

## **Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 159 – Iranshah Naayab Dastoor Navar - Ex-MFCAl Students Behdin Pasban Refresher Course and Meherwanjee Cama Monajat By Kantilal Upadhyay Saheb**

Hello all Tele Class friends:

Greetings from the Udvada Station beautiful Bungalow Eruch Baug!

Naayab Dastoor Darayas' Navar:

Yesterday, Roj Khordad Maah Dae 1385 YZ, 5/19/2016, Iranshah Naayab Dastoor Darayas' Navar took place with usual decorum, with over 30 Mobeds and over 100+ Humdins present at the august occasion in Iranshah!

Yozdaathregar Mobeds Dara and Kobad Pundole assisted the Navaria. Even my classmate Dastoorji Feroze Kotwal was also present. It took about 3 hours for the whole ceremony. Darayas has to go through three more days of ceremonies before he will be called Ervad. We wish him well throughout his life!

### **Ex-MFCAl Students Refresher and Workshop:**

7 to 77 years was the range of ages of the Ostas and Ervads and "Behdin Pasbans" for the ex-MF Cama Institute Students' 15th Refresher Program and 8th Residential Workshop held over 2 weeks from May 3rd through May 15th at the Small Otlaa of Cama Baug! I was privileged to be invited by their organizer Ervad Dr. Cyrus Dastoor, my nephew, to speak to them. I gave 3 Power Point Presentations on: Ashem, Yatha, Vispa Humata, Chaar Deesaa no Namaskaar and Hoshbam, Observations of Dr. Sir Ervad JJ Modi on his tour to Iran in 1925, and Understanding Farvardin Yasht.

I thoroughly enjoyed the experience of spending whole 2 and 1/2 days with the group and witnessed the entire daily routine from morning Hum Bandagi to the nightly Boi Ceremony with home made 3 meals!!

The first few years this Refresher Course was conducted in the "aalishaan" (magnificent) building of MFCAl where we all spent 9 wonderful years of our lives under the tutelage of amazing self sacrificing teachers like Daruwalla, Kantilal, Sanjana, Sidhwa, Patel, Dabu Sahebs who gave their whole lives in the service of the young budding Mobeds of the time! We all will be eternally grateful and in their debt for their selfless service to the community!

But for some unknown flimsy excuse, the Trustees and the management refused the ex-students to use the school premises for later Refresher Courses! The whole huge building as is has only one teacher and may be one part time student at present, the building structure is languishing in no maintenance mode, the doors, windows, rooms need instant repairs and the management

refuses to use it for this community service!?! WHY???

And we ex-students are reluctant to even visit it since it brings tears to our eyes!

And what must the pious soul of our magnanimous benefactor Beheshta-nashin Meherwanji Mancherji Cama be wondering what happen to his 'DREAM' school from which a number of Dastoor/Mobeds stalwarts graduated?

With Camaji in mind, we present today a Monajat written in his honor by none other than our Gujarati Teacher/Poet Kantilal Upadhyay which we used to sing after our nightly prayers when selected by our duty teacher. It is a wonderful tribute to this magnanimous soul who built a major religious institute:

Ex-MFCAI Students Behdin Pasban Refresher Course and Meherwanjee Cama Monajat By Kantilal Upadhyay Saheb:

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

Sneha thaki vandan sahu kareeyeh!  
Sneha thaki vandan sahu kareeyeh!

Pyaaaa Caamaajee, Hamaaraah,  
Pyaaaa Caamaajee!

Oopakaaroh kadeeyeh na veesareeyeh,  
Oopakaaroh kadeeyeh na veesareeyeh,

Pyaaaa Caamaajee, Hamaaraah,  
Pyaaaa Caamaajee!

Weedhyaa daan hamoneh aapyaah,  
Agyaan naa andhaarah kaapyaah,  
Dharma tanaa oondaah moola sthaapyaah,  
Dharma tanaa oondaah moola sthaapyaah,

Pyaaaa Caamaajee, Hamaaraah,  
Pyaaaa Caamaajee!

Dharma naava neh doobattoo jaanee,  
Satwar tehnaah thayaah sukaanee,  
Taaryuh naava weenaah kai haaneeh,  
Taaryuh naava weenaah kai haaneeh,

Pyaraa Caamaajee, Hamaaraah,  
Pyaraa Caamaajee!

Dharma peetaah chhoh aapa hamaaraah,  
Varasaavoh tama aasheesh pyaraah,  
Dharma tanaah ujjavala seetaaraah,  
Dharma tanaah ujjavala seetaaraah,

Pyaraa Caamaajee, Hamaaraah,  
Pyaraa Caamaajee!

Sneha thaki vandan sahu kareeyeh!  
Sneha thaki vandan sahu kareeyeh!

Pyaraa Caamaajee, Hamaaraah,  
Pyaraa Caamaajee!

## Ex-MFCAI Students Behdin Pasban Refresher Course and Meherwanjee Cama Monajat By Kantilal Upadhyay Saheb Translation:

Let us all bow our heads with love!  
Let us all bow our heads with love!  
To our own beloved Caamaajee!

