

## **Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 353: Nature mirrors thy face for us, Ahura Mazda - Dasturji Dhalla - Homage Unto Ahura Mazda - Part III(b) - Prayer 4**

Hello all Tele Class friends:

Have you ever seen a beautiful sunrise with its soft and developing circular profile, slowly getting warm and beautiful?

Jo Ann and I were lucky to see such beautiful sunrises from our very good friends Nancy and Jahan Daruwala's Aventura, FL condo. [\(please see the attached photo\)](#)

And have you ever seen a multi-colored sunset with its innumerable colors, slowly going down in the sea?

Jo Ann and I and our girls used to see such beautiful sunsets with multicolored rays of light from our timeshare in The Reef in Marathon, Florida Keys. [\(please see the attached photo\)](#)

And have you seen a clear beautiful night sky with myriads of stars and planets and full moon almost reaching out to us?

Again, we have seen such skies from our The Reef Timeshare. [\(please see the attached photo\)](#)

Being raised in the small village of Tarapore on the Arabian Sea, we used to go to the seashore almost every day during summer vacation and wait to see the enchanting sunsets and the beautiful multi-colored sky afterwards!

And in our beloved MF Cama Institute, our wonderful teachers, Sanjana and Khambatta Sahebs, after our night prayers and before the dinner, would take me outside and show me different star constellations including my favorite the Big Dipper and the North Pole star!

And what about the beautiful Fall colors of the trees in Northeast USA?

And the cherry Blossoms of Washington DC gifted to us by the Japanese Government? The National Cherry Blossom Festival commemorates the 1912 gift of 3,000 cherry trees from Mayor Yukio Ozaki of Tokyo to the city of Washington, DC, and celebrates the enduring friendship between the people of the United States and Japan. I was there in April 1961 as a chaperon along with my Northwestern friend Prof. James Boyd! [\(please see the attached photo\)](#)

Daadaar Ahura Mazda has gifted all of us this beautiful earth without taking a penny for the same!

Dasturji Dhalla, in his famous book: Homage Unto Ahura Mazda exudes his thanks to Ahura Mazda by a beautiful prayer thanking HIM for all the gifts of this world to us.

So, today in our weekly, it will be appropriate to quote Dasturji Dhalla's one of the prayers from his wonderful book: ***Homage unto Ahura Mazda*** about "***Nature mirrors thy face for us, 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 reading 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-UI-Ulama Dr. Dasturji Maneckji Dhalla, Vada Dastur of Karachi. One of his very wonderful books is: [Saga of a Soul -- An Autobiography](#), 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 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 on "**Nature mirrors thy face for us, Ahura Mazda**" from this book and hope you enjoy it:

***Nature mirrors thy face for us, Ahura Mazda – Dasturji Dhalla –  
Homage Unto Ahura Mazda – Part III(b) – Prayer 4***

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 "**Nature mirrors thy face for us, Ahura Mazda**". This is a wonderful short prayer by Dasturji in profound appreciation about Daadaar Ahura Mazda's wonderful gift of this world to us!

So today, we present this prayer by Dasturji on Nature:

### ***Nature mirrors thy face for us, Ahura Mazda – Dasturji Dhalla – Homage Unto Ahura Mazda – Part III(b) – Prayer 4:***

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

Nature has endowed the world with multifarious beauties all around. The delights and beauties of nature enliven the imagination and elevate the soul. Let me go outdoor and walk and run and roam and exercise my limbs and take fresh air. Nature is the reservoir of health. Let me drink its elixir. One draught of nature's elixir is better than a dozen doses of any other drink.

Beautiful are the golden bars of the brilliant sun that fall upon the earth. Nature seems beautiful in the glow of the sunset. When the sun goes down, the stillness falls on the land. None can paint in brilliant hues as nature does with matchless skill at sunset.

Great is the bounty of the mother earth. It feeds us and clothes us and provides us profusely with our bodily needs. The earth nourishes our body during life and shelters us when dead.

It is pleasant to sit under a mango tree and to breathe and drink the fresh and fragrant air or hear the wind now stirring the branches. The soft breeze of Vayu's wind sings sweet lullabies and nature sinks into sleep, to sleep the deep of the night. Faintly does the wind moan through the trees and round the hills and dies away to stillness.

It is refreshing to hear the soothing murmurs of the bubbling brook, the flow of a prattling brook, the murmur and ripple of the brook or the splash of the waters of the fountain.

Soothing is the sight of the ocean caressing the sandy shore or the gulls rocking smoothly on the waves of the blue expanse of water. The sea swells and surges. The waves break into foam on the beach. Each succeeding wave swells the rising tide higher and higher. It is amusing to see a mighty wave coming with pride and

arrogance, threatening to engulf us, when all of a sudden it loses its strength, breaks at our feet and retreats in haste to hide its shame. Sorrowing and sighing, murmuring and moaning the ebbing waters depart.

Let me not be blind to the marvels of nature. When nature smiles softly around me and speaks and sings to me, let me enjoy it like the birds that sing and beat their wings for joy. I can never be alone with nature speaking to me.

Whole nature is saturated with the divine life of the creator. All nature is aglow with his presence. Thou, Ahura Mazda, dost clothe thyself in the resplendent garment of nature. Thou art reflected in thy creation. I find thee in the stars and the moon and the sun and the earth and trees and the waters and all around me. I greet thee in all universe, thou, who dost reveal thyself in thy nature and are glorified in thy nature.

(Dasturji Dr. Dhalla – *Homage Unto Ahura Mazda Part III(b) Prayer 4:*

<http://www.zarathushtra.com/z/article/dhalla/ch3b/iiib04.htm>)

## **SPD Comments**

1. What a wonderful prayer for Daadaar Ahura Mazda for gifting us HIS amazing world all around us! Dasturji does know how to express his feelings of gratitude.

**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

*Sunrise,\_Kauai*



*vancouver-sunset-january-25-2019*



*starry-sky*



*Cherry Blossoms Washington DC*

