

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 134 – Ahmaai Raescha Prayer with its Pazand Sareh (Commentary) Part 1 of 2 - Aafrin-e-Rapithwan - Verses 15 - 18

Hello all Tele Class friends:

Our prophet Asho Zarathushtra composed his Gathas in old Gathic Avesta language.

The later scriptures like Yasna, Visperad, Yashts and Vendidad are written in later Younger Avesta language.

In the Sassanian times (226 – 650 AD), Pahlavi was the court language and many of our scriptures were translated into Pahlavi and some with Pahlavi commentary.

Dastur-e-Dasturaan Aadarbaad Maarespand composed Khordeh Avesta for the common Zarathushtri Humdins for daily prayers.

In most of these prayers, the first and the last verses are in Pazand script (Pahlavi written in Avesta – Din-e-Dabireh script).

Many of our Aafrins are written in Pazand script except Aafrin-e-Zarhosht – Aafrin attributed to Prophet Zarathushtra written by him as blessings to King Vishtaaspa, covered in our weeklies #93 and #94 at:

<http://www.avesta.org/wzse/wzse93.pdf>

<http://www.avesta.org/wzse/wzse94.pdf>

According to Wikipedia:

“**Pazend** or **Pazand** is one of the [writing systems](#) used for the [Middle Persian](#) language.

Pazend's principal use was for writing the commentaries (*Zend*) on and/or translations of the [Avesta](#), the primary collection of sacred texts of [Zoroastrianism](#).

The word "Pazend" derives from the [Avestan](#) words *paiti zainti*, which can be translated as either "for commentary purposes" or "according to understanding" (phonetically).”

Kangaji’s original Gujarati Khordeh Avesta-Baa-Maaenee included all Aafringaans and Aafrins with word by word translations.

Unfortunately, when due to demand from Humdins, BPP requested Prof. Ervad Maneck Fardoonji Kanga to translate Kangaji Khordeh Avesta, these Aafringaans and Aafrins were not included in the English translation.

Udvada’s Vada Dasturji Saheb Dasturji Peshotan Mirza and my nephew Mobed

Zarir Dastoor have a copy of a wonderful book published by the eminent Scholar Ervad Tehmuras Deenshawji Anklesharia in Gujarati with prayers in Din Dabireh – Avesta script in 1883 – Farvashi Baajdharnaa Saathe Tathaa Aafringaano ane Aafrino Jand Hurufe. (Fravashi prayer with Baaj Dharnaa ritual and Aafringaans and Aafrins in Zand (Avesta) script). Ervad Anklesaria firmly believed in learning and reading all our prayers in Avesta script and also published a Khordeh Avesta book in Avesta script. I have scanned both these books and feel very fortunate to have them since I also believe in Avesta script.

Parsi Mobeds recite Aafrin-e-Ardaafravash, Buzorgaan and Hafta Amshaaspand after Jashan Kardaas.

They also recite Gahambar Aafrin during Gahambar days.

And on Farvardin Maah and Ardibehesht Roj, on the Rapithwan Ijwaani day (starting Rapithwan Geh again), they recite Aafrin-e-Rapithwan.

The above Ervad Anklesaria's Avesta script book contains all the above prayers written in Avesta script with comments in Gujarati,

In his introduction in Gujarati, he states: (I have translated it from Gujarati to English):

“I have taken Rapithwan Aafrin from an Iranian book.

Our Iranian Mobed Sahebs have made two parts of this Aafrin.

The Iranian Mobeds called the first part (verses 1 – 35) as Hamaazor-e-Dahmaan and recite this Aafrin only at the end of all Kardaas in a Jashan they perform.

They do not have any other Aafrin.

And they call the second part (starting again with verses 1 – 22) of this Aafrin as: Hamaazor-e-Farohar, or Hamaazor-e-Panjeh or Hamaazor-e-Farvardegaan, and they recite it only during the Farvardegaan days.”

The first time I learned about this Aafrin-e-Rapithwan being prayed always by our Irani Mobeds is when Jo Ann and I helped out our Humdins in Vancouver during 2007 Muktd Gatha days.

Iranian Mobed Jamsheed Jamshidi showed me this Aafrin in Persian script when we were comparing our Jashan prayers.

I was very grateful to Mobed Jamsheed for accompanying me in all 5 Gatha Jashans.

To clarify this point, I requested my mentor and helper, Dasturji Mobed Mehraban Firouzgary of Tehran to comment on this Iranian Mobeds custom of reciting Aafrin-e-Rapithwan.