We will never forget all his acts of kindness to us!  
Of our own beloved Caamaajee!

He gave us the gift of knowledge,  
He demolished the darkness of ignorance,  
He established the deep roots of religion in us!  
Our own beloved Caamaajee!

He saw drowning of the ship of our religion,  
Right away he became the Captain of this ship,

He saved the ship without any harm right away!  
Our own beloved Caamaajee!

Thou art our religious guide!  
May you always shower the loving blessings on us!  
Thou art the shining star of our community!  
Our own beloved Caamaajee!

(Monajat written by none other than our Gujarati teacher, poet par excellence late Shreeji Kantilal M. Upadhyay, translated by me in English)

## SPD Explanation:

1. THE VISION – (From booklet: The M. F. Cama Athornan Institute Beckons You)

“Mr. Meherwanji Muncherji Cama, realized long ago that the members of the Athornan Community had considerably degenerated materially and intellectually and their remuneration and prospects as priests were so poor that it made their sacred calling unattractive to the educated and intelligent members of the community. He also realized that their education was so much neglected, their intellectual attainments so low and their qualification for advancing the spiritual welfare of the Zoroastrian community so poor, misconceived and misdirected that they never could command that respect and regard which as the Spiritual Leaders and guides of the Community they were entitled to expect.”

“He wrote a letter dated 12/08/1912 to the Trustees of the N. M. Wadia Charities, Bombay, to take up the question of amelioration of the Parsi Priests, stating:

“We have all sorts of Funds and Institutions of various kinds. They have been and are well supported by our Community and to supplement them will do little good. What I do humbly suggest to the Trustees is to do something that has been so sorely needed and if its object is fairly fulfilled will have lasting effect upon the social, moral and religious welfare of the Parsis”. (see attached file)

“The M.F.Cama Athornan Institute is, by itself, a testimony to the vision, foresight and greatness of its founder. Seth Mehewanji Muncherji Cama who saw and recognized the great need in our Community of enlightened full-fledged Yozdathregar ‘Mobeds’ who could service the spiritual needs of our Zoroastrian community. His vision was to sow seeds of religious

knowledge in the minds and hearts of the young in order that they could become enlightened priests.”

“Meherwanji felt that if above objective was fulfilled, it would have a lasting effect upon the social, moral and religious welfare of the Parsees and as such, our Institute has produced several learned scholars who have gone out and indeed been of great help and guidance to members of our community.”

2. Meherwanji founded the Institute on Tuesday March 22nd 1923 in memory of his father Muncherji Faramji Cama and commenced his ‘Dream’ in Jogeshwari and later shifted to this magnificent structure in Andheri.

3. When I was a student of MFCAI from 1945 – 1954, we had over 70 students and 14 teachers. And now, in a dilapidated, unattended and left to the environs, the school has one teacher and a part time student! **And the management refuses its use to its own ex-students!?! What an ending of the magnificent ‘DREAM’ of Camaji?**

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

Love and Tandoorasti, Soli

**WITH THE BLESSINGS OF LATE SETH MERWANJI  
MUNCHERJI CAMA – OUR BENEFACTOR,**

**The EX-STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION of  
THE M.F. CAMA ATHORNAN INSTITUTE**

***Takes great pleasure to announce***

**15<sup>th</sup> RESIDENTIAL REFRESHER PROGRAMME  
FOR OSTAS AND ERVADS**

**&**

**8<sup>th</sup> RESIDENTIAL WORKSHOP  
FOR "BEHDIN PASBAANS"**



The Ex-Students' Association of the M.F. Cama Athornan Institute is organizing 15<sup>th</sup> Residential Refresher Programme for the Ostas and Ervads & 8<sup>th</sup> Residential Workshop for "Behdin Pasbaans" from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at Cama Baug - (Small ota), Charni Road Junction, Grant Road, Mumbai, for providing training and practice of bhanter and ceremonies, for explaining the meanings and significance of different prayers and ceremonies, as well as for imparting information by way of questions-answers, lectures by Guest Speakers, Films and Audio -Visual shows etc. on interesting topics and matters raised by young and aged on various customs and practices. We welcome registration from both - Athornan and Behdin participants of Mumbai as well as all over India and abroad in large numbers.

The programme is totally **FREE OF COST** & open to persons of all ages, and includes boarding, lodging, supply of books, study materials, etc.

**For Admission and further information , contact:-**

- **Er. Keki Ravji - 9820471252, 23871783 - Cama Baug Agiary, Grant Road.**
- **Mr. Godrej Fanibanda - 9820330753.**  
**For Inquires Contact ☎.: 22000831 , 65069313**

**LAST DATE OF RECEIVING ENTRIES: 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2016.**



THE VISIONARY



SETH MEHERWANJI MUNCHERJI CAMA



*The M. F. Cama Athornan Institute*

*Beckons You*



## THE VISION

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