

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 351: Jashan-e-Saadeh - King Hoshang Discovered Fire - Kutar Brothers' Gujarati Firdausi's Shahnama - Volume 1 - Pages 23 - 24

Hello all Tele Class friends:

Jashan-e-Saadeh:

Among the Parsi Community I grew up in Tarapore, Andheri and Mumbai, we never celebrated Jashan-e-Saadeh. I guess with the warm temperate climate of where I grew up, there was no need to worry about harsh winter and counting the days to Jamshedi Navroze, the first day of Spring. We learnt about the discovery of Fire by King Hoshang in our Iranian History Class in our beloved MF Cama Athornan Institute (MFCAI), but no celebration of Jashan-e-Saadeh until we learnt from our Iranian brethren in USA.

There are many dates used by different Zoroastrians to celebrate Jashan-e-Saadeh.

Here is what my very good friend and Iranian history scholar, Fariborz Rahnamoon, have to say about it: (please see: <http://ahura.homestead.com/files/FESTIVALS/SADEH.pdf>)

“SADEH is a festival celebrated by the Zarathushtis on 10th of Bahman (January 30). It is a festival that has continued from their ancient homeland in the Arctic. SAAD means 100 in Persian and Sadeh is the celebration of the 100th Day of Arctic Winter as celebrated by their ancestors when they lived in the Arctic region. In the Arctic, they had 5 months of winter and 7 months of summer. Their winter began on the 1st of ABAN (23 of October) so 30 days of Aban plus 30 days of Azar, 30 days of Dey and 10 days of Bahman constitutes the 100 days. The festival is celebrated on the 10th of Bahman (30 January).”

Here is another description of Saadeh from Wikipedia: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sadeh> :

“**Sadeh** is an Iranian festival that dates back to the first Persian Empire, Achaemenid Empire. *Sadeh* celebrates 50 days before Nowruz. **Sadeh** in Persian means "hundred" and refers to one hundred days and nights remain to the beginning of spring. Sadeh is a midwinter festival that was celebrated with grandeur and magnificence in ancient Persia. It was a festivity to honor fire and to defeat the forces of darkness, frost, and cold.”

“Legends have it that King Hushang, the 2nd king of the mythological Pishdadian dynasty (Pishdad means to give the Law), established the Sadeh tradition. It is said that once Hushang was climbing a mountain when all of a sudden, he saw a snake and wanted to hit it with a stone. When he threw the stone, it fell on another stone and since they were both flint stones, fire broke out and the snake escaped. This way he discovered how to light a fire. Hushang cheered up and praised God who revealed to him the secret of lighting a fire. Then he announced: "This is a light from God. So we must admire it." “

“During ancient times, Jashn-e Sadeh was celebrated by lighting

fire. For Zoroastrians the chief preparation for Sadeh was and still in some parts is the gathering of wood the day before the festival. Teenage boys accompanied by a few adult males would go to local mountains in order to gather camel thorns, a common desert shrub in Iran. For most, this is the first time they are away from their families. The occasion resembles a ritual of passage to adulthood, a notable step for the boys on the way to manhood. The boys would take the camel thorns to the temples in their cities; and if it were their first time doing this, on their return, a celebration was held at home with the presence of friends and families.”

“The fire was kept burning all night. The day after, women would go to the fire in the morning, each taking a small portion of the fire back to their homes to make new glowing fire from the "blessed fire" of the temple. This is to spread the blessing of the Sadeh fire to every household in the neighborhood. Whatever is left from the fire would be taken back to the shrine to be placed in one container and kept at the temple until the next year. This way the fire is kept burning all year round.”

A very good article with lots of photos of Jashan-e-Sadeh in Yazd, Iran is at:

<https://iranian.com/2018/02/02/zoroastrians-jashn-e-sadeh/>

Fire is quite spectacular!