As always, he was very gracious and promptly replied to me confirming this

custom followed by our Iranian Mobeds, for which I am very grateful.

He wrote:

“In our present Khorde Avesta books we do not have any item called Rapithwan Aafrin. However, we have the Hamazoor e Dahmaan as well as the Hamazoor e Farvardigan.

Out of this two, the former is recited amongst every Jashan recital (Be it for pleasant occasions or over a departed soul) after reciting the Aafringan(s)

The latter is, as pointed out, recited during the Farvardigan (Gatha) days (after reciting proper Aafringaans) about, 90% through Hamazoor e Dahman, upon which the Hamazoor e Farvardigan is recited, all through, and a return is made to finish off the unread portion of the Hamazoor e Dahman.

Both of the Hamazoor compilations are highly soul and bodily spirits enhancing, such that years back I took it upon myself to transliterate and translate both of them, from Farsi, into English. However, I have succeeded in doing that for Hamazoor e Dahman only (I have attached Dasturji Firouzgary’s transliteration and translation of Hamazoor e Dahman in PDF format)

This peaked my interest in knowing more about Aafrin-e-Rapithwan by using Kangaji’s word by word Gujarati translation. And to my surprise, in the part of the Hamazoor-e-Farvardigan, in its verses 15 – 22, I find whole Ahmaai Raeshcha prayer with commentary in Pazand sentence by sentence!

Kangaji stated: (translated into English by me from Gujarati)

“The portion of this Aafrin from Verse 15 through verse 22 is the Pahlavi Zand or “Sareh” (commentary) of the Avesta prayer “Ahmaai Raeshcha” sentence by sentence in Pazand language.”

I have read about such commentaries but never seen one such as this.

So, we will present these unique verses in next two weeklies. Today we present verses 15 – 18 below:

Ahmaai Raescha Prayer with its Pazand Commentary Part 1 of 2 - Aafrin-e-Rapithwan - Verses 15 – 18

(Please hear the attached .mp3 file for the recitation of all 8 verses)

(15) “Ahmaai Raeshcha Kharenascha”
Taan hami baad rayomand khorehomand
Keh taan klesh-kaaree tokhshaai rawaa baad.

(16) “Ahmaai tanwo drawataatem”
Taan hami baad aaneh tan-durost-rawshneh,
Keh taan der-zeewashneh, taan-naam under husrobee,
Va taan heer under aabaadee,
Va taan rawaan under ashoe baad.

(17) “Ahmaai tanwo wazdwareh”
Keh taan hami baad taneh wazdooree,
Keh taan parwaryaad taneh meh va weh.

(18) “Ahmaai tanwo werethrem”
Taan hami baad tan-peerozgaree ee tan,
Keh taan kaanm va kunashneh fraaroon warzeed.

Ahmaai Raescha Prayer with its Pazand Commentary Part 1 of 2 - Aafrin-e-Rapithwan - Verses 15 – 18 Translation.

(15) Original Avesta: “May God grant him splendor and glory”,

Pazand Sareh (Commentary): May he keep becoming full of luster and Khoreh (halo)
So that he can keep on taking care of himself and working hard!

(16) Original Avesta: “To him strength of the body”,

Pazand Sareh (Commentary): May he throughout his life have good health so that he will have long life, a good name with good fame, and have wealth full of achievement, and a soul with righteousness!

(17) Original Avesta: “To him health of body”,

Pazand Sareh (Commentary): May he have an excellent health so that he will have a strong and helpful body!

(18) Original Avesta: “To him conquest of the body”,

Pazand Sareh (Commentary): May he achieve control over his bodily

strength

so that he will obtain his righteous wishes and perform good deeds!

(Translation of Avesta by T. R. Sethna and of Pazand Sareh (commentary) from Ervad Kangaji's Gujarati *Khordeh Avesta* Translated Into English by me - Pages 471 – 473)

SPD Explanation:

1. Please note that Ahmaai Raeshcha prayer is taken from Yasna 68 Verse 11 and is the first of the 4 short prayers we pray at the end of many Khordeh Avesta prayers and it is full of best wishes for a person.

We have covered it in our WZSE #86 at:

<http://www.avesta.org/wzse/wzse86.pdf>

In fact, Udvada's Vada Dasturji Dasturji Khurshed blessed the newly elected Indian Prime Minister Shree Narendra Modi with this prayer in his office!

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