

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 164 – Homage To Gathas - Staota Yasna - Yasna 55 continued - Verses 4 - 6

Hello all Tele Class friends:

An Eulogy to Dr. Behdin Behman Behdin Hormusji Irani

Last Saturday, June 18th 2016, a gentle giant of a Humdin (6 ft. 3 in.), Dr. Behman (fondly called Bomsji) passed away in Tampa.

He was the Dad of our own ZATAMBAY stalwart Anahita Hoshedar Tamboli.

He was an ophthalmologist in Mumbai and London and was well-known for his expertise in eyes.

He conducted a free eye clinic with his partner in a small Gujarat village for 22 consecutive years!

His wife Dolly and his family and his friends have lost a wonderful man and he will be missed by all!

We offer our sincerest condolences to the family and wish his soul eternal peace in Garo Demana (the House of Songs)!

[Attached is an audio recording of my eulogy at his Paaydust \(funeral\) ceremony.](#)

Staota Yasna – Yasna 14 - 58

21 Nasks: Gathic, Datic and Had-Maanthrik

The legend tells us that our holy Prophet Zarathushtra compiled all the knowledge known at the time in 21 Nasks (volumes).

They were divided into 3 groups of 7 each.

They were:

- Gathic or Staota Yasna containing hymns;
- Datic meaning legal;
- and Hadha-Maantrik meaning other insightful thoughts.

Alexander The Accursed (356 – 323 BCE) destroyed all our Avesta of Hakhamanian time.

King Vologases I of Parthian Dynasty (reign: 51 – 78 AD) tried to collect all the available remnants of them.

Finally, they were all revived in Sassanian times but again completely destroyed by the Arabs.

An outline of all the 21 Nasks is given in Dinkard (a 10th century CE Pahlavi text), an encyclopedia of the Zoroastrian Religion beliefs and customs written by a number of authors in post-Arab invasion Iran.

In current times, it was thought that except Yasna, Visperad, Vendidad and Khordeh Avesta, all the remaining Naskas were lost.

However, lately, scholars believe that a part of the Staota Yasht Nask, Staota Yasna, is intact in the 72 Haas (chapters) of our Yasna.

Its 14 – 58 Haas comprise the Staota Yasna (Book by Kotwal and Boyd referred below – page 22) which contains all 5 Gathas of Zarathushtra, 7 Haas of Yasna Haptanghaaiti and other

Haas of Yasna within its total 72 Haas.

In this Staota Yasna Haas, Yasna Haa 55 is particularly referred to as Staota Yasna (words of praise and worship), written in Gathic Avesta.

In our 162 WZSEs, we have presented many verses from Zarathushtra's Gathas. However, we have not covered any prayers which gives Homage to the Gathas.

According to Kangaji, Staota Yasna Haa 55 is the Homage to Gathas.

Dasturji Firoze Kotwal and Prof. James Boyd, in their book: A Persian Offering – The Yasna: A Zoroastrian High Liturgy, on page 116, describes the contents of this Staota Yasna Haa 55 as follows:

“Reciting alone, the zot celebrates the entire compilation of the five Gathas. All that we are and have is dedicated to the holy hymns, which are the very food and clothing of our souls. These hymns are the Bestower of all rewards in the next world, and in this life are the source of good wisdom, righteousness, charity and knowledge. They are worthy of study, to be learned and taught, the very makers of renovation.”

This Staota Yasna Haa 55 has 6 verses. In our last WZSE #163, we covered the first 3 verses of this Haa.

Today we will cover in WZSE #164 the last three verses, Verses 4 – 6 of Staota Yasna, Yasna 55:

So here is the last 3 verses of the Staota Yasna Haa from Yasna 55 Verses 4 – 6:

Homage To Gathas - Staota Yasna - Yasna 55 continued - Verses 4 – 6

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

**(4) Vîspem ashavanem aya ratufritaa
hvaavayanghem jasentem paiti-baraahi
humataaishcha hûkhtaishcha hvarshtaishcha.**

Ashemcha vohucha mano yazamaidéh.

Gaathao Spentaao ratukhshathraao ashaonîsh yazamaidéh.

(5) Staota yésnya yazamaidéh

yaa daataa anghéush paouruyéhyaa

maremna verezimna sakhshemna saachayamna

dadaraana paitishaana paitishmaremna

framaremna fraayazemna frashem vasna ahûm dathaana.

(6) Baghaanm staotanaanm yésnyanaanm yazamaidéh,

staotanaanm yésnyanaanm yazamaidéh,

frasraothremcha framarethremcha fragaathremcha fraayashtîmcha.

Yenghe haataanm aa-at yesneh paiti vangho,
Mazdaao Ahuro vaethaa ashaat hachaa
Yaaonghaam-chaah, Taans-chaah taos-chaah yazamaideh.

Homage To Gathas - Staota Yasna - Yasna 55 continued - Verses 4 – 6

(4) And may'st thou, O Asha! who abidest within the Gathas,
give to every holy man who comes with this prayer for a blessing,
and endeavoring to help himself, according to his good thoughts, and words, and
deeds.

(5) We are therefore worshipping both the divine Righteousness and the Good
Mind,

and the bountiful Gathas, that rule as the leading chants within the times and the
seasons of the holy ritual order.

(6) And we worship the Praises of the Yasna
which were the production of the ancient world,
those which are now recollected and put in use,
those which are now learned and taught,
those which are being held in mind, and so repeated,
those remembered and recited, and those worshipped,
and thus the ones which further the world through grace in its advance.

And we worship the part(s) of the Praises of the Yasna,
and their recitation as it is heard, even their memorized recital,
and their chanting, and their offering as complete.

**(From YASNA 55 - THE WORSHIP OF THE GATHAS AS CONCLUDED, THAT OF THE
STAOTA YESNYA AS BEGINNING.**

http://www.ishwar.com/zoroastrianism/holy_zend_avesta/yasna/yasna_55.html

From English translation by James Darmesteter, Dhalla, B. N. Dhabhar, L.
Mills, J. H. Peterson, C. Bartholomae taken from <http://www.avesta.org/avesta.html>)

**Indeed Ahura Mazda, the Wise God,
knows better any person among men and women for their veneration.
We, on our part, venerate all such men and women. (Jafarey Translation)**

SPD Explanation:

1. This is a wonderful Homage to those Holy Songs composed in poetry by none other
than our own Vakhshur-e-Vakhshuraan Zarathushtra Spitamaan!

2. It once again emphasizes (as our previous WZSEs # 56, 57, and 58 present) the
need for all of us to sing the Gathas daily rather than each one of them recited by us
only once a year on the corresponding Gatha Day.

3. Dr. Purviz Kolsawala in his Ph.D. thesis states:

“The Gathas gives us courage, success, happiness and a happy energy which keeps the body and the mind free from sins, increase in Divine progress, increase in faith, asking for help, puts the energy in the body on the level plane, gives good Yazatic energy, the intelligence of Vohûmana's Baodhang (good intelligence), clothes of righteousness, lawful energy and giver of knowledge.”

4. He further states:

“The prayers of the prophet which are Staota Yasna are worthy of the strength of the mind, worthy of following the tarikat (prescribed prayers and rituals), worthy of achieving the benefits, worthy of teaching the laws, worthy of teaching the benefits to others, worthy of maintaining the goodness while praying, worthy of keeping the attention while reciting the names, worthy of study and worthy of leading to Frashokerétî. “

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