

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 316: Righteous Person Overcomes Evil and in the Praise of Ahura Mazda - Hormuzd Yasht, verse 28

Hello all Tele Class friends:

Sad Demise of Dasturji Kaikhusroo Dastur Meherjirana:

It is with deep sadness to hear about the passing away of Dasturji Kaikhusroo Dastur Meherjirana, the Bhagharsath Navsari Anjuman Dastur.

Jo Ann and I offer our sincere condolences to his family.

May his soul rest in Garo Demana (the House of Songs).

And we congratulate the new Meherjirana Dastur – Dastur Keki Dastur Ravji Meherjirana and wish him all the best in his Dasturship of the famed Meherjirana family!

Shorter and Longer Yazishna

In our last WZSE #315 from end of Hormuzd Yasht, we found an interesting reference for **shorter and longer Yazishna** and in my comments at the end of this WZSE, I noted as follows:

“3. Another reference at the end of Verse 24 above is very interesting.

It says:

**“O Zarathushtra! Do not bring harm unto that religious man
Who out of the fixed Yazishna consecrates with the shorter or longer
Yazishna in honor of us who are the Amshaaspands (Holy Immortals).”**

The above verse mentions a shorter and a longer Yasna.

That creates a question:

Did we have a shorter Yasna and the full 72 Haas Yasna?

These days, the young Zarathushtri boys are initiated as Naavars using only a few Haas of the 72 Yasna Haas.

Is the above Hormuzd Yasht verse refer to something similar to this new practice?

Or it points to the Baj Dharnaa ceremony which uses only a few Yasna Haas.

I would like to pose this question to our Dasturji scholars and the Mobed scholars to expound on this question.”

And I was NOT surprised that my very quiet scholar friend Mobed Gustad Panthaki from Toronto wrote:

"Hello Soli,

May I comment wrt Long & Short Yasna:

Reference to abridged (Galeli) Yasna can be found in *Nirangistan*:

Niranagestan Ch 72.11: **15 tag yast i keh**; "Fifteen twigs are for the lesser service".

"lesser service" i.e. abridged form of the Yasna in honour of Nog-Nawar which qualifies a priest to perform the high rituals.

The *Herbedestan And Nirangestan* Vol IV: Nerangestan, Fargard 3; Ed & Tr by F. Kotwal & Philip Kreyenbrock

Aerpatastan & Nirangastan Tr by S J Bulsara:

pg. 127, Footnote 4: **Yasht e Kas** ; smaller service....., may be the abridged service.

pg. 127, Footnote 5: **Pann zak e Mas**; this must be any of the service which can be distinguished from the Yasht e Kas or the ordinary Yazeshn.

pg. 436 Ch VII Appendix A:9;

13 twigs in the smaller worship.

Footnote 4: "A service with abridged functions & texts probably....."

13-Barsome tie for Galeli Yasna?

Hope this may help.

Best wishes,

Gustad"

From the above references in Aerpatastaan and Nirangestaan, Pahlavi manuscripts from the Sassanian times, there are references for a shorter Yazishna ceremony called "Yasna of smaller worship" or "'lesser service" i.e. abridged form of the Yasna in honour of Nog-Nawar which qualifies a priest to perform the high rituals."

For Page 127 of Sohrab J Bulsara, please see the weblink:

<https://archive.org/details/in.gov.ignca.11901/page/n181>

So, there was a shorter Yasna in Sassanian times with the above references.

I want to thank my Scholar Friend Gustad for pointing this out to us.

Righteous Person Overcomes Evil and in the Praise of Ahura Mazda:

In our last WZSE #315, we covered verses from the end of Hormuzd Yasht. Today, we

present the next Verse 28 from the same Yasht.

It presents a way to overcome evil by a Righteous Person. It also sings the praises for Daadaar Ahura Mazda and finally it praises the Mount Ushi Darena where our Vakhshur-e-Vakhshuraan Zarathushtra Spitamaan, our prophet, obtained a communion with Daadaar Ahura Mazda.

So here is Hormuzd Yasht – Verse 28:

Righteous Person Overcomes Evil and in the Praise of Ahura Mazda – Hormuzd Yasht – Verse 28

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

**(28) Aarmaîtich Spéntaya aéshaam tbaésho schindayadhvé;
paîri ûshi vaarayadhvé;
haam gava nidarézayadhvé;
haam zanva zémbayadhvé;
aîpi dérészvaném darezavayadhvé.
Kat ashava Mazda vanat dravantem.
Ashava vanat drujim, ashava vanat dravantém.**

**Ushi Ahurahéh Mazdaao yazamaidéh, daréthraaî maanthrahéh spéntahéh; khratûm
Ahurahéh Mazdaao yazamaidéh, maréthraaî maanthrahéh spéntahéh; hizvaam
Ahurahéh Mazdaao yazamaidéh, fravaakaaî maanthrahéh spéntahéh; aom gaîrîm
yazamaidéh, yim ûshi-daam ûshi-daraném,
paîti asni paîti kshafnéh, yaso-bérétaabyo zaothraabyo.**

Righteous Person Overcomes Evil and in the Praise of Ahura Mazda – Hormuzd Yasht – Verse 28 Translation:

**(28) May ye cut off the hatred of these foes with the aid of Holy Piety;
May ye turn their minds away;
May ye bind together their wicked hands and get their legs entangled;
May ye tie them with chains.
When shall the Righteous, O Mazda, overcome the follower of Untruth?
Let the Righteous overcome Untruth,
Let the Righteous overcome the follower of Untruth.**

**We revere the Divine Intelligence of Ahura Mazda by which the Holy Word is grasped.
We revere the Divine Wisdom of Ahura Mazda by which the Holy Word is remembered.
We revere the Divine Speech of Ahura Mazda by which the Holy Word is uttered.
We worship the Mount Ushi-Darena, the Promoter of Wisdom,
by day and by night, with libations brought for the ceremony.**

(Prof. IJS Taraporewala - English Khordeh Avesta)

SPD Comments

1. Only in Hormuzd Yasht, there are 9 Verses (24 – 32) after the “Yasnemcha Vahmemcha”. This is quite unique among all Nyaayeshes and Yashts,
2. And then these extended nine verses are from Bahman Yasht is also quite interesting. Bahman Yasht is supposed to have information about the future happenings.
3. In the above verse, a righteous person overcomes the hate and evil doings of a wicked person using his own righteousness.
4. It also praises the Intelligence, Wisdom and Speech of Daadaar Ahura Mazda.
5. Finally, the Mount Ushi Darena is worshipped which is recognized as the Promoter of Wisdom.
6. Kangaji in a footnote mentions:

“The Mount Ushi Darena is situated in the province of ‘Sajestan’ in the Eastern direction of Iran, which is called in Avesta ‘Vaekereta’. And it was called by the ancient Greek people as “Drangiana”. In Pahlavi this mount is known as “Hush-daashtaar”. The original meaning of this word is keeper of intelligence. This name was given for the reason that from that Mountain, Holy Zarathushtra received the Divine Intelligence; on that mountain the Holy Prophet conversed with Ahura Mazda as regards religious matters. In the Yasna First Haa the Holy Scriptures of the Zoroastrian Religion are revered with this Mount.”

7. Please also note that in our Aafrin-e-Hafta Ameshaaspands, we also remember this Mountain as:

“Hamaazor Gareh Hosh-Daashtaar, Ashahee Khaaree Pur Khaaree Ahura Mazda daad”

“May we be united with the Keeper of Intelligence Mount Ushi-Darena which is full of Righteousness and happiness created by Ahura Mazda.”

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