

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 136 – Who were all these Stalwarts of our Religion? - Corroboration from Aafrin-e-Rapithwan with Farvardin Yasht for a few of them!

Hello all Tele Class friends:

### **Afargaan, Farokshi, Satums, Baaj – Prayers for our dear departed ones**

I grew up in Tarapur in a Panthaki's family and on each anniversary occasions of dear departed ones of family or of our Tarapur Humdins, usually referred to as the day of Baaj,

the following four prayers were performed in the name of the departed:

Afargaan, Farokshi, 3 Satums and a Baaj.

During the Muktaad days, these prayers were performed for all the departed ones whose Behraa (vessels) were placed on the Muktaad tables.

In current scenario in India, especially during the Muktaad days, very few Atash Behrams/Agiaries perform all these prayers for all dear departed ones.

In North America, except for the major cities, only Afargaan and may be Satums are performed for the dear departed ones.

In these prayers, Farokshi is nothing but the Farvardin Yasht with Satum No Kardo in front of it.

In this WZSE, we will cover some very interesting facts about some contents of the Farvardin Yasht.

### **Farvardin Yasht Contents**

**Fravashi** is generally translated as the “Guardian Spirit/Angel.” It occurs for a total of 539 times in the extant Avesta. Of these, 353 times (65.5%) are in the Farvardin Yasht.

This Yasht (Veneration) is devoted to *Fravashi*.

It is the longest Yasht in the extant Avesta with 157 verses.

The Meher Yasht, in honor of Mithra, the deity of light and Pasture land, is the second with 145 verses,

and the Aban Yasht, in honor of Aredvi Sura Anahita, the River Deity is the third with 132 verses.

The Farvardin Yasht has two distinct parts. The part played by the Fravashis in the affairs of Ahura Mazda, the creation and the human life, is elaborated in verses 1-86

and the second part venerates by name each of the 261 male and female Zoroastrians of the first three generations,

who were the pioneers in spreading the Good Religion of Zarathushtra (verses

87-129 and 139-142).

It also venerates 18 Kings and heroes of the pre-Zarathushtrian times (verses 130-138).

Here in this Yasht and elsewhere in the Avesta,

**“Ashaunaam vanguhish suraao spentaao fravashayao yazamaidé.”**

**We remember with reverence the holy, good, brave, prosperity giving Fravashis of the holy people**

is the usual phrase repeated many many times accompanied by the name of the person as:

**“Stipoish Ravato ashaono fravashim yazamaidé.”**

meaning: .

**We worship the Fravashi of the holy Stipoish, the son of Ravato;**

**A total of 279 male and female worthies of Zoroastrian Religion are revered by name in Farvardin Yasht;**

**however, we may know only 10% of these historical stalwarts of our religion!**

**The obvious question is: Who are all these Stalwarts of our Religion?**

**More research is needed to identify these remaining ones and may be one of you can take up that challenge!**

**Aafrin-e-Rapithwan corroboration with Farvardin Yasht Names**

Out of 279 names in second part of Farvardin Yasht (FY), we know only a few and nowhere else in extant Avesta we find these other names.

But, the little known Aafrin-e-Rapithwan (AeR) mentions some of them.

Parsi Mobeds pray this Aafrin only once a year on the “Rapithwan Ijwaani” day, Farvardin Mahino and Ardibehesht Roj, when officially Rapithwan Geh starts again replacing “Beejee Haavan” (second Haavan) Geh on Hormuzd Roj.

However, as explained in our WZSEs #134 and 135, Irani Mobeds pray this Aafrin all the times at the end of all Jashans.

According to Ervad Tehmurasp Dinshahji Anklesaria's Gujarati Avesta script book printed in 1883:

"I have taken Rapithwan Aafrin from an Irani book. Irani Mobeds have created 2 parts of this Afrin:

The first part is called "Hamaazor-e-Dahmaan" by them and they recite this same Afrin for all Afringans and Jashans. They do not have any other Afrins. The second part of the Afrin Rapithwan is called Hamaazor-e-Farohar, Hamaazor-e-Panjeh, Hamaazor-e-Farvardegaan and is ONLY recited on Farvardegaan Days."

It is in this second part of Aafrin-e-Rapithwan that we find names of some ancient Zoroastrian religion stalwarts, some well known and others not known, mentioned similar to those in Farvardin Yasht.

Here are the comparisons:

a) Zarathushtra Spitama, Kavosh Vishtaasp, Jamaspa Havogava, Frashaoshtra Havogava, Asfandyaar Vishtaasp, and Maidhyo Maaongh Aaraastaya (AeR Part II 1,2,3,4,6,8 and FY 87,99,103,103,103,95).

b) However, there are 2 other names which are not known to us – Saenahe Ahum Stuta (AeR 5) and Varshne Hanghe-uruna (AeR 9). Both are found in FY 97 and 104, respectively:

Farvardin Yasht: Saenahé Ahum-Stuto ashaono fravashim yazamaidé. (FY97)  
We worship the holy Fravashi of Saena, the son of Ahum Stuta.

Aafrin-e-Rapithwan: Hamaazor Frohareh Saen-Ahum-Studaan Baad. (AeR Part II 5)

May we be united with the Farohar of Saena, the son of Ahum Stud.

Farvardin Yasht: Varshanahé Hanghaurushoish ashaono fravashim yazamaidé. (FY 104)

We worship the holy Fravashi of Varshnaha, the son of Hanghaaurusho.

Aafrin-e-Rapithwan: Hamaazor Frohareh Varshneh Hanghauroshaan Baad. (AeR Part II 9)

May we be united with the Farohar of Varshnaha, the son of

Hangha-urusho.

This is an interesting corroboration of these names in AeR from FY.

**And remember that the two prayers are separated by almost 2 millennia!**

### **SPD Explanation:**

1. Please note that Farvardin Yasht and Aafrin-e-Rapithwan are not well-known prayers among most of the Zarathushtri Mobeds and Humdins. However, they have some very interesting information.

2, We have covered many verses of Farvardin Yasht in our previous WZSEs and we plan to cover more verses from Farvardin Yasht in our future WZSEs.

**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 Jamyaat, Yatha Aafrinaamahi! (May it be so as we wish?)**

Love and Tandoorasti, Soli