

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 148 – Dasturji Nowrooz Minocher-Homji Jashan Book with translations - Ardaafraavash Aafrin Verses 18 - 23

Hello all Tele Class friends:

Last week, we presented Verses 15 through 17 from Dasturji Minocher-Homji book: Jashan Prayers with Understanding - published by Roshan and Rohinton Rivetna, ZAC Chicago, from the notes taken by them from Dasturji Nowrooz Minocher-Homji's lectures. We owe a lot of gratitude to all ZAC Chicago Humdins who attended these lectures, to our own Mobedyar Bomi Damkevala for recording all lectures, to our own Kayomarsh Mehta for imparting these lectures to his Religious classes and lastly to the amazing Zarathushtri couple Roshan and Rohinton Rivetna for publishing this book.

Rohinton Rivetna in this book states the main reason to publish this book: to bring the meaning of our beautiful Jashan prayers to our Humdins who attend these Jashans and do not understand what is being prayed. When I was a small boy in my little village of Tarapur, my dad, Mobed Pirojshah Kawasji Dastoor, was the Village Panthaky and we had Parabh Jashans in the Agiary one day each month plus other Jashans. We had a full house for all Jashans in Agiary and most of the Humdins would be praying during the Jashans and some even follow the prayers and recite some familiar verses and Yatha and Ashems with the Mobeds in lower tones. There was no chit chats during the Jashan. And when the Joti started the three Aafrins, the Raathwai after completing his Baj, will take some Rakhyaa (ashes) in the Chamach and starting with the Joti and the other Mobeds, he would offer Rakhyaa to all Humdins in the Agiary. This was a wonderful custom which very regrettably with many other such customs have gone by the wayside.

When we were attending the Muktaad Gatha prayers in the San Jose Dar-e-Meher, praying with my Ex-MFCAI very good friend Mobed Kobad Jamshed, we restarted this custom of Rakhyaa offering after the Jashan and all Humdins really appreciated it. I have attached two photos of this Rakhyaa offering custom to this article.



So, today, we will present the last Verses 18 – 23 of the Ardaafraresh Aashra from the same book with Dasturji's unique translation.

I would like to repeat the introduction from the last weekly and apologize for the same but it is worth noting:

In our regular Jashan, we pray three Aafrins at the end: Aafrin-e-Ardaafravash, Aafrin-e-Buzorgan and Aafrin-e-Hafta Amshaashpands. All three Aafrins are full of blessings, wishes, and wonderful exaltations of all the good creations of Dadar Ahura Mazda.

Dasturji Nowrooz Minocher-Homji (please see the attached photo) was the son of our MFCAI Bhanter (Religious Prayers) teacher, Ervad Dinshawji Minocher-Homji, fondly called Ervad Saheb! Dasturji together with Mobed Maneckshaw Panthaki, father of Brigadier Mobed Behram and Mobed Gustad Panthaki, were in the first 1923 batch of MFCAI, originally started in Jogeshwari before moved to the palatial current building built from a munificence sum donated by Behdin Meherwanji Mancherji Cama, in memory of his dear father Behdin Mancherji Faramji Cama, and so the name MFCAI.

In 1983, our Chicago Zarathushtri Humdins led by the greatest NA Zarathushtri, Rohinton Rivetna, built the first NA Dar-e-Meher from scratch. In spite of building a place of worship for them, they somehow lacked the spiritual satisfaction they all yearned. Out of many ideas put forth, one of them got instant acceptance from all: to invite Dasturji Nowrooz Minocher-Homji to Chicago for a series of religious presentations. For three months from July - September 1984, Dasturji gave 40 lectures on topics ranging from understanding our prayers and ceremonies, etc.

At the end of these lectures, Dasturji spent several evenings on the Jashan ceremony using his booklets: My Prayer Guides, Books 1 - 4. These guides gave Jashan Prayers in English followed by their translations in Dasturji's unique style. Finally, in 2011, Roshan and Rohinton Rivetna wanted to print a book on the Jashan ceremony with translation from these Dasturji's booklets. They sought and received my help to review, proof read and fill in several missing sections. The final result is the beautiful book: Jashan Prayers with Understanding, published by Zoroastrian Association of Chicago. ([please see the attached book cover](#)). Anyone wishing to get a copy of the book, please contact Roshan or Rohinton Rivetna or myself.

