Hello all Tele Class friends:

Dr. Ervad Ramiyar Karanjia, Principal, Dadar Athornan Institute states:

“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/)

Our very good scholar friend Fariborz Rahnamoon replied to the above statement about the origin of the word Monaajaat as follows:

“The word Monajat is NOT A PERSIAN WORD it is an ARABIC WORD.

The Arabic word munajat is derived either from yunaji or najawa means "talking in secret." Besides, the word najawa itself is rooted from najah, meaning "deliverance" or "salvation." Hence, in the technical term of the poetry, the word munajat offers the meaning of "supplication for repentance of sins." According to "Ilmi Urdu Lughat" (Lahore, 1972, 0. 1427) by Warris Sirhindi, "munajat means secret conversation, whispering, prayer, longing or yearning. It is a poem glorifying God as well as an act of offering prayer by submitting humble supplication." The term munajat has also the connotation of conveying greetings and reverence to a sanctified person.

With Regards, Fariborz Rahnamoon - http://www.ancientiran.com

http://zarathushticalendar.com/"

We have presented a number of Monaajaats in our weeklies. In our last Monaajaat weekly: WZSE #309, available at: http://www.avesta.org/wzse/wzse309.pdf

We have stated that many of our Persian and Gujarati Monaajaats also have Arabic words. Even the beginning of our Khorsheed Nyaayesh also has few Arabic words.

Encyclopedia Iranica states:

“Sir Dr. Ervad Jivanji J. Modi gives an illustrative description of the prayer
Monaaajaat 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 Monaaajaat 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 Monaaajaat 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 (MFCAI), we used to have a Monaaajaat booklet with 15 or so Monaaajaats in it, all in Gujarati. All these Monaaajaats were written with rhymes. Our Duty Teacher in charge of our morning and night prayers will select one of these Monaaajaats 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 Monaaajaat 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 and a Monaaajaat in his praise in our WZSEs #308 and #309. Today we will present another beautiful Gujarati Monaaajaat in praise of our Prophet Zarathushtra which was one of the Monaaajaats we used to sing in MFCAI from the book mentioned above.

All the Monaaajaats I know are in Parsi Gujarati which have old Parsi Gujarati words, some Persian, a few even Arabic. Some of these words are difficult to translate into English and sometimes there is no suitable English words for some of them. With this background, I have tried my best to translate this beautiful Monaaajaat in praise of our dear Prophet. Many of our loyal readers of WZSEs do understand Gujarati well and many times they have requested me to present the original Gujarati of some songs or Monaaajaats we have presented. Hence, we have attached the original Gujarati rendition of this Monaaajaat.

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

This Monaaajaat has 8 verses so we have decided to present the first four verses today and then present the rest next week in WZSE #382.

Monaajaat – In the Praise of Asho Zarathushtra - Verses 1 – 4

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gujarati Monaajaat Text</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asho Jarathosta Pegamber,</td>
<td>Righteous Prophet Zarathushtra,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amaaro tunja maaleek chheh;</td>
<td>You are our leader.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rahamdaataa sadaa taaree,  
Your help giving is always there,

Shikhaamun shud-dha baareek chheh.  
Your advice is pure and concise.

Dekhaadee tehn ajaba roshnee,  
You showed us amazing light,

Amo Jarthostee-oh sa-uneh;  
To all of us Zarathushtris;

Sakhunoh raasteenaa deh-ii,  
Giving us discourses of righteousness,

Saral keedho jeevan bhavaneh.  
You made our lives very easy.

Ramat Meenoi haa taahree,  
Your play of the spiritual life,

Ati Gaathaa wisheh jo-ii;  
Yes, by your Gaathaas we see.

Namana kotee tahneh vhaalaa,  
Our loving accolades and hugs to you,

Paho-chee naa shakeh ko-ii.  
And no one can be your equal.

Samaja tehn satya-nee paadee,  
You taught us about truthfulness,

Aneh haa nekee sheekhawaadee;  
And also taught us righteousness.

Ratan t-haaroo amoneh ho,  
May we have your yearning,

Peewaadee gnyaan-nee pyaalee.  
You gave us the chalice of knowledge.

**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 Monaaajaat will be presented in our next WZSE #382.

**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
Paigaambur Asko Zarhosht Saheb ne Vandhan.

असो जरहोस्त पेगाम्बर, अमारी तुज भालीक छ;
रखमकाला सहा त्वारी, सिबालोण सुल भारीक छ.
वेहारी ने अजन रोस ही, अमो जरहोस्त्यो सैन; 
सुपुनो सात्वीनां ठेर, सरण कीधो जवन लवन.
रमत भनीरों वा त्वारी, अति गावा विचे ठोर;
नमन करी त्याने खाला, वरोयवी ना सहे कोर.
समन ते सत्यनी पारी, अने वा नेकी चोववारी;
रत्नु त्यांने अमोने वो, पीवारी वानी फाली.
बारायणे संकटो भारी, अमोने रचम वा त्वारी;
न विंगत कीनी करतां, अमारी वाम तुं भारी.
जवन जराजवा तावे, कलामो कीमती कीधी;
बिजक रस्ता छत्ता खाला! सरणता भुज लं दीधी.
दीवी सो अहीं प्यारी, अजन ज्योति किराजु हेकी;
मोक वा पारीमात्याला रीपु सो नापाते ठोरी.
रीजावा पाक पेगाम्बर, नमन जरहोस्त वा तमने;
अलक वा आपना सो के, निरंतर रस्ता अमने.