

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 319: Maidyoshahem Gaahambaar - Dadar Ahura Mazda created Water - in Gaahambaar Afrin and enjoins us to have a feast and to Pray, Perform, Partake and Donate - Verses 12-14

Hello all Tele Class friends:

25th Anniversary of the Zoroastrian Association of Florida (ZAF):

This is a wonderful achievement year for our ZAF for completing 25 years of service as a FEZANA Association in South Florida.

I received the following note from President Jim Dubash and I want you all to read it and it will be a personal favor if you can donate to their 25th Anniversary fund as directed

“Dear Sorabji,

Trust everything is going well with Jo Ann & you.

As you are aware, we are going to celebrate the Navroze and ZAF 25th Anniversary on August 17, 2019 at Heron Bay Community Center, 11535 Osprey Trail, Parkland, FL 33076.

The hall is booked from 4:00 pm to 11:00 pm. We are beginning to plan the events for the evening and will appreciate your input.

We would like to start the evening with a prayer, 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm. The prayer will be followed by Awards (to teachers etc.), followed by appetizers, entertainment, dinner and dancing. Your valuable suggestions will be most welcomed.

We are also going to have a new Directory with ZAF, Orlando CFG and ZATAMBAY members. We are seeking Directory ads also.

As you know we are raising funds for ZAF with donations and directory ads. We will appreciate your assistance for this in Central Florida & ZATAMBAY (and any one you feel will donate). As you may be aware, ZAF subsidizes all event in our area. We are trying to find a couple of bigtime donors. This will help not only now but also for the future. Your valuable suggestions will be most welcomed.

Please find attached the appeal letter / ads pricing.

Thanking you for all you have done for ZAF.

Tandoorasti & warmest personal regards,

Jim Dubash”

I have [attached to this email ZAF appeal letter/ Directory ads pricing](#).

I strongly urge our South Florida Miami/Ft. Lauderdale/Boca Raton, West Palm Beach, as well as Orlando CFG and ZATAMBAY members to donate to ZAF for their 25th Anniversary and South Florida Directory and to attend this wonderful Silver Anniversary gala event on August 16th.

I also want to urge other FEZANA, Tele Class, Dastur Family, North American Mobeds, Hafta Keshwar Zamin Mobeds to donate to ZAF 25th Anniversary as well as ads in their South Florida Directory.

Jo Ann and I congratulate ZAF members for achieving this wonderful accomplishment to be a FEZANA Member for 25 years and wish them all the success.

Maidyoshahem Gaahambaar:

According to the seasonal (Fasli) calendar, the second Gaahambaar Maidyoshahem will start from Tir Mah, Khorshed Roj through Tir Mah Dae-pa-Meher Roj, June 29th Saturday through July 3rd Wednesday. Each of the six Gaahambaars is celebrated over five days, and so also Maidyoshahem Gaahambaar.

Please note that the 7WZYC is being held from July 1 through July 6th in Los Angeles, sponsored by FEZANA, LA CZC and LA ZAC. A Jashan ceremony will be performed on Monday, July 1st by attending Mobeds.

Lo and Behold!

It is also Tirangaan Day, Tir Maah and Tir Roj! It would be nice if a Maidyoshahem Gaahambaar Jashan would be performed on this day.

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 Seasonal 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 Gaahambaar 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 Gaahambaar 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 Gaahambaar 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 wagharelaa 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/>

And now, starting with last year, NY ZAGNY WZCC is celebrating their Gaahambaar sometime in July. They had a wonderful Gaahambaar celebration last year and we wish them all the success this year also!

With this long background of our Gaahambaar celebrations, let us see what Dadar Ahura Mazda says about his second creation – Aav – the Water - in Aafrin-i-

Gaahambaar, especially for having a feast and as if giving Aashodaad to a righteous Humdin. We will divide this part of the Aafin-i-Gaahambaar in two weeklies. Here is its first part. The last part will be covered next week:

Aafrin-i-Gaahambaar Verses 12 - 14:

[\(Please hear the attached .mp3 file for the recitations of these Verses\)](#)

**(12) “Kshwashteem maidyoshmaheh Tishtrayeheh dathusho”
Pa shasta roj man Ahura Mazda Awaam Amashaaspandaan,
Fraaj-taasheed-hend, ku Aav daad!**

**(13) Gaahambaar Yasht Maidyo-shahem-gaah naam nehaad,
Teer-maah Dae-pa-Meher-roz;
Khur-roz gaah geerad Dae-pa-Meher-roz sar bahod,
Maidyo-shemyeheh bood.**

Aav teereh bood raoshan beh-kard.

**Awaam Amashaaspandaan myazda kard,
Mardoomaan pa humanghusheeteh aawaayad kard!**

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

Aafrin-i-Gaahambaar Verses 12 – 14 Translation:

(12) “On the 60th day (from the 5th Day Dae-pa-Meher Roj, Ardeebesht Maah of the last Gaahambaar Maidhyozarem in the Seasonal calendar), of Teer Maah and

Dae-pa-Meher Roj is the Maidyo-shahem Gaahambaar”:

On this 60th day, I Ahura Mazda with the Amashaaspands named this Gaahambaar Maidyo-shahem and created the Aav - water.

(13) We consecrated this Gaahambaar and gave the name Maidyo-shahem of this period in Teer 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 includes Teerangaan,

Which we called it Maidyo-shahem Gaahambaar,

During which we created Aav – water - and

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

And all the Human Beings should also perform such a

feast!

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

(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 13) 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 Gaahambaar 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!)