

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 311: Maidyozarem Gahambar - Dadar Ahura Mazda created Aasmaan - Sky - in Gahambar Afrin and enjoins us to have a feast and to Pray, Perform, Partake and Donate - Verses 7-10

Hello all Tele Class friends:

According to the Fasli (seasonal) calendar, the first Gaahambaar Maidyozarem will start from Ardibehesht Mah, Khorshed Roj through Ardibehesht Mah Dae-pa-Meher Roj, April 30th Tuesday through May 4th Saturday. Each of the six Gaahambaars is celebrated over five days, and so also Maidyozarem Gaahambaar.

Please note that the WZCC Global and FEZANA AGMs are being held from May 1 through May 5th in Orlando. It would have been nice if a Gaahambaar Jashan/Satum would have been performed during one of these days.

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 first Gaahambaar Maidyozarem 45 days after that and then the last fifth day of the next Gaahambaar, and then the last fifth day of the next Gaahambaar and so on.

In North America, many Irani Organizations and some Parsi Associations are celebrating Gaahambaars by Fasli calendars in sync with the seasons as they should be.

Many NA Parsi/Irani organizations also celebrate Gaahambaars but according to their Shehenshahi or Kadmi calendars, which due to no leap year reckoning, are hopelessly out of sync with the seasons they are meant to be. For instance, we celebrate our Navroze in August/July instead of on March 21st.

In my previous WZSE #97 as well as in our Young Mobeds Seminar at the last LA NAZC in December 2014, I wrote: "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!"

However, no one is willing to do that in NA.

So, maybe we should continue the celebrations of Gaahambaars in NA as we are doing it now in the spirit of communal gathering with a solemn prayer and a solemn community feast – one of the basic aims of the original Gaahambaar celebrations.

Maybe we have to adapt to the current situations in NA.

In South FL, we in ZAF (Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, Boca Raton, West Palm Beach) celebrate a Gahambar on a Saturday in November in an open pavilion with a solemn Satum prayer and a solemn feast served on banana leaves, an old Parsi/Irani tradition, attended by all three SF communities!

And the famous Orlando CFG Group Gaahambaar is celebrated on a convenient Sunday sometime during May through July with a home cooked meal, under the leadership of our own Dinyar Mehta and many many Orlando Humdins.

One of the paths breaking aspect of the Orlando Gahambar is its organization led by Dinyar Mehta and his myriad helpers, with assignments of various jobs like cooking, paatraa management, Satum prayer, presentations, serving, etc.

In the photo links presented below shared by Yasmine Irani for cooking, and Sherry Shaikh and her twins Armaan and Zamaan for the actual Gahambar celebrations, you will witness the unbelievable co-operation of our Orlando Humdins in putting together this Gaahambaar for the 6th year in a row, a truly remarkable feat for a small community!

**We all salute them from all over NA for their exemplary Gaahambaar celebration!
If you like to see all the photos of Yasmine Irani for making Bhaakhraas, custard, Dhanshak Daal and wagherela rice, and shrimp curry, here is the link:**

<https://picasaweb.google.com/113228345695287503834/6305429025841408881?authkey=Gv1sRgCKXX5ovX1oT8zwE>

If you would like to see all the photos of Sherry for the actual celebration, please click:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/arzamaan/sets/72157670756099022/>

With this long background of our Gahambar celebrations, let us see what Dadar Ahura Mazda says about his first creation – Aasmaan – the sky - in Aafrin-i-Gaahambaar, especially for having a feast and as if giving Aashodaad to a righteous Humdin:

Aafrin-i-Gaahambaar Verses 7 - 10:

(Please hear the attached .mp3 file for the recitations of these Verses 7 – 10)

**(7) “Panchaach Chathwarestemcha Maidyo-zaremyeh,
Ashaheh Vahishtaheh dathusho” -
Pa chehel-va-panj roj man Ahura Mazda
Awaa Ameshaashpendaan,
Fraaj-taasheed-hend, ku Aasmaan daad!**

**(8) Gahambaar Yasht wa Maidyo-zarem-gaah naam nehaad,
Ardee-vahisht-maah Dae-pa-Meher-roz;
Khur-roz gaah geerad Dae-pa-Meher-roz sar bahod,**

Maidyo-zaremyehéh bood.

Ku weenaarashneh Aasmaan under aan zamaan paedaa beh-kard.

**Awaa Ameshaaspedaan myazda kard,
Mardoomaan pa humanghusheeteh aawaayad kard!**

(9) Her-keh ez aan gaahambaar yazad,
Ayaaw saazad, ayaaw khurad, ayaaw dahad,

(10) Ahsh kerfeh aedoon bade,
Chun kesh under akhoyi astomand,
**Hazaar Maesheh-daenuteh awaa wareh
Pa Ashodaad ashahee weh rawaan-dushaaram raa,
Oy mardaaneh ashoaan daad hend.
Awaj ehz ashahee weh rawaan dushaaram raa,
Keh ez hastaaneh paheloom in under oy mardoomaan.
Hast Avastaa gawaahi pa Haadokht ez aan jaa paedaa:**

Aafrin-i-Gaahambaar Verses 7 – 10 Translation:

(7) “On the 45th day (from the Jamshedi Navroze March 21st as the Day 1 in Fasli calendar), of Ardeebahešt Maah and Dae-pa-Maher Roj is Maidyo-Zarem Gaahambaar”:

On this 45th day, I Ahura Mazda with the Amashaaspands named this Gaahambaar Maidyo-zarem and created the Aasmaan – the Sky.

(8) We consecrated this Gaahambaar and gave the name Maidyo-zarem of this period in Ardeebahešt Maah (for five days) up to its Dae-pa-Meher Roj.

We started it on Khorshed Roj and ended it on Dae-pa-Meher Roj,

Which we called it Maidyo-zarem Gaahambaar,

During which we created Aasmaan – Sky - and

**A big feast (Myazda) was performed by Me with
Ameshaaspands,**

**And all the Human Beings should also perform such a
feast!**

(9) If anyone Pray, Perform, Partake the Chashni (communal feast) or Donate during this Gaahambaar,

(10) In this skeletal world, it is equivalent to receiving meritorious reward

for giving Aashodaad (donating in righteousness) to a righteous person for the love of advancing righteousness of your own soul in form of one thousand female sheep with their kids and may that person receive good rewards in righteousness and betterment for this good deed of him. Moreover, he achieves righteousness and betterment for the love of his soul, and achieves a higher level among all living Humdins.

In Avesta, for such a reward, there is testimony in Haadokht Nask.

(Ervad Kangaji Gujarati Khordeh Avesta, pages 446 – 448, translated in English by me)

SPD Comments

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

2. 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 8) 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.

3. And whenever and wherever you are attending a Gaahambaar and participating in its solemn prayers and communal feast, please remember the four words mentioned in this same Gaahambaar 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 Gaahambaar!

4. The main theme of the Fall (September 2014) FEZANA Journal:

https://fezana.org/fjissue/FEZANA_2014_03_Fall.pdf

was Gaahambaars Around The Hafta Keshwar Zamin and we highly recommend reading all the wonderful informative articles on Gaahambaars – their beginnings, meanings, history and current practice all over the world and how various diaspora Zoroastrians are celebrating them.

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