Jo Ann and I wish you a very happy Jashan-e-Saadeh! **SAADEH KHOJASTEH BAAD!**

Firdausi Describes First Jashan-e-Saadeh:

Firdausi in his Shahnama describes the invention of Fire by King Hoshang of Pishdadian Dynasty. I am so lucky to own 10 volumes of Kutar Brothers Gujarati Shahnama gifted to me by an anonymous Parsi couple. And what a beautiful way to celebrate this famous Iranian Zoroastrian Festival by quoting a world-famous Poet Firdausi Tusi about the first Jashan-e-Sadeh celebration of mankind!

I am no scholar of Persian and my Persian pronunciations are suspect. For this, I lean on the Gujarati Shahnama written by the famous Mahiyar and Faramarz Kutar brothers, with original Persian couplets and their translations in Gujarati. Please accept my apologies for errors ahead of time.

Growing up in our beautiful M. F. Cama Athornan Institute, we used to have a Shahnama recital every Sunday and a Shahnama recital competition once a year between us and the students of Dadar Athornan Institute. I will try to recite the selected couplets from Shahnama as we used to do in those days and record it for your listening pleasure.

Jashan-e-Saadeh – King Hoshang Discovered Fire - Kutar Brothers' Gujarati Firdausi's Shahnama – Volume 1 - Pages 23 – 24:

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

Firdausi's Original Persian Couplets	Kutar Brothers' Gujarati Shahnama Translated by me in English
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Basung Under Aatesh az shud padeed Kaz raushnee dar jahaan guhstareed	The Fire appeared from stone because of Hoshang and because of that the whole world received the light.
Ma guee keh aateshparastaan budand Parastanda-e paak Yazdaan budand	Do not say that they (Zarathushtris) are Fire Worshippers! They worship Holy Yazdaan (Daadaar Ahura Mazda) through Fire!
Chu mahr taazeyaanraasta mehraabe-e sung Badaan gah budee aatesheh khoobrang	Just like the Arabs (Muslims) use a stone Mehraab to perform their worship to God, so also the Iranians pray to God facing the resplendent Aatash.
Yakee rooz shaheh jahaan sooeh kooch Guzar kard baa chand kas hamgorooh	One day, The King of the world, was travelling with some people towards a mountain when
Padeed aamad az door cheezee daraaz Seyaah rango teerhtano teez taaz	They see a long black thing with black body running quickly at a distance.
Doh chashmaz bareh sar chu du chashmeh khoon Zeh doodeh dahaanash jahaan teerahgoon	The two eyes on its face were like bloody eyes and the fire coming out of his mouth was blinding the whole world.
Negah kard Hooshang baa hooshoh hung Gereftash yakee sango shud teez jung	Hoshang looked at it with wisdom and intelligence and he picked up a stone and moved forward for the battle.
Bazooreh Kayaanee behyaazeed dast Jahaansooz maar uz jahaanjooy jast	And with the strength of a king threw the stone at the world blinding serpent but it avoided the stone and escaped.
Bar aamad basangeh geraan sangeh khurd Shekastah hameen bahr hamaan sangeh khurd	Instead the stone hit another little stone which broke into pieces.
Forooghee padeed aamad ahz har doh sung Daleh sung gahsht uz foroogh aazarung	And the impact of the big stone produced a spark of fire and a shining fire appeared.
Nashud maar koshtah waleeken zeh raaz Azaan tub-eh sung aatesh aamad faraaz	That serpent was not killed; but instead due to the latent property of the stones, a Fire was started.
Haraan kas keh bahr sung aahan zadee Azaan raooshanaaee padeed aamadee	After that, whoever strikes iron with such a stone, it produced a fire.

