

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 139 – Gatha Awareness and Appreciation Project -
Ushta Te Foundation Calendar - Ushtavaiti Gatha Yasna 46 Verses 6 - 7

Hello all Tele Class friends:

Dasturji Mobed Mehraban Firouzgary, a well respected senior Tehran Anjuman Mobed, a scholar and my mentor and a very good friend, commented after our last weekly about the origin of the word Pazand which is the language we refer to for many of our prayers like Aafrens, Nirangs, etc. He wrote:

“Please, refrain from including me amongst Scholars, to any degree. I simply use my knowledge of Persian and the little PaZand (May I continue my comments over your earlier explanation of this word as well? In my understanding the word comes from Paa = foot and Zand standing for Pahlavi/Pehlvi translations / compilations of Avesta. While Zand formed the main body of the compilation, Pazand were the Foot Notes, written over the sides and bottom of the Scriptural manuscripts) that I know.”

This is a very interesting information from Dasturji that I did not know and I want to thank him for educating us.

At the Iranshah Udvada Utsav (IUU), a unique calendar designed and published by the Ushta Te Foundation, Ahmedabad, Gatha Study Circle was launched by Vada Dasturji Dastur Khurshed. FEZANA has created a poster for this calendar (please click on the PDF file link: http://fezana.org/wp-content/uploads/FEZANA_Ushta_Te_Poster.pdf).

Last week, I was totally surprised to see this calendar in mail sent as a gift by my very good friend Behram Pastakia. I also found that my nephew Mobed Zarir Dastoor and his wife Rukshana have also bought a copy of it for me which they want to send it to me with someone coming from Mumbai to FL!

I am at a loss for words for the generosity of Behram Bhai and Zarir/Rukshana and want to thank them with all my heart for their generous gift. The calendar is proudly displayed in my study!

In 2014, the Gatha Study Circle, launched into a unique project to arouse curiosity amongst the Parsis especially the youth in the timeless message of Prophet Zarathushtra as articulated in the holy Gathas. After much brain-storming, the group thought of powerful visuals as an appropriate means to achieve its objectives. It was felt that a few selected stanzas of these sacred texts could be depicted in a pictorial form and a calendar could be designed both in English and Gujarati, so that the messages contained in these sacred verses reach out to a large number of Zoroastrians.

The group got in touch with Mr. Rustom Daboo, another Zoroastrian from Ahmedabad now settled in Baroda, who has been silently involved in studying and propagating the Gatha. Mr. Rustom Daboo is the grandson of our great scholar, Principal of the M. F. Cama Athornan Institute and appointed as the Dasturji of the Wadia Atash Behram in Mumbai, Dasturji Khurshed S. Daboo. Rustomji himself has authored a book on the Zoroastrian religion and is

a self-taught painter in his spare time. He is known for his inspirational paintings. At the first suggestion, he picked up the challenge to make inspirational paintings illustrating the selected Verses from the Gathas. After almost a year, Rustomji came up with a magnificent set of six paintings which are now available for wider circulation.

The second idea was conceived to make these even more accessible to the common Parsi home. The group cleverly designed a calendar such that both the English and Gujarati translations of the selected stanzas are provided in an unobtrusive manner, and reading them does not interfere with the visuals. It was decided to use Irach Taraporewala's and Piloo Nanavaty's translations of the Gathas, which the study circle found relatively easier to understand.

Please note that the Gatha Study Circle used the English translations of the Verses used in their calendar from Dr. Irach J. S. Taraporewala's English book – *The Divine Songs of Zarathushtra* which can be accessed at the FEZANA website:

<https://fezana.org/the-divine-songs-of-zarathushtra-by-irach-j-s-taraporewala/>

Their Gujarati translations are from Dr. Taraporewala's Gujarati Gatha book – *Asho Zarathushtra naa Gaathaa – Asal Avasta – Saral Gujarati Tarjumaa saatheh* – printed in Mumbai in 1947.

We are presenting from this calendar the painting and the Gatha Ushtavaiti Yasna 46.6 for the months of July – August, 2016. (Please see the attached photo)

For this painting, Rustomji wrote:

“Yasna 46.6 “Righteous is he who is a friend of Truth. If the Truthful helps not to change and protect the Wicked, he rills with the Lie.”

The Light Of Truth is shown flashing out in this painting, signifying removal of darkness or wickedness, and Meher Yazad, who is the FRIEND OF TRUTH – ASHA, is shown accompanied by Sraosh Yazad and Rashne Yazad.”

We have also presented the next Verse, Yasna 46.7 which is none other than the first Verse of the popular Kusti prayer Kem Naa Mazdaa! This is to illustrate that most of our Khordeh Avesta prayers are composed from Yasna, Visperad, Vendidad and Yashts.

With this as the background, let us present these two Verses from Ushtavaiti Gatha, Yasna 46.6-7:

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

**(6) At yastem noit naa isemo aayaat,
Drujo hvo daamaan haithyaa gaat;
Hvo zi dregvaao yeh dregvaiteh vahishto,**

**Hvo ashavaa yahmaai ashavaa fryo;
Hyat daenaao paouruyaa daao Ahuraa!**

**(7) Kem naa Mazdaa mavaiteh paayum dadaat,
Hyat maa dregvaao didareshataa aenangheh,
Anyem thwahmaat Aathraschaa Mananghaschaa;
Yayaa shyaothanaaish ashem thraoshtaa Ahuraa;
Taanm moi daastvaam daenayaa fraavaochoaa.**

**Gatha Awareness and Appreciation Project - Ushta Te
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7 Translation:**

**(6) But if the strong one helps not thus to change the wicked,
He himself shall get ensnared;
Who lets Untruth exist without protest,
Himself becomes supporter of Untruth;
Righteous is he who loves the Truthful man;
This is the Law since Souls were first sent down.**

**(7) Whom shalt Thou send, O Mazdaa, to protect
Us all, when Untruth threatens us with hate,
Other than Thine own Fire and Thy Love?
When both these are aroused within our hearts,
Ashaa shall be fulfilled, O Ahuraa;-
May my soul realize this Sacred Truth!**

(From Free English Rendering by Dr. Irach J. S. Taraporewala – *Divine Songs of Zarathushtra* – Pages 591 – 594)

SPD Explanation:

1. Ushta Te Foundation and Rustomji have done a wonderful job in creating these 6 paintings and the calendar.

It is a collector's item and all Zarathushtri homes should proudly display it.

We hope they continue this tradition and keep on printing such calendars in years to come!

2. Zarathushtra in his Gatha Yasna 46.6 distinctly defines a Righteous and a Wicked person!

Just being righteous and not standing up to the Wicked is not being Righteous!

3. If you know Gujarati, Taraporewala's Gujarati Gatha book is excellent for the simple translation for a common person. It comes in a small size book. I highly recommend to those who can read and understand Gujarati.

4. Thinking about Righteous and Wicked persons, the very famous Hindi song: "Aye Maalik tere Bandeh Ham" from the film: "Do Aankhen Baaraah Haath" comes to mind, especially the line: "Neki per chaleh, aur badi she taleh" – "we walk on the path of righteousness and shun the path of Wickedness"!

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

