One of his very wonderful books is: [Saga of a Soul -- An Autobiography](http://www.avesta.org/dhalla/saga.htm), which was written by him in Gujarati and was translated later on in English and is available at: <http://www.avesta.org/dhalla/saga.htm>

which I highly recommend to all of you to read. It gives details of his life in a very lucid and detailed manner.

In its [Chapter LXI : MY FAITH IN DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS](#) ([please see the attached file and please read it](#)), he gives a detailed background about attempts by our Zoroastrian scholars to compose and sing prayers in Gujarati with accompaniment of a Harmonium; however, the orthodox Parsis really criticized these efforts and eventually it died down.

His dear wife always kept after him to write a book of Zoroastrian prayers in English and finally after 45 years from the time he wanted to write such a book, he wrote the book of Daily Zoroastrian Prayers in English: **Homage Unto Ahura Mazda**, which is available at:

<http://www.zarathushtra.com/z/article/dhalla/>

and it is a wonderful book of daily Zoroastrian Prayers in English which our youths would really like it.

Those who participated in our 17 Tele Classes will remember that at the end of each Tele Class, we always had a cyber Hum Bandagi with an English Zoroastrian Prayer from Dasturji Dhalla's above book.

**To all Teachers, parents and guardians: please look up this book and make sure the young ones also look it over.**

**It would be great if all of us have a family prayer from this book each day and at the beginning of each Religion Class.**

So today, we will present one of these prayers from this book and hope you enjoy it:

### **Thou dost bury me under the burden of thy gifts, Ahura Mazda – Dasturji Dhalla – Homage Unto Ahura Mazda – Part I(a) – Prayer 13**

Dasturji Dhalla grew up as a very orthodox Zarathushtri. During his stay in NY and USA for his Ph. D. studies, he experienced the free US society and came in contact with many people with varied backgrounds. During this period, he started to open his mind and slowly drifted to become an enlightened person with lofty ideals. On his return to Karachi, he was appointed the Vada (Chief) Dastur of Karachi and Sindh province. Many of our NA friends from Karachi speak very highly of him and he used to teach religious classes to them. He was invited to give lectures to many groups. During his first visit to Mumbai for a lecture series, orthodox Parsis threw rotten eggs on the stage and gave a very hard time to him for his enlightened thoughts on religion.

In one of his prayers in his above book, he talks about all the gifts we receive from Daadaar Ahura Mazda. All these gifts are self evident if we just look around us. Dasturji recognizes

these gifts lifts his heart in Thanksgiving to Daadaar Ahura Mazda.

So today, we present this prayer by Dasturji on all the gifts of Him to us:

## **Thou dost bury me under the burden of thy gifts, Ahura Mazda – Dasturji Dhalla – Homage Unto Ahura Mazda – Part I(a) – Prayer 13**

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

### *Thou dost bury me under the burden of thy gifts, Ahura Mazda*

From day unto day will I lift my heart in thanksgiving unto thee when I take my daily meals, O Creator, Nourisher, and Sustainer of the world.

Thou dost feed me and clothe me and provide me with all my needs. Thou, my maker, knowest my wants and freely dost thou bestow them upon me every morn. Thou dost daily fill my life with the rich blessings that I enjoy. With the deep gratitude of my grateful heart I thank thee for all that thou doest for me.

From morn to eve dost thou bury me under the burden of a hundred and one of thy precious gifts that embellish my bodily life and I am satiated with them. Feed, likewise, my soul that hungers for the food of the spirit. Moisten my soul, dry as a parched land, that thirsts for the life-giving waters of thy divinity.

I have my daily bread and I have my health and I have everything that makes my life happy on earth. I have but one longing and one aspiration now and I pray unto thee to make me worthy of it. Verily my yearning is to gain the giver of the gifts himself for me, to get thee for myself, to make thee mine, mine own, O Mazda.

*(Dasturji Dr. Dhalla – Homage Unto Ahura Mazda Part I(a) Prayer 13:*

*<http://www.zarathushtra.com/z/article/dhalla/ch1/i13.htm>)*

## **SPD Comments**

1. Prayers in this Dasturji Dhalla's book cover all types of subjects of our daily life. It is a great compendium of short daily Zoroastrian prayers in English.
2. It removes the usual complain that I do not understand what I am praying.
3. Dasturji says in the attached background chapter of his Autobiography:

“On receiving and utilizing these, many coreligionists wrote to me stating that, despite all their honest efforts, when they had simply failed to have any desire to pray in Avesta, which they could not understand, they had turned in despair to Christian prayers. But now that they had found Zoroastrian prayers in a comprehensible language they had started using them every day.”

What a wonderful tribute to Dasturji's book.

4. As I mentioned in my previous WZSEs, our prayers are a private communication between us and Dadar Ahura Mazda! They can be a simple Yatha and Ashem, they can be a Kusti prayer, they can be our Daily Farajaat, they can be singing Gathas, they can be our thoughts in our language and words, etc.. And praying to Daadaar Ahura Mazda with Faith is the best way to live our lives through good and bad times.

Dasturji Dhalla's book is one more beautiful aid to all who wants to pray in English.

**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

7WZYC Session July 5th.JPG

