

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 169 – Dadar Ahura Mazda enjoins us in Gahambar Afrin to have a feast and to Pray, Perform, Partake and Donate - Verses 32-35

Hello all Tele Class friends:

According to the Shehenshahi calendar, during the 5 Gatha days, the last sixth Gaahambaar Hamaspathmaedem will start from August 12th Friday through August 16th Tuesday, with the new year Navroze (NauRooz, NowRuz), day after on Wednesday July 17th! Each of the six Gaahambaars is celebrated over five days, and so also Hamaspathmaedem Gaahambaar from Ahunavad Gatha through Vahishtoish Gatha.

During these 5 days of Gaahambaars, we are supposed to perform a special Gaahambaar Jashan starting with Gaahambaar Aafringaan and ending with Aafrin-i-Gaahambaar, a special Aafrin, in which Dadar Ahura Mazda is depicted as narrating Himself and explaining when He created HIS six creations: Sky, water, earth, vegetation, animals and lastly, his most favorite creation, Humans! In this Aafrin, exact days of six Gaahambaar celebrations are mentioned, starting from Navroze Day, March 21st, as the Day 1 and then the last fifth day of the next Gaahambaar, and then the last fifth day of the next Gaahambaar and so on.

In North America, many Irani Organizations are celebrating Gaahambaars by Fasli calendars in sync with the seasons as they should be.

Many NA Parsi/Irani organizations also celebrate Gaahambaars but according to their Shehenshahi or Kadmi calendars, which due to no leap year reckoning, are hopelessly out of sync with the seasons they are meant to be. For instance, we celebrate our Navroze in August/July instead of on March 21st.

[In my previous WZSE #97](#) as well as in our Young Mobeds Seminar at the last LA NAZC, I wrote: “Gaahambaars are seasonal celebrations and it is time when we in NA follow whatever calendar we wish to follow, but celebrate the six Gaahambaars according to their correct seasonal timings! I know this is a very controversial subject but this is my personal belief!”

However, no one is willing to do that in NA.

So, may be we should continue the celebrations of Gaahambaars in NA as we are doing it now in the spirit of communal gathering with a solemn prayer and a solemn community feast – one of the basic aims of the original Gaahambaar celebrations. May be we have to adapt to the current situations in NA.

In South FL, we in ZAF (Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, Boca Raton, West Palm Beach) celebrate a Gahambar on a Saturday in November in an open pavilion with a solemn Satum prayer and a solemn feast served on banana leaves, an old Parsi/Irani tradition, attended by all three SF communities!

And the famous Orlando CFG Group Gaahambaar is celebrated on a convenient Sunday sometime during May through July.

Last Sunday, Orlando celebrated their famous home cooked Gahambar on July 24th. Our

own Dinyar Mehta thought that it would be nice to do so, so as to also celebrate Jo Ann and mine 50th Anniversary which happened to be on July 2nd!

All three SF communities, over 150 strong, participated in this gala event, including a bus load from Miami!

We were also surprised to see Behram Pastakia and Meherji Madan from ZAMWI who specially graced our Orlando Gahambar!

We in Orlando thank you both for your presence.

Jo Ann and I are humbled by the kindness, hospitality, all the acknowledgements of our work with SF communities by five speakers, and all the presents bestowed upon us, by all you SF Humdins for which we will always be eternally grateful to you all!

One of the path breaking aspect of the Orlando Gahambar is its organization led by Dinyar Mehta and his myriad helpers, with assignments of various jobs like cooking, paatraa management, Satum prayer, presentations, serving, etc..

[In the attached photos in PDF format](#), shared by Delphina Bharucha, and in the photo links presented below shared by Yasmine Irani for cooking, and Sherry Shaikh and her twins Armaan and Zamaan for the actual Gahambar celebrations, you will witness the unbelievable co-operation of our Orlando Humdins in putting together this Gahambar for the 6th year in a row, a truly remarkable feat for a small community!

We all salute them from all over NA for their exemplary Gahambar celebration!

If you like to see all the photos of Yasmine Irani for making Bhaakhraas, custard, Dhanshak Daal and wagherelaa rice, and shrimp curry, here is the link:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/113228345695287503834/6305429025841408881?authkey=Gv1sRgCKXX5ovX1oT8zwE>

If you would like to see all the photos of Sherry for the actual celebration, please click:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/arzamaan/sets/72157670756099022/>

and for the 50th Anniversary photos:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/arzamaan/sets/72157668761179544/>

With this long background of our Gahambar celebrations, let us see what Dadar Ahura Mazda says about his sixth and last creation – Humans in Aafrin-i-Gaahambaar, especially for having a feast and as if giving Aashodaad to a righteous Humdin:

Aafrin-i-Gaahambaar Verses 32 - 35:

(Please hear the attached two .mp3 files for the recitations of [Verses 32 – 33 and 34 - 35](#))

**(32) Panchaach Haptaaitim Hamaspathmaidyehe,
Spentayao vaghuyao gaathaabyo;**

**Pa haftaad va panj roj man Ahura Mazda
Awa Ameshaashpendaan,
Fraaj-taasheed-hend, ku mardoom daad!**

**(33) Gahambaar Yasht Hamaspathmaedem-gaah naam nehaad,
Spendaarmad-maah Vahishtoisht-gaah,
Ahunavad Gaah gaah geerad,
Vahishtoisht-gaah sar bahod,
Hamaspathmaedyeh bood.**

Ku mardoom daad va har daheshne daad.

