

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 88 – Behram Yazad comes in 10 different forms to the help of his devotee!

Hello all Tele Class friends:

Have you ever been to Western Railways Bombay Central station early morning on every Behram Roj? You will be run over by a multitude of Parsis/Iranis rushing to get a seat on the morning Express to Udvada to pay their monthly homage to Iranshah Atash Behram! They reach there late morning, take a bath and a sumptuous Parsi Breakfast, pay their homage to Iranshah, return to their hotels, have another sumptuous Parsi lunch, rest a little bit and back to station to catch the afternoon train to Bombay arriving in the evening. They do that on each Behram Roj!

So we will ask: Why Behram Roj? Well, if you remember our Kisseh Sanjan story, when our forefathers were sailing from Diu harbor in Kathiawad, Gujarat to further south, they encountered a very violent storm and their lives were in real danger. At that time, their leader Dasturji and them prayed to Behram Yazad, the Angel of Victory, that if they safely reach the shore, they will erect an Atash Behram in his name! Their fervent prayers were answered and they safely reached the Sanjan Harbor where the local King Jadi Rana gave them asylum as well as land to built their first Atash Behram in India. Under the leadership of their Dasturan Dastur Nairyosangh Dhaval, they consecrated the first Iranshah Atash Behram in India whose fire is still resplendently burning ever eternal in Udvada! Hence the importance of Behram Yazad in our community.

Let me mention the background of why I selected these three verses from Behram Yasht today as our 88th weekly.

Last Tuesday, our very good friend, Khushnam Irani, wife of our ZAF President Furrokh, sent me an email received by her from a friend and wanted me to verify its content. It was a story about a young Parsi thumbing through a deck of cards on the Agiyari Ota (verandah). Agiyari Dasturji was promptly summoned to reprimand the young man. He explained that he just returned after a hard one month duty in Kargil in Himalayas where he had no *Khordeh Avesta* but this deck of cards left to him by a dying friend. He used them to symbolically remember our religious tenets in each of the 13 face cards. The 'ten' tells him of the ten forms in which Behram Yazad appeared to Prophet Saheb Zarathushtra. They are, the wind, a bull, a horse, a camel, a boar, a youth, a raven, a ram, a buck, and a man. I informed Khushnam in my ignorance that I never heard about this incident in Zarathushtra's life anywhere that I know of.

And then, three days later, my very good friend from LA, Meher Amalsad, forwarded a request from Mrs. Ruqi Patel (nee Daruwalla) of Toronto that her husband has cancer and she has multiple sclerosis and one of his Parsi friends requested her to pray Ardibehesht Yasht Nirang daily (covered in our WZSE #84) and a verse from Behram Yasht on each Friday. She wanted Meher to send her a correct recital of them so she can pray with correct pronunciations. Meher requested me to reply to Ruqi.

I sent her our WZSE #84 right away and then researched Behram Yasht prayers and translations using Kangaji's [Khordeh Avesta](#). And to my utter amazement, I found that the first 10 kardas (chapters) of Behram Yasht, in words of Kangaji's footnote on page 299 of his English *Khordeh Avesta* says: "To the man/woman who worships Behram Yazata with a

sincere heart and asks his help in times of difficulties, Behram Yazata goes in different shapes on different occasions for giving him/her victory by casting away his/her difficulty. These different forms are described in the first ten kardaas of this Yasht.”

And these ten forms were described by Kangaji as: the wind, a bull, a horse, a camel, a boar, a youth, a raven, a ram, a buck, and a man, the same as the young man describing to the Dasturji! WOW! I was snake bitten not only for the coincidence, but also for the enlightenment of this ignorant me and the power of the prayers to Behram Yazad!

They say: “Coincidence is the hidden way GOD reveals himself!” How true!!

After these ten forms are described at the beginning of the first 10 kardas in Behram Yasht, it is followed by the 3 verses repeated in each of these 10 kardas. In these verses, Behram Yazad states his powers and promises to destroy the malice of all evil doers!

