

WZSE – Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 19.

Hello all Tele Class friends:

Growing up in my little Tarapur village, whenever we little ones got sick or had a bad fall, etc. and were mostly in bed recuperating, one of the most wonderful memories I have left is our “Mamaavaaji” (maternal grand father) Mobed Bhikhaji Faramji Bharda, praying by our bedside Ardibehesht Yasht with a bundle of peacock feathers bound like a broom (“Pichhi”) gently touching our bodies in a sweeping motion from head to toe only (not reverse so as to take care of all the bad things in our bodies) called “Pichhi Feravvaani” (to pray with the peacock feathers bundle).

The basic belief in this prayer was to ward off all evil things from the bodies of the afflicted. It still rings in my ears the sonorous voice of my maternal grand father performing this ritual to me or my siblings when we were sick; and lo and behold, we were up and running in a few days!

That reminded me about one stanza in the Ardibehesht Yasht about 5 types of doctors and since I have been going through some interesting times with many a doctor lately, with a stent 2 days ago and a Pace Maker tomorrow, I thought I would use this little stanza today as our weekly quote.

Ardibehesht Yasht has been considered as the Yasht to ward off all evils and especially it was advised to pray its Nirang at the end of it daily and I know many of you are praying it every day to ward off all negativities from your minds. Its efficacy has been claimed by many.

So, let us see what does this stanza says about **Five Types Of Doctors:**

(6) Asho baeshazo,
Daato-baeshazo,
Kareto baeshazo,
Urvaro baeshazo,
Maanthro baeshazo;
Baeshazanaam baeshazyotemo
yat Maanthrém Spentem baeshazyo;
Yo narsh ashaono hacha uruthwaan baeshazyaat,
Aesho zi asti baeshazanaam baeshazyotemo.

(6) One who heals by means of purificatory rites and restores to health,

one who cures by law and justice,
a surgeon or one who heals with the knife,
one who restores to health by means of vegetable drugs,
herbal medicines, and
one who heals by means of reciting the Manthra;
thus there are various doctors of five kinds.

But he who heals by means of reciting the Manthra
is the best amongst all the healers,
because from the inner part of that righteous man he cures
him.

Amongst all the physicians he indeed is the best healer.

(Translation from Ervad Kavasji Kangaji Gujarati *Khordesh Avesta*
translated in English)

Explanation of the paragraph by Ervad Kavasji Kangaji:

The meanings of the word 'baeshaza' occurring in this paragraph are "healer, curer, restorer to healthy condition by purifying the body and mind".

Such five types of healers are mentioned.

First - one who heals by means of purificatory rites.

He is to be regarded as the purifying Mobed,
giving ablution to polluted persons and the giver of Bareshnum,
whose function is to give purification by driving away the pollution of the
person.

Second - one who heals by law and justice should be regarded as the Judge,
whose function is to give justice as he deems fit,
for both the plaintiff and the defendant,
by giving proper decision to the matters in dispute.

Third - the surgeon is the doctor who knows the work of surgery.

Fourth - one who restores to health by means of herbal medicines should be
regarded as a Physician, who by means of herbs or by means of drugs
derived from various kinds of plants cures the ailing person.

Fifth - one who heals by recitation of Maanthra should be regarded as the

physician giving peace and ease to the mind by certain fixed sacred verses of the Holy Avesta and giving comfort to the body.

Moreover, of all the physicians, he who gives relief and peace of mind to the ailing person by reciting the holy spells is regarded as the greatest healer. The reason stated to be is that the person who purifies the inner part of the righteous man, brings comfort to his body and mind, and gives happiness by reciting near him, and explaining the efficacious and sacred verses of the Good Mazda Worshipping Religion.

Philosophy by SPD: Let us All be the Healers of our Beautiful World!

Sitting in this hospital room, I started to think that this stanza should not be just used by us to count the five doctors in the world!

We can extend its meaning to apply to our daily lives.

When Jo Ann and I are reading all these messages from over 150 of you wishing us speedy recovery through their prayers and good wishes, we feel you all are being **Healers of the World!** How many stories we have heard where Prayers and Good Wishes have come through for people for whom we prayed?!

So let us all be World Healers by our righteousness (Asho), by giving good advice (Daato), by suggesting Herbal Medicines (Urvaro) and by praying Holy Avesta/Pazand prayers(Maanthro)! This beautiful World of Daadar Ahura Mazda will be a better place for all of us by doing so! And don't wait to do so when someone is sick or afflicted! **This our role is for everyday life!**

Love and Tandoorasti, Jo Ann and Soli