



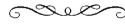
Celebrating the Marriage of

Nisha
&
Rayomond

Friday, the Seventh of April
Two Thousand and Seventeen

Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress, Orlando, Florida

Ceremonial Procession



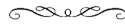
Ceremony officiated by – Mobed Soli P. Dastur

Groom – Rayomond Rustom Mody
Mother of the Groom – Dina Mody
Father of the Groom – Rustom Mody
Groom's Witness – Fersheed Mody

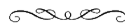
Bride – Nisha Shah
Mother of the Bride – Mayuri Shah
Father of the Bride – Vikram Shah
Bride's Witness – Kiran Shah

Flower Girls:
Cyrene and Zeenia Nariman,
Shanaya Vakil, Natasha Dungor, Delna Surveyor

Ring Bearers – Cyrus Vakil and Cyrus Surveyor

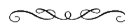


Irani Ceremonial Sofreh Table



In Iranian Zoroastrian weddings, it is customary to have a ceremonial Sofreh table covered with a white sheet and a green table cloth with several items whose significance will be explained later in the ceremony. There are number of chairs around the Sofreh table where the wedding couple, their parents and witnesses sit. Another smaller table holds the ceremonial lamp, Deevo (traditional flame), and a tray containing rose petals, grains of rice and almond slivers.

The Ceremony



(Before the start of the ceremony, Mobed Soli Dastur is on the stage, and will practice the cheer of

"Obiro...Obiro...Shaad Baash"

which means –

go....go....and be happy (in your life).

***This Persian Zoroastrian cheer in (Dari language)
will be used throughout the ceremony***

***He should have the audience practice it with him so that they
also recite it with him during the ceremony at his cue to them.***

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This ceremony is unique in nature because even though both Nisha and Rayomond are born in Indian families, culturally they come from different backgrounds. While Nisha was born in a Jain family in USA and spent her childhood in Florida, Rayomond was born and raised in Houston, Texas to an Iranian Zoroastrian family. Through the guidance of respected Mobeds Mehraban Firouzgary of Tehran, Iran and Fariborz Shahzadi of USA, this ceremony is performed by using the wonderful traditions and rituals of the Persian culture.

The processions of both the Bride and Groom is preceded by their flower girls [Cyrene](#) and [Zeenia Nariman](#), [Shanaya Vakil](#), [Natasha Dungor](#), [Delna Surveyor](#) spreading rose petals on the floor. The ceremony starts with the Bridegroom Rayomond being escorted to the stage by his mother, father, and witness, followed by the grand entrance of the Bride Nisha escorted by her mother, father, and witness. Both Nisha and Rayomond adorn garlands made of fresh flowers, as a symbol of good luck and prosperity.

Zarathushtra's Advice to Marrying Couples

Before we start the ceremony, let us hear the advice of our Prophet Holy Zarathushtra to the wedding couples.

Holy Gathas are composed by our Holy Prophet Zarathushtra. They are composed in poetry (Gathas meaning songs) and have been

preserved through the faithful learning by rote by our Mobeds through ages.

There are 5 Gathas comprising of 17 songs. The last Gatha **Vahishtoisht** is the song 17. In this song, Zarathushtra proclaims the completion of his mission to spread the religion of Ahura Mazda to the whole world of that time.

The second half of this portion of the Gatha deals with the subject of marriage. Zarathustra gave his blessings to the marriage of his youngest daughter Pouruchisti and Jaamaaspa Hvogva.

The message to all the future brides and bridegrooms emphasises the Zarathushtrian concept of a family as a basic human social unit. The admonition is to choose each other wisely by their own free will and remember their duty to Ahura Mazda and His Corporeal Creation.

The fifth verse of this Gatha is a special advice from Zarathushtra to his daughter and her husband to be at their wedding. What a wonderful way then to recreate the same wedding scenario almost 3500 plus years later by requesting our own Rayomond's father Rustom to say the same words Zarathushtra spoke to his daughter at her wedding.

First Rustom will recite the English translation of this verse after which I will recite the actual words of Zarathushtra in our scripture language Gathic Avesta:

Rayomond's father Rustom will recite its English translation:

"These words I speak to you, maidens and newlywed husbands and hope you will bear them in your minds carefully. Understand them deep within your souls and live always full of love with pure mind. Try to surpass each other in

truth and righteousness. Thus, each one of you shall, indeed, reap the reward of joy and happiness.”

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and its recitation in the original Avesta language by Mobed Soli Dastur.