**Awa Ameshaaspedaan myazda kard,
Mardoomanach pa humanghusheete aawaayad kard!**

**(34) Her-keh ez aan gaahambaar yazad,
Ayaaw saazad, ayaaw khurad, ayaaw dahad,**

**(35) Ahsh kerfeh aedoon bade,
Chun kesh under akhoyi astomand,
Hamaa in jehaan saal pa aan garm naan
Pahs dahr mae ee khoob yak dushaarum raah,
Pah oy mardaaneh ashoaan daad hend.**

Aafrin-i-Gaahambaar Verses 32 - 35:

(32) On the 75th day (from the last day of the last 5th Gaahambaar Maidhyaarem), during the (five) Gathas Days of Spendaarmad Mah – The Hamaspathmaedyem Gaahambaar:

On this 75th day, I Ahura Mazda with the Amashaaspands named this Gaahambaar and created the Human Beings.

(33) We consecrated this Gaahambaar and upto the last Gatha Vahishtoish of Spandaarmad Mah (month), we named it Hamaspathmaedyem Gaahambaar.

It starts with Ahunavad Gatha and ends with Vahishtoish Gatha, which is

the Hamaspathmaedyem Gaahambaar.

**During which Human Beings were created
And all the whole world with all its creations were started.**

**A big feast was performed by Me with Ameshaaspands,
And all the Human Beings should also perform such a
feast!**

(34) If you Pray, Perform, Partake or Donate for this Gahambar,

**(35) In this skeletal world, it is equivalent to receiving meritorious rewards
for giving Aashodaad (donating in righteousness) to a righteous person
for the love of advancing righteousness of your own soul
in form of hot Naans (Persian bread) and
good wine from sweet grapes for a whole year!**

**([Ervad Kangaji Gujarati Khordeh Avesta](#), pages 455 – 456,
translated in English by me)**

SPD Comments

1. As mentioned in Aafringaan-i- Ardaafravash (also in Farvardin Yasht Kardaas 13 Verses 49 – 52 and Kardaas 31 Verses 156 – 157), during the last 5 days of last month and the 5 days of Gaahambaar Hamaspathmaedem (equal day and night), the Fravashis of the dear departed ones visit this earth and stay 10 nights looking for praise, prayers, food, clothing and remembrance. This ten days are called Muktaad by Parsis, and Panj-i-keh (lesser five days) and Panch-i-meh (greater five days) by Iranis.

2. During the 5 Gaahambaar days, the ceremonies of Visparad, Paavi, Gaahambaar Aafringaan/Jashan, and Baj are supposed to be performed.

3. Also, a communal Gaahambaar feast is required to be held (see the edict by Dadar Ahura Mazda in the last sentence of the above verse 33) with the whole community participating. Sir Jamshedjee Jeejeebhoy, the First Baronet, was a firm believer in this requirement and he started these communal Gaahambaar feasts in Mumbai as well as in mofussil villages like Navsari, Surat and Bharuch which are still being celebrated.

4. And whenever and wherever you are attending a Gahambar and participating in its solemn prayers and communal feast, please remember the four words mentioned in this same Gahambar Aafrin: Yazad (pray), Saazad (perform some work), Khurad (partake) and Dahad (donate)! We are enjoined to pray or perform some work for the Gahambar, or participate in the solemn feast or donate something for the Gahambar!

5. And in the same Gahambar Aafrin, for this Hamaspathmaedyem Gahambar, it states:

“If you Pray, Perform, Partake or Donate for this Gahambar, in this skeletal world, it is equivalent to receiving meritorious rewards for giving Aashodaad (donating in righteousness) to a righteous person for the love of advancing righteousness of your own soul in form of hot Naans (Persian bread) and good wine from sweet grapes for a whole year!” What an interesting thought!

6. The main theme of the Fall (September 2014) FEZANA Journal:

https://fezana.org/fjissue/FEZANA_2014_03_Fall.pdf

was Gahambars Around The Hafta Keshwar Zamin and we highly recommend reading all the wonderful informative articles on Gahambars – their beginnings, meanings, history and current practice all over the world and how various diaspora Zoroastrians are celebrating them.

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!)

(Aafrin Pegaamber Zartosht, from [Ervad Kangaji Gujarati Khordeh Avesta Baa Maaeni](#) – Page 424, adapted Aafrinaamahi - we wish instead of Aafrinaami – I wish, in the original)

Love and Tandoorasti, Soli