

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 166 – 50 Years ago in a Court Room in Batavia, Ohio on July 2nd - Zarathushtra's Vahishtoisht Gatha - Yasna 53 Verse 5!

Hello all Tele Class friends:

As the painters were just finishing up and picking up their wares, we all entered the newly renovated Batavia (near Cincinnati, Ohio) Court Room for our Civil Wedding Ceremony on 7/2/1966, the first one in that renovated Court Room!

Jo Ann and I and our families and friends on both sides witnessed our wedding in that Court Room. My dear late brother Ervad Kawasji Dastoor with his wife Amy and two children Ronny and Anahita were the only family on my side but I have a number of closed friends from college and Procter & Gamble Co. where I worked and from association in Northwestern University, Evanston and some of my Cricket friends from Cincinnati and Louisville, KY (I was the Captain at the time of Louisville Cricket Club).

No one on both sides of families gave us even a year for our marriage. Many of them lost bets made with Jo Ann! And here we are 50 years from that fateful happy day, celebrating our 50th Wedding Anniversary with our Twin Daughters and 5 Grand Children on July 2nd 2016!

Attached please find our wedding photo with witnesses and also our whole family photo.

Since we do not know where we are going, thanks to the surprise being sprung on us by twins and grand children, I am sending this WZSE #166 out today to cover next week.

As it happens in all our marriage lives, we had many ups and downs but thank God we survived all of them and are lucky to celebrate this Golden Anniversary with our family and friends from ZATAMBAY, Orlando CFG and ZAF, later on, on July 10th and July 24th both in Orlando, the latter one is the famous home cooked Orlando Gahambar on banana leaves! We all invite all of you for the Gahambar!!

Our very good Jewish friends of long long time, Sandy and Tom Green, invited us to attend their son's wedding in Cincinnati many years ago. And Jo Ann and I were so thrilled to witness the first real Jewish wedding (we have yet to see the movie: Fiddler On The Roof!); They had a scroll for all attendees. At home, we read it and liked it so much that we framed it and it has been ever since hanging in our living rooms of three homes with our family photos.

On this our Golden Anniversary, we would like to share it with you all as follows:

“The Art of Marriage (author unknown)

A good marriage must be created.
In the marriage the little things are the big things.....

It is never being too old to hold hands.
It is remembering to say “I love you” at least once each day.
It is never going to sleep angry.

It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives.
It is standing together facing the world.
It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family.
It is speaking words of appreciation and
demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.
It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.
It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.
It is a common search for the good and beautiful.

**It is not only marrying the right person -
It is being the right partner.”**

What a wonderful poem to think about in our everyday married lives!!

Wedding Bells are already ringing all over North America with the prayers, blessings, admonitions and advices by the performing priests in all religions. In our Zarathushtri scriptures, we have none other than our own Vakhshur-e-Vakhshuraan (Prophet of Prophets) Zarathustra Spitamaan addressing his daughter at her wedding and giving advice. So, today, on our 50th Anniversary, we will share His words of advice!

Holy Gathas are the only writings attributed to our Holy Prophet Zarathushtra. They are composed in poetry (Gathas meaning songs) and have been preserved through the faithful learning by rote by our priests through ages.

There are 5 Gathas comprising of 17 songs. The last Gatha **Vahishtoisht** is the song 17 consisting of 9 verses.

Gatha Vahishtoisht, Yasna Ha 53, means Best Wishes! It is the 5th and final Gatha of Vakhshur-e-Vakhshuraan Zarathustra Spitamaan.

Dr. Purviz Kolsawalla, in his Thesis, Kolsawalla CD, Page 931, states:

“This Gatha is the culmination of the epic saga of Zarathustra's divine mission on this earth. After the initial trials and tribulations, he had finally succeeded in spreading his message to **entire** humanity. People who had initially opposed him, had learnt the sublime beauty of his message and had whole heartedly accepted the principles of the Good Conscience. His disciples were doing a yeoman's work in spreading his message and now he felt that his earthly mission was drawing to an end. He further encouraged them to continue with the good work and his admonitions apply to his followers even today as it applied to his immediate disciples in the distant past.”

If Jo Ann and I and all you married couples ponder over the above words, we all can see our struggles throughout our married lives and finally enjoying our lives with our children, grand children and families and friends!

Dr. Kolsawalla further states:

“The second half of this Gatha deals with the subject of marriage. Zarathustra gave his blessings to the marriage of his youngest daughter Pouruchisti to Jaamaaspa Hvogava who ultimately became his successor. The message to all the future brides and bridegrooms emphasizes the Zarathustrian concept of a family as a basic human social unit. The admonition is to remember their duty to Ahura Mazda and His Corporeal Creation.”

Today we will present our Vakhshur-e-Vakhshuraan (Prophet of Prophets) Zarathushtra Spitamaan’s advice at the wedding ceremony of his youngest daughter, Pouruchisti to his successor Jamaspa Hvogava, to all married couples everywhere!

His advice to Pouruchisti and Jamaspa and to all married couples everywhere is as good today 3500+ years later as it was then!

So here is Vahishtoisht Gatha, Yasna 53 Verse 5:

Zarathushtra’s Advice to marrying couples at his daughter Pouruchisti wedding - Vahishtoisht Gatha - Yasna 53 Verse 5:

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

(5) (Zarathushtra advises marrying couples:)
Saakheni vazyamnaabyo kainiby mraomi;
Khshmaibyaachaa vademno menchaa i maanzdazdoom;
Vaedodoom Daenaabeesh abyaschaa;
Ahoom ye Vangheush Manangho;
Ashaa ve anyo anim vivenghatu;
Tat zi hoi hushenem anghat.

Zarathushtra’s Advice to marrying couples at his daughter Pouruchisti wedding - Vahishtoisht Gatha, Yasna 53 – Verse 5 Translation:

5) (Zarathushtra advises marrying couples:)

These words I speak to you, maidens and newly wed husbands,
and hope you will bear them in your minds carefully.
Understand them deep within your souls and live always full of love
with pure mind.
Try to surpass each other in truth and righteousness.
Thus each one of you shall, indeed, reap the reward of joy and happiness.

(Translation of Gathas the Holy Songs of Zarathustra, from Persian into English by Mobed Firouz Azargoshasb, March 1988, San Diego, California.)

SPD Explanation:

1. What a wonderful advice to marrying couples and all married couples everywhere by our own Zarathushtra Spitaman!

The advice is as good today some 3500+ years later as it was then in the distant past.

2. Jo Ann and I try to follow Zarathushtra's advice and want to thank Dadar Ahura Mazda, Zarathushtra, Iranshah, our daughters and grand children, our families, our friends for helping us in our 50 years of marriage!

3. When I perform an Ashirwad Ceremony in NA, I usually give a short background of this Vahishtoisht Gatha and Zarathushtra's advice, and request the father of the bride to recite the translation of the above Verse 5 – Zarathushtra's advice – which then I follow with the actual Avesta prayer, thus recreating a scenario that day as it was done 3500+ years ago by Zarathushtra!

4. We then wish all brides and bridegrooms and all the married couples all over the world a very happy and loving long married lives!

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 AAFRINAAMAH! (May it be so as we wish!)

Love and Tandoorasti, Soli

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Jo Ann Soli Wedding Photo 003.jpg_s.jpg