Saakheni vazyamnaabyo kainiby mraomi
Khshmaibyaachaa vademno menchaa i maanzdazdoom
Vaedodoom Daenaabeesh abyaschaa
Ahoom ye vangheush manangho
Ashaa ve anyo ainim vivenghatu
Tat zi hoi hushenem anghat.

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Marriage Ceremony, as performed in Iran, for Zarthushti couples

Mobed Soli Dastur, sitting in front of the couple, to be wed, flocked by their parents and witnesses on their sides starts as follows:

<><><>(Introduction)<><><>

Family Members and Friends.....

Today, I will be performing a Traditional Persian Zoroastrian Ceremony for Rayomond and Nisha.

Please share in the Celebration of the Tradition of this Ancient Persian Zoroastrian Culture.

First I will recite in the Farsi language the first part of the Irani wedding prayer:

With this prayer, you both are reminded to live by the "Good" qualities of God's Archangels.

**Ba naameh Ahura Mazda Bakhshaayandeh,
bakhshaayashgar, maherbaan!**

**Dar een ruz Rashneh Raast Yazad,
Maah Farrokh Farvardin,
Saal seh hazaar, hapta sad, panjaah voh panj (3755)
Khujasteh anjaman payvand zanaashooee,
Behroosh deen veh Maazdayasneeh,
Man Mobed Soli Dastur,
Farzand Mobed Pirojshah Kawasji Dastoor,
Beh gawaahi Daadaar Ahura Mazda,
Raayoomand va kharoomand,
Ba gawaahi Amashaaspandaan peeruzgar,**

**Bé Dâdo aayeené - BAHMAN amshaaspand,
ké aashtio neek andishi hast.**

**Bé Daado aayeené - ARDIBEHEST amshaaspand,
ké raastio paaki hast.**

**Bé Daado aayeené - SHAHRIVAR amshaaspand,
ké nirumandio khish-kaari hast.**

**Bé Daado aayeené - SEPENDAARMAZD amshaaspand,
ké foroutanio Mehrabaani hast.**

**Bé Daado-aayeené - KHORDAAD amshaaspand,
ké khorramio aabadaani hast.**

**Bé Daado-aayeené - AMORDAAD amshaaspand,
ké tandorostio deer zeveshni hast;**

**Ba gawaahi Maher va Saroosh va Rashna Raast,
Ba gawaahi Faroohar Ashoo Zartosht Aspantamaan,
Ba gawaahi hameh vahaan dar een anjaman,**

=====

**Az shoomaa Nisha, dukhta Mayuri va Vikram Shah,
Meeparasta keh Rayomond,
Pur Dina va Rustom Mody raah behdaad,
Va aain deen veh Maazdayasnee,
Beh hamtanee va hamrawaane,
Va hamsaree khud meepazeereed?**

**(First two times, Nisha just looks at the Mobed and say nothing
as if lost in thoughts)**

(Third time, Nisha agrees by saying:)

Man meepazeerum!

Mobed and the audience loudly cheers:

"Obiro...Obiro...Shâd Bâsh"

which means –

go....go....and be happy (in your life).

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English Translation of the above Farsi Prayer:

**On this auspicious day of Rashne Raasta Yazad, month of
Farrokh Farvardeen, in the Zarathushtri year 3755, at this
auspicious ceremony, wherein the present Anjoman has
gathered to witness a wedlock, to be performed according to the
rites of the Good Religion of Mazdayasni,**

I, Mobed Soli, the son of Mobed Pirojshah Kawasji Dastoor,

Take the Glorious and Righteous Ahura Mazda, the victorious Ameshaa Spentaas, the Yazatas Mehr, Sraosha, and Rashna - the Truthful, the Farohar of Asho Zarathushtra Spitamaan and each and every one present, in this Anjuman, as witness:

(Then facing the Bride Nisha, Mobed Soli asks the following question, to which Nisha just keeps looking at the Mobed Soli the first two times and then says Yes, the third time)

To ask you Nisha, daughter of Mayuri and Vikram Shah whether you are prepared and agree to choose Rayomond, son of Dina and Rustom Mody, to be your partner, in body and soul and as per the rules of the Good Religion of Mazdayasni?

(Nisha, normally, says Yes after the third repetition of the above question).

Mobed and the audience loudly cheer:

"Obiro...Obiro...Shâd Bâsh"

which means –

go....go....and be happy (in your life).

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**Az shoosmaa Rayomond,
Pur Dina va Rustom Mody,
Meeparasta keh Nisha,
dukhta Mayuri va Vikram Shah, raah behdaad,
Va aain deen veh Maazdayasnee,
Beh hamtanee va hamrawaanee,
Va hamsaree khud meepazeereed?**

(Rayomond agrees right away by saying:)

Man meepazeerum!