So today, we present to you Verses 18 - 23 from the Aafrin of Ardaafravash from this book with translation by Dasturji .

Dasturji Minocher-Homji Jashan Book - Aafrin-e-Ardaafravash - Verses 18 - 22

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

(18) Frokhihaa-tar Ravaan oi an-aoshah,
key ez een geti seej-mand,
vesh-dard, -va pur-dard,
an-yaarey, mino-yaan a-khaan, a-sej,
a Patyaar, fra-taraft.

(19) Oi an-aoshah ravaan-raa,
Vahisht-jaaeh gaah-baher,
oi Garoth-maan paat-daheshneyh baad!

(20) Ayaaft-khvaastar-hom ke har kaar-e kerfeh,
keh oi an-aoshah rawaan pa geti kard,

aan-cheyh-pas vadard oi hamaa kunim,
hamaa, o-raa, pa Ashahi-ee Ravaan bey-rasaad!

(21) Pargast gunaah ayov frod
va aoj-mandi jasteyh-bood,
ke pa geti pa vazaa-rashneyh,
choon ke aavaayast kardan oi yasneyh,
ke pa een myazd roshni-daar
va yazashneyh kerdaari myazd raayini-dar
aedar yaad baad!

(22) Ayaaft-khvaastar-hom
baher zindagaani
keh oraa Daadaar Ahuramazda
bar-henid estaad!

(23) Asho beyd deyr-zi,
Atha jamyaat, yatha aa-frinaami!

Dasturji Minocher-Homji *Jashan Book* - Aafrin-e-Ardaafravash - Verses 18 -
22 Translation:

(18) Thrice blessed is that immortal Soul,
that has departed from this care-worn world,
full of pricks and pain, with no friends to share them,
and 'crossed over' to the Spiritual Existence,
free from cares and conflicts and discord!

(19) May the immortal Soul attain,
as a consequence of its Good Life,
that degree of the Highest Height
of the Spiritual Experience - viz. GAROTH-MAAN!

(20) This my earnest wish and prayer:
May each and every Deed of Merit
that the departed Soul has performed,
during its sojourn in this world,
and those that we have been performing, after its demise,
contribute towards the Righteousness
and Merit of the respective Souls!

(21) May we well remember that
human failings and misdeeds - minor or major,

that have grown in gravity, by sheer apathy for Virtue, must be eliminated, nay, offset or compensated for by:

- (a) intelligent fellowship,
- (b) the offering of myazhd - the enlightened presentation of 'fruits and flowers,' revealing fragrant lessons for Dedication and Self Sacrifice,
- (c) Self-purification, and
- (d) the Loving Service :

May these be remembered always for Good!

(22) This is my earnest wish and prayer :
may the Supreme Being grant the Soul its need
justly assigned to all the Souls!

(23) May we live virtuously and well!
and long may we live!

May it be so as I have prayed for!

(Translation from Dasturji Nowrooz Minocher-Homji's above mentioned *Jashan book* – Pages 125 – 128)

SPD Comments

1. This Dasturji Jashan Book is unique in its interpretations of the Jashan prayers and we should thank Roshan and Rohinton for spearheading the initiative to print this book.

Again for a copy of it, please contact Roshan at: rrrohinton@aol.com or Rohinton at: rohinton@aol.com or me: dastur@comcast.net.

The donation for the book is \$10. which goes to the ZAC Chicago funds.

If you need a copy of the book, please contact Roshan Rivetna directly with your \$10. donation and your mailing address.

2. Dasturji always had a knack of expressing in his unique style the translations of our prayers. And this book is no exception.

3. I strongly recommend acquiring this book and reading it completely to get the essence of our wonderful Jashan Prayers.

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

