

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 183 – Gaahambaar Aafringaan - Different Ways to donate your share in the Gahambar Celebrations - Verses 3 - 4

Hello all Tele Class friends:

Special Note:

Thanks to my very good friend, Joseph Peterson, Dinshaw Irani's book – Understanding The Gathas – is now available [as a pdf](#) and [as an epub](#) on his wonderful website at:

http://avesta.org/other/Dinshaw_J_Irani_Understanding_the_Gathas.pdf

http://avesta.org/other/dinshaw_j_irani_understanding_the_gathas_epub.epub

Once again we want to thank Prof. Kaikhosrov Irani (via Lovji Cama) to give us the permission to do so and Joseph Peterson to create the epub and put it on his website!

WZSE #183:

According to the Fasli calendar, which is synchronized exactly with the seasons, the traditional five days of the fourth Gaahambaar Ayaathrem started yesterday, Fasli Meher Maah and Aastaad Roj, October 12th and will end on the Meher Maah and Aneeraan Roj, 5th day, October 16th.

Each of the six Gaahambaars is celebrated over five days, and so also Ayaathrem Gaahambaar. 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.

Unfortunately, this Gaahambaar Jashan is slowly forgotten even by most of our Mobeds all over Hafta Keshwar Zamin! And most of the newly ordained Ervads all over the Hafta Keshwar Zamin do not know what Gaahambaar Jashan is! What a pity?!?

We have covered Hamaspathmaedam Gahambar description by Daadaar Ahura Mazda in our WZSE #169 at:

<http://www.avesta.org/wzse/wzse169.pdf>

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

Many other 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, we continue to celebrate the Gaahambaars in NA at wrong timings but 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.

In South FL, we in ZAF (Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, Boca Raton, West Palm Beach) celebrate a Gahambar on a Sunday 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. In this Orlando Gaahambaar, all Humdins come together under the leadership of our own Dinyar Mehta and prepare all the food in our homes as we used to do in our small villages in olden days out in the open near a Sagdi/Dokhmaa!

So today, we will cover Gaahambaar Aafringaan prayed during a Gaahambaar Jashan.

It gives an interesting scenario of Humdins attending a Gaahambaar Jashan and it gives guidelines about what the Humdins should donate to the Chief Dastur as Aashodaad (giving in righteousness) as well as to the Gaahambaar Jashan as their responsibility to attend the Gaahambaar and to donate something.

Since this Aafringaan is long, we will cover it in the next four WZSEs.

So, here is the first two Verses 3 – 4 of Gaahambaar Aafringaan:

Gaahambaar Aafringaan - Different Ways to donate your share in the Gaahambaar Celebrations - Verses 3 – 4

(Please hear the attached .mp3 file for both WZSEs #183 and #184)

(3) Daataacha, aeteh Mazdayasna
Aetem Ratoomcha Myazdemcha yim Maidhyoizaremaem!
Paseush garebush yo ushtaheh fraa-uruzda-payanghhoh,
Yezi tat yayata.

(4) Nawaat tat yayata,
Hurayaaoschit adha aetawatoh daidhyata,
Aa-dit franghuhaarayata.
Sraoshaat daanhishta,
Arsh-wachastema ashem ashawastema,
Kshathrem hukshathrotema,

Anazwakhtema, woh-ooru-rafnostema,
Marzdikawastema, thraayoh-drigutema,
Saskushtema, ashaheh berejoh,
Strayoh mayaa Paarendeesh upawaajoh,
Yezi tat yayata.

Gaahambaar Aafringaan - Different Ways to donate your share in the Gaahambaar Celebrations - Verses 3 – 4 Translation:

(3) Oh you all Mazdaa Worshipping (Mazdayasna) Humdins!
Who are attending these Gaahambaar celebrations,
On the occasion of Maidhyozarem Gaahambaar,
And for partaking its holy consecrated items (Chaashni – Myazda) by you all,
If you can afford it,
Donate to the Chief Dastur,
A healthy, full of milk cow as an aashodaad (giving in righteousness).

(4) But if you cannot afford the above,
Then, if you can afford it,
Donate to the Gaahambaar Jashan
The same amount of wine,
Together with the fruits and dried fruits,
For the consumption of all the Humdins attending the Jashan.

(Kangaji notes that what kind of Humdins should be attending these prayers and partaking Chaashni is noted in the following verse:)

According to the mandate of the Religion,
attending Humdins should be:
very wise, always speaking truth,
very righteous in all righteous discussions,
using his power always in just way,
of very pure heart, always happy in all manner,
very kind, always taking care of the needy,
very studious in all our religious matters,
always following Asha – righteousness,
and in his behavior with women,
he follows the laws of Yazata Paarendi (female Yazata)!

SPD Explanation:

1. Ayaathrem Gaahambaar is recognized in our scriptures as "The Cattle Breeding Season".
2. In Visperad 1.2, it is described as "Breeder".
3. In the same Visperad 1.2, Maidhyozarem Gaahambaar is described as "Milk Giver".

This coincides with the Gaahambaar Aafringaan Verse 3 presented above where it is requested to donate a healthy, full of milk cow to the Chief Dastur as an Aashodaad (giving in righteousness).

4. Paarendi Yazata (mentioned in Verse 4 above) is the female genius of riches, plenty, and activity, is identical with the Vedic Puramdhi, the goddess of plenty. She is the constant companion of Ashi Vanghuhi, and is invoked with her. She is active in thought, active in word, and active in deed, and gives activity to man's body.

(from Dasturji Dhalla – History of Zoroastrianism - Chapter XXII – YAZATAS – Page 210, <http://www.avesta.org/dhalla/history3.htm#chap22>)

5. And whenever and wherever you are attending a Gaahambaar and participating in its solemn prayers and communal feast, please remember the four words mentioned in the Gaahambaar Aafrin: Yazad (pray), Saazad (perform some work), Khurad (partake) and Dahad (donate)! We are enjoined to pray or perform some work for the Gaahambaar, or participate in the solemn feast or donate something for the Gaahambaar!
6. The main theme of the [Fall \(September 2014\) FEZANA Journal](#): https://fezana.org/fjissue/FEZANA_2014_03_Fall.pdf was Gaahambaars Around The Hafta Keshwar Zamin and we highly recommend reading all the wonderful informative articles on Gaahambaars – their beginnings, meanings, history and current practice all over the world and how various diaspora Zoroastrians are celebrating them.
7. We wish you all Happy Ayaathrem Gaahambaar!

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!)

(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