Mobed and the audience loudly cheers:

"Obiro...Obiro...Shâd Bâsh"

which means –

go....go....and be happy (in your life).

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English Translation of the above Farsi Prayer:

(Then facing the Bridegroom Rayomond, Mobed Soli puts a similar question upon which he gives his consent soon upon the first asking.)

And to you I ask Rayomond the son of Dina and Rustom Mody, whether you are prepared and agree to choose Nisha, daughter of Mayuri and Vikram Shah to be your partner, in body and soul and as per the rules of the Good Religion of Mazdyasni?

(Rayomond says Yes after the first asking)

Mobed and the audience loudly cheers:

"Obiro...Obiro...Shâd Bâsh"

which means –

go....go....and be happy (in your life).

=====

Facing the couple Mobed Soli continues :-

**Beh khujastagee va farkhandagee,
Man va hameh vahaan dar een anjaman,
Az Ahura Mazda tawaanaa aarzoomandeem,**

**Keh beh een paywand zanaashooee,
Paayandagee va ostawaaree
Maher va khushee va shaad kaamee,
Baa afrunee farzandaan neek va andukhteh,
Faraaroon va deerzawashnee,
Va sar anjaam neek arzanee bedaarad!**

(Mobed Soli Dastur requests all present to say with him:)

Aydoon Baad!

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**Congratulations for such an auspicious and happy occasion.
All those present joins me in praying to Ahura Mazda to bestow
upon this union in marriage durability and steadfastness, love,
happiness, and success, with several good children and wealth
earned through righteous means as well as a happy ending after
a long life together.**

Amen. (All present echoes: Amen)

**One Yatha Ahu Vairyo
[recite in full with audience]**

**The Yatha Ahu Vairyo prayer reminds the two of you
that you have been given the gift of the "Good Mind".
Use it to better yourselves in your life together.**

**One Ashem Vohu
[recite in full with audience]**

**The Ashem Vohu prayer reminds the two of you
to follow the path of Asha or righteousness,
which can lead you to happiness.**

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**Here Mobed Soli will recite from the Pazand Ashirwad (old
Persian Blessings Prayer):**

It showers the blessings of all our 30 Ameshaaspands and Yazatas upon the wedding couple:

14. Dehaad daheshna-ee Ahuramazda,	14. May you be blessed with Ahura Mazda's gifts!
Manashnee maneedee Behman!	Always think good thoughts like Behman!
Hu-goftaaree Ardeebaheht!	May you receive truthfulness from Ardibehesht!
Hu-kerdaaree Shaherevar!	May you receive good governance from Sheherevar!
Pur manashnee Spandaarmad!	May you receive good thinking from Spendaardmad!
Sheereen o charva Kurdaad!	May you receive sweetness and humility from Khordaad!
Baromandee Amardaad!	May you receive fruitfulness from Amardaad!
Daheshna-ee Daadaar Ahuramazda!	May you be blessed with Dae-pa-Daadaar's gifts!
Rae vakhshaan Aadar!	May you receive increasing light from Adar Yazad!
Paadayaawee Ardvisura!	May you receive holiness from Avaan Yazad!
Shaahee sar-faraazee Khursheed!	May you receive emperor-like greatness from Khursheed Yazad!
Maah gao-chithra vakhshaan!	May Mohor Yazad keep increasing your family growth!
Teer raadee rawaaee!	May you receive full force of benevolent charity from Tir Yazad!
Gosh par-heekhtaar bade!	May you remain far away from misfortunes with the help of Gosh Yazad!
Daheshna-ee Daadaar	May you be blessed with Dae-

Ahuramazda!	pa-Meher's gifts!
Meher daad ashnavashnee!	May you receive the strength to hear justice from Meher Yazad!
Srosh farmaan paanaaee!	May you receive obedience and protection from Sarosh Yazad!
Rashna raasta ravashnee!	May you receive furtherance in justice from Rashne Yazad!
Neeru ravashnee Farvardeen!	May you receive furtherance in divine energy from Farrokh Farvardin!
Behram feeruzee andukhtaar!	May Behram Yazad make you victory achiever!
Raam raamashna astoaad!	May Ram Yazad keep you in Divine Happiness!
Arvand tavaana Guaad!	May you receive expediency and strength from Gowaad Yazad!
Daheshna-ee Daadaar Ahuramazda!	May you be blessed with Dae-pa-Deen's gifts!
Deen daanashna afruzee!	May you receive bright insight of knowledge from Deen Yazad!
Khureh anduzee Ashishvangh!	May you receive abundance of light from Ashishvangh Yazad!
Hunnar hum-baarashneh Ashtaad!	May you receive abundance of artistry from Aastaad Yazad!
Aweer-tokhshaai Aasmaan!	May you receive lofty industry from Aasmaan Yazad!
Gaah paayandeeh Jamyaad!	May you receive permanence of space and time from Jamyaad Yazad!
Hu-negarashna Maarespand!	May you receive good protection from Maarespand Yazad!
Fareh-tan Aneraan!	May you receive healthy body from Aneraan Yazad!

