

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 97 – Gahambar Hamaspathmaedem - Gatha Vahishtoish - Dadar Ahura Mazda created Humans on this earth!

Hello all Tele Class friends:

Today, according to the Fasli calendar, which is synchronized exactly with the seasons, it is the last sixth Gaahambaar Hamaspathmaedem, and the last 5th Gatha Vahishtoish, with the new year day Navroze (NauRooz, NowRuz) tomorrow, March 21st - the first day of Spring! Each of the six Gaahambaars is celebrated over five days, and so also Hamaspathmaedem Gaahambaar from Ahunavad Gatha through Vahishtoish Gatha.

And may we wish all of you Humdins a very Happy, Prosperous and Healthy Jamshedi Navroze Mubarak!

May Dadar Ahura Mazda keep us all in HIS ever watchful “Panaah” (care)!

Go out and shout to all around you: “Jamshedi Navroze Mubarak!”

During these 5 days of Gaahambaars, we are supposed to perform a special Gaahambaar Jashan starting with Gaahambaar Aafringaan and ending with Aafrin-i-Gaahambaar, a special Aafrin, in which Dadar Ahura Mazda is depicted as narrating Himself and explaining when He created HIS six creations: Sky, water, earth, vegetation, animals and lastly, his most favorite creation, Humans! In this Aafrin, exact days of six Gaahambaar celebrations are mentioned, starting from Navroze Day, March 21st, as the Day 1 and then the last fifth day of the next Gaahambaar, and then the last fifth day of the next Gaahambaar and so on.

Here is what Dadar Ahura Mazda says about his sixth and last creation – Humans in Aafrin-i-Gaahambaar:

Aafrin-i-Gaahambaar Verses 32 33:

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

**(32) Panchaach Haptaaitim Hamaspathmaidyehe,
Spentayao vaghuyao gaathaabyo;**

**Pa haftaad va panj roj man Ahura Mazda
Awaa Ameshaashpendaan,
Fraaj-taasheed-hend, ku mardoom daad!**

**(33) Gahambaar Yasht Hamaspathmaedem-gaah naam nehaad,
Spendaarmad-maah Vahishtoisht-gaah,
Ahunavad Gaah gaah geerad,
Vahishtoisht-gaah sar bahod,
Hamaspathmaedyeh bood.**

Ku mardoom daad va har daheshne daad.

**Awaa Ameshaaspedaan myazda kard,
Mardoomaanach pa humanghusheete aawaayad kard!**

Aafrin-i-Gaahambaar Verses 32 33:

(32) On the 75th day (from the last day of the last 5th Gaahambaar Maidhyaarem), during the (five) Gathas Days of Spendaarmad Mah – The Hamaspathmaedyem Gaahambaar:

On this 75th day, I Ahura Mazda with the Amashaaspands named this Gaahambaar and created the Human Beings.

(33) We consecrated this Gaahambaar and upto the last Gatha Vahishtoish of Spandaarmad Mah (month), we named it Hamaspathmaedyem Gaahambaar.

It starts with Ahunavad Gatha and ends with Vahishtoish Gatha, which is the Hamaspathmaedyem Gaahambaar.

**During which Human Beings were created
And all the whole world with all its creations were started.**

**A big feast was performed by Me with Ameshaaspands,
And all the Human Beings should also perform such
feast!**

(Ervad Kangaji Gujarati *Khordesh Avesta*, pages 455 – 456, translated in English by me)

SPD Comments

1. As mentioned in Aafringaan-i- Ardaafravash (also in Farvardin Yasht Karda 13 Verses 49 – 52 and Karda 31 Verses 156 – 157), during the last 5 days of last month and the 5 days of Gaahambaar Hamaspathmaedem (equal day and night), the Fravashis of the dear departed ones visit this earth and stays 10 nights looking for praise, prayers, food, clothing and remembrance. This ten days are called Muktaad by Parsis, and Panj-i-keh (lesser five days) and Panch-i-meh (greater five days) by Iranis.

2. During the 5 Gaahambaar days, the ceremonies of Visparad, Paavi, Gaahambaar Aafringaan/Jashan, and Baj are supposed to be performed.

3. Also, a communal Gaahambaar feast is required to be held (see the edict by Dadar Ahura Mazda in the last sentence of the above verse 33) with the whole community participating. Sir Jamshedjee Jeejeebhoy, the First Baronet, was a firm believer in this requirement and he started these communal Gaahambaar feasts in Mumbai as well as in mofussil villages like Navsari, Surat and Bharuch which are still being celebrated.

4. In North America, many Irani Organizations are also celebrating Gaahambaars by Fasli calendars in sync with the seasons as they should be.

5. Many NA Parsi organizations also celebrate Gaahambaars but according to their Shehenshahi or Kadmi calendars **which are completely out of sync with the seasons they are meant to be. We celebrate our Navroze in August/July instead of on March 21st.**

6. Gaahambaars are seasonal celebrations and it is time when we in NA follow whatever calendar we wish to follow, but celebrate the six Gaahambaars according to their correct seasonal timings! I know this is a very controversial subject but this is my personal belief and wish!

7. And whenever and wherever you are attending a Gahambar and participating in its solemn prayers and communal feast, please remember the four words mentioned in this same Gahambar Aafrin: Yazad (pray), Saazad (perform some work), Khurad (partake) and Dahad (donate)!

We are enjoined to pray or perform some work for the Gahambar, or participate in the solemn feast or donate something for the Gahambar!

And in the same Gahambar Aafrin, for this Hamaspathmaedyem Gahambar, it states:

“If you Pray, Perform, Partake or Donate for this Gahambar, in this skeletal world, it is equivalent to receiving meritorious rewards for giving Aashodaad (donating in righteousness) to a righteous person for the love of advancing righteousness of your own soul in form of hot Naans (Persian bread) and good wine from sweet grapes for a whole year!” What an interesting thought!

The main theme of the Fall (September 2014) FEZANA Journal was Gahambars Around The Hafta Keshwar Zamin and we highly recommend reading all the wonderful informative articles on Gahambars – their beginnings, meanings, history and current practice all over the world and how various diaspora Zoroastrians are celebrating them.

8. Once again, a little mention of the The FEZANA book for the prayers during Navroze days:

Hamaa Anjuman Prayers for Naurooz In English, Farsi and Gujarati, Assembled by Ervad Soli P. Dastur with the help of FEZANA Naurooz Planning Committee and can be ordered from FEZANA admin at: admin@fezana.org

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!

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

Love and Tandoorasti, Soli