Hence, today we will present to you these 3 verses from Behram Yasht, Yasht #14.3 – 5:

Behram Yazad comes in 10 different forms to the help of his devotee, Behram Yasht, Yasht Y14.3-5

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

**(3) Aa-at ahmaai ama-vastemo,
Ama ahmi ama-vastemo,
Verethra ahmi verethra-vastemo,
Khvare-nangha ahmi khvare-nangu-hastemo,
Yaana ahmi yaana-vastemo,
Saoka ahmi saoka-vastemo,
Baéshaza ahmi baésha-zyotemo.**

**(4) Aa-at tbaeshaao taurvayeni vispanaam tbaesha-vataam.
Tbaéshao daevanaanm mashyaa-naanmcha,
Yaathwaanm pairika-naanmcha,
Saathraanm kaoyaanm karaf-naanmcha.**

**(5) Ahé raya khvarenanghacha,
Tem yazaai surunvata yasna.
Verethraghnem Ahura-dhaaté m zaothraabyo,
Verethraghnem Ahura-dhaatem yazamaidé,
Yaaish daataaish, paoiryaaish Ahurahé.**

Haomayo gava beresmana,

Hizvo danghangha,
Maanthracha, vachacha, shayaothnacha,
Zaothraa-byascha, arshu-khadhaei-byascha vaaghzibyō.

Yenghe haataanm aa-at yesne paito vangho,
Mazdaao Ahuro vaethaa ashaat hachaa,
Yaaon-ghaanmchaa taanschaa taaoschaa yazamaide

Behram Yazad comes in 10 different forms to the help of his devotee, Behram Yasht, Y14.3-5 Translation

**Then this most courageous Behram Yazad said:
In courage I am the most courageous,
In victory I am the most victorious,
In glory I am the most glorious,
In favors I am the most favoring,
In welfare I am the best giver of welfare,
In health treatment, I am the best health giver.**

**Then I shall destroy the malice of all trouble givers,
I shall destroy the malice of false gods and men,
of the sorcerers and sorceresses,
of oppressor and of those who cannot see nor hear any thing of God.**

**For his brilliance and glory, I revere with audible prayer,
Behram Yazad, the strength of gaining victory bestowed by Ahura,
I revere and call for assistance,
Behram Yazad, the strength of gaining victory made by Ahura
for deeds performed on the basis of primal law of Ahura.**

**One's own self should be pure, of high mentality,
have wisdom of tongue, mind, words and deeds
and call for assistance truly spoken words.**

**We praise those men and women from amongst the living
whose actions are good
and whose goodness is judged by righteous Ahura Mazda!**

(Translation from: *Yashts in Roman Script with Translation* by Tehmurasp Rustamji Sethna, 2nd Ed. 1988, pages 270-271)

SPD Explanation:

1. These 3 verses form a powerful prayer for invoking Behram Yazata to your help and his promise to do so.

2. As a sideline, many of our Indian Parsis/Iranis believe in Behram Yazata prayer and one of the very famous story is the Mushkel Aasaan story of a very poor woodcutter Mishkin and his family mired in abject poverty and being met by 5 Yazatas and Behram Yazata comes to their rescue by picking up three handfuls of dirt from the ground and put them in Mishkin's lap, saying "keep this safely with you. If your situation improves with this, then whenever convenient narrate your story to others and remember us with offerings of nuts, flowers and sweets".

This is the beginning of the Mushkel Aasaan story and prayer that many Indian Iranis/Parsi perform religiously every Friday and others on every Behram Roj, distributing the items to all who participates.

The complete story and prayer can be found in my very good friend, Joseph Peterson's website at:

<http://www.avesta.org/other/mishfinl.htm>

In our Orlando CFG Group, our own Dinyar Mehta religiously have this prayer each Behram Roj and all the items placed in it for the prayers are distributed to organizations of poor people, a very commendable Charity!

3. There is no hard and fast rule of praying any prayers at a certain time and day in my opinion. Prayer is between you and Dadar Ahura Mazda and it is upto you when you want to pray to HIM any day any time!

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