Mobed Soli Dastur now recite one of our holiest prayer of Aa Airyemaa Ishyo (The Brotherhood of Mankind) to be recited four times:

**Aa airyémaa ishyo rafedhraai jantû,
Nerebyaschaa naairibyaschaa Zarathushtrahé,
Vanghéush rafedhraai manangho,
Yaa daénaa vairîm hanaat mîzhdem,
Ashahyaa yaasaa ashim,
Yaam ishyaam ahuro masataa mazdaao! (Recite four times)**

English Translation:

**May Brotherhood of Man, for which we yearn,
Come down amongst us and rejoice the hearts
Of men and maidens of Zarathushtra's faith,
Bringing fulfilment unto Vohu Mana (Good Mind);
When souls of men receive their precious need,
I pray to Asha (righteousness) in HIS Grace to grant
These blessings for which human souls do long,
Which Mazdaa Ahuraa hath meant for all!**

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(Mobed Soli continues by giving the following advice to the couple in the Irani tradition)

While declaring you, formally, as man and wife I, once again, congratulate you and the families of both sides on this auspicious union.

While recommending, once again, to follow the Religious recommendations already advised and to do all you can to be a good Zartoshti, I would now like to bring to your attention the philosophy and significance of some of the items that are customarily placed on this ceremonial ses, hoping that you will further learn and benefit from these as well.

One of these is **a pair of scissors** which, is formed by the joint of two blades and, will cut, effectively, only if the two blades move in unison.

Starting from today you two are also joined in wedlock together, symbolically the same as the blades of this pair of scissors.

In order to cut successfully through the problems and objectives of your life make sure that all your actions and planning are in unison.

The needle and thread kept here are normally tools for darning.

As in the course of any married life, occasions may arise, generally due to misunderstandings or other related problems that a slight “Cut” may appear in your relations.

Immediately, in such cases, make use of the philosophical “Needle and thread” which is simply looking at the problem logically and with humility and forgiveness, making use of your mutual love and affection and any other conceivable remedy to make sure to “Darn” the cut and cover it up so well such that the cut should disappear and never deepen.

The egg:

Considering that an egg nurtures the embryo, within itself, and prepares it for the life outside its shell, has come to be considered the symbol of the rights of parents over their children.

By giving away this egg after this ceremony, the parents make it understood, between themselves, that from this day on they have given out their children with a view that they can establish an independent and a self-established life.

As from today between these three families nothing beyond mutual love, respect, advice, and consultation should be expected.

The Khordeh Avesta and Kusti is to remind you of your pledge to the Good Religion of Mazdayasni and adherence to the practice of good thoughts, good words and good deeds.

The green wrapped sugar cone represents long life and sweet happiness, and a symbol of sweetness and strength in your relationship and I pray that you enjoy all of them.

Pomegranate signifies riches and childbearing. I pray to Ahura Mazda to bestow you with honestly earned riches and several well behaving children.

The reflection in the "mirror" represents a bright future for the couple.

The "two lighted Deevaas (floating candles)" will brighten the path of righteousness in each other's life.

The "green silk handkerchief" symbolizes good fortune and stability for Rayomond and Nisha.

The mixture of "nuts" offered to the audience after the ceremony, makes them a part of good fortune together.

The "Persian Sweet" when shared by the couple during the ceremony, reminds them to be always sweet to each other.

Amen.

At this point, the Mobed asks Nisha and Rayomond to pick up a piece of Baklava and feed one another reminding them to be sweet to one another all their lives.