Jahaandaar peesheh jahaan-aafreen Neyaayesh hameekardoh khaand aafreen	The King prayed to God and thanked him for this resplendent gift.
Keh ooraah furooghee chuneen hadahya daad Hameen aatesh aangaah keblah nehaad	Because He gifted Hoshang with the Fire, Hoshang created a Fire altar right then and there.
Behgoftaa furoogheest in izadee Parasteed baayad agar behkhradee	And Hoshang said to himself: "This is the luster of God and if you are intelligent, you will worship God through the Fire".
Shab aamad bahr-afoorookht aatesh chu kooh Hamaan shah dargehrdeh oo baa goroooh	At the night, they created a big Fire like a mountain and the King with his people stood near it to do their prayer.
Yakee jashn kard aan shaboh baadah khard Sadah naameh aan jashneh farkhondah kard	That night they perform a Jashan and drank wine and called that auspicious Jashan "Sadeh"
Zeh Hooshang maand in sadah yaadgaar Basee baad choon oo degar shahryaar	This "Sadeh" is still remembered and celebrated as Hoshang's legacy and may there be more Kings like Hoshang.

(Gujarati 10 Volumes Kutar Brothers *Shahnama*, Volume 1 - Pages 23-24, translated by me in English)

SPD Comments

1. The attached photos are from our Iran Tour with Siloo Mehta in 2006 at the Firdausi Monument in his home town Tus.

The last one is a sketch done in front of us by a famous miniaturist: Hosein Fallahi in the Nagsh-e-Jahan Square, Esfahan, Iran.

2. Above we mentioned about the Shahnama Annual Competition between Dadar Athornan and our beloved M. F. Cama Athornan Institutes.

Every year, our beloved Sanjana Saheb was in charge of the selected Shahnama verses in Persian as well as in Gujarati and we had to commit them to memory and recite them in front of all during our weekly Sunday Shahnama Classes.

On the appointed competition day, we were escorted by him to the BPP Offices in Fort and Dasturji Kutar would be the competition examiner. Each boy on his turn will sing the allotted verses in front of him. After all boys recited their verses, he will announce the first three winners.

3. The winners then were allowed to attend the final presentations of Awards always at the then Cawasji Jehangir Hall near Kaalaa Ghodaa. One of the teachers would take us walking to the Andheri Station where we take a train to the Church Gate Station and from there walk

in pairs to the C. J. Hall.

4. Besides receiving the Awards (usually some religious/historical books), the highlight was always the presentation of Firdausi's life by none other than the orator par excellence Dasturji Kutar Saheb!

We who were honored to attend this Annual Award Function multiple times, had heard the same presentation by Dasturji Kutar every year but all of us were always on the edge lost in his oratory and the mastery of Firdausi and his Shahnama.

5. The three most famous couplets that he will always recite were:

Persian: (it is from above mentioned 2nd couplet)

Ma gooyi keh Aatash parastan boodan!

Parastandeh Paak Yazdan boodan!

English Translation:

Do not say that they (Zarathushtris) are Fire Worshippers!

They worship Holy Yazdan (Daadar Ahura Mazda) through Fire!

And the other famous couplet in Persian:

Basee ranjeh bordan dar een saal-e-see!

Azam zandeh kardam badeen Farsi!

English Translation:

For thirty years I toiled very hard (to write this Shahnama),

(And in so doing) made this Shahnama (the history of the Kings) world famous in Farsi language! (SPD comment: not in Arabic)!

10. **And Firdausi's famous retort to Timur Lang when he visited his tomb after conquering Iran:**

Persian:

Timur is supposed to declare in front of Firdausi's Tomb:

Sar az kabra bardaar va Iraan beh-bin,

Javaani-e Shiraan-e-Turaan beh-bin

Translation:

(Oh Firdausi!) Get your head out of your tomb and see your dear Iran!

See the bravery of the young Turanian Lions!

And the legend says:

As Timur was leaving the tomb, there came the voice from the tomb:

Persian:

Guzastand shiraan azin margzaar

Kunad rube-e lang injaa shikaar

Translation:

After the brave Iranian Lions have left,

The lame Jackals have come out for the hunt!

What a retort!! Remember, Timur had a lame leg!!

Those were the wonderful days growing up in our beloved M. F. Cama Athornan Institute.

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

Firdausi Monument



Firdausi Statue



Firdausi Tomb



Shahnameh Opening Lines



Hossein Fallahi Ferdosi Sketch

Hossein Fallahi

Miniaturist

Miniature Art Gallery and Workshop



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JO ANN
DASTUR

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