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Mobed Soli will finish the Ashirwad ceremony with the traditional Wedding Tandoorasti:

(Doa-e-Tandorosti-e-Paemaan - Doa Tandoorasti for the wedding ceremony.)	
Ba nam-i yazad, bakhshaayandeh-ee bakhshaayazgareh-ee meherbaan,	In the name of God who is Bestower of good things, forgiver of sins and merciful!
Aiyaar Meherdaad, aiyaar khudaawand,	With the help of justified laws of Meher Yazad and of God,
Kad-khudaa Rayomond raa,	To the (Name of Bridegroom) Bridegroom
Kad-baanu Nisha raa,	And to the (Name of Bride) Bride,
Hazaar saal zindagaani,	May they be worthy of one thousand years long lives,
Tandootasti jaan wa derji varashni aawaayad;	With the healthy body and soul!
Khureh anghhad ashaheedaar;	May they continue to have

	righteous luster!
Daadaar harvespa aaghaah,	Oh, the All-knowing Creator!
Shaadi va raamashni,	May they achieve joy and joyfulness,
Aasaani farrokheeh neki rasaanad;	Ease of living, happiness, and good life!
Va burzorg khureh khuddayee hu-paadshahee daad;	And may they achieve exalted luster, power, and law of good governance,
Amaavandee feerozgari baad;	Bravery and victory!
Hu zaheshneh hu neshaan, deeneh veh Maazdayasnaan,	May they have good creation, good aim, and the knowledge of the good Religion
Aagahee aastoanee baad!	And self-sacrifice!
Paewand rawashnee, Farzand zaayashnee,	May they live lawful married life; have children;
Der-pataayashne zeevashnee baad!	May they have long lasting permanent lives!
Aadel tan wa husrubee pahaan va rawaan;	Just body, good fame, good achievements by soul,
Hu paadshaahi daad!	The laws of good governance,
Daadaar-ee harvespa aagaah,	Oh, all knowing Creator,
Deene Zarathushti shaad baad! Aedun baad!	May the Zarathushtri Religious laws bring happiness! May it

	be so!
Aeeyaaree Khudaa, Khudaavandeh aalam-raa,	Oh, Master of this world! With the help of God,
Kad-khudaa Rayomond raa,	May you keep Rayomond
Kad-baanu Nisha raa,	And Nisha
Hazaar saal, der bedaar! Shaad bedaar!	Alive for thousand years, happy,
Tandoorast bedaar! Aedun bedaar!	And healthy! Keep them so!
Bar sare arjaanee-aan,	Those deserving,
Saalhaa-ee beesyaar, va karanhaa-ee beeshumaar,	For many years and for many centuries,
Baakee va paayandeh daar!	May You keep them long and always!
Sad hazaaraan hazaar aafreen baad!	Bestow upon them numerous thousands of thousand good wishes!
Saal khojasteh baad!	May the year be meritorious!
Roj farrokh baad!	May the day be propitious!
Maah mubaarak baad!	May the month be meritorious!
Chand saal, chand roj, chand maah,	For many years, many days, and many months,
Beesyaar saal, arjaanee-daar,	For many years, keep them legitimate -
Yazashne va nyaayashne,	Yazashne (worship) and

	Nyaayesh (propitiation),
Va raadee va zor barashne!	And good charity and carrying ritual strength!
Ashahee-daar awar-ee hamaa kaaro kerfehaa!	May you keep all meritorious deeds supreme and righteous.
Tandoorastee baad, neki baad, khub baad!	May you be healthy, righteous, and good!
Aedun baad, aedun-taraz baad!	May it be so; may it be more so!
Pa Yazdaan va Ameshaashpandaan kaame baad!	May it happen according to the wishes of Yazads and Ameshaaspands!
(Udwada Mobeds pray the following para.)	
Dhunwaan, putrawaan, aayushyawaan,	May you be wealthy, with sons, of long life,
Lakshmeewaan, vrudhdheewaan, rojeewaan, veejaywaan,	Full of money, full of daily bread, victorious!
Shukraanaa Daadaar yek, Deen yek,	May we be blessed! One God, One Religion!
Zarthosht barhak beshak begumaan,	Zarathushtra, with faith, for sure, without pride,
Raasta Paygaambar Zarthosht Spitamaan Ashaone!	Truthful Righteous Prophet Zarathushtra Spitamaan!
Ashen Vohu 1.	

The final stage of the ceremony is the exchange of the rings, brought in by the handsome ring bearers: Cyrus Vakil and Cyrus Surveyor.

First, Nisha takes Rayomond's ring and praying Yatha Ahu Vairyo with Mobed Soli slips the ring on Rayomond's finger at the word Shyothenanaam.

Then Rayomond takes Nisha's ring and praying Yatha Ahu Vairyo with Mobed Soli slips the ring on Nisha's finger at the word Shyothenanaam.

Please welcome Mr. and Mrs. Rayomond and Nisha Mody!

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Mobed and the audience loudly cheers:

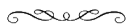
"Obiro...Obiro...Shâd Bâsh"

which means –

go....go....and be happy (in your life).

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This concludes the Irani Zarathushtri Wedding Ceremony!



Just so you don't think that our ceremony is all serious business now is the time to eat, drink and be merry....
Hope you all have a delightful time!

Thank You