

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 208 – Sofreh Table Items and their symbolism in an Irani Zarathushtri Wedding

Hello all Tele Class friends:

4 Year Anniversary of our WZSEs:

My my! Where did the 4 years go?

This is WZSE #208 – 4 years of continuous weekly emails!!

Thank you all for your continued support of our WZSEs!

Sofreh Table Items Symbolism:

Some years ago, I was asked by my very good friends, one Parsi man and another Irani lady, to perform a joint fusion Parsi.Irani Ashirwad ceremony in Orlando.

I requested my mentor in Irani questions the respected Dasturji Mobed Mehraban Firouzgary, Tehran, Iran to help me with the Irani Zoroastrian wedding prayers which he did.

Based on his input, I created a fusion Parsi/Irani Ashirwad prayer for the couple which was very well received.

Just last year, I was asked to perform another wedding of an Irani family's son in Orlando. However, the Irani family wanted Irani Zoroastrian wedding ceremony prayers only and no Parsi ceremony.

Once again I used Mobed Firouzgary's prayers as well as I reached out to Mobed Fariborz Shahzadi for the same which he graciously provided to me.

Based on these two inputs and also a bit of Parsi Ashirwad prayers, I created a Irani Zoroastrian wedding prayer which I performed last Friday, April 7th in Orlando.

I want to thank both Irani Mobeds for their precious ready help to me.

For an Irani wedding, they have a Sofreh table with many items and in the ceremony the symbolism of these items are explained.

I cannot thank enough my dearest wife Jo Ann as well as my Irani friends Azita (Boca Raton) and Nahid (LA) Dashtaki, and Yasmine and Adi Irani (Orlando) for helping us to create the official Sofreh table with all the required items.

As promised in the last WZSE #207, [attached please find the photos of the Sofreh Table and the Irani Wedding.](#)

[Attached also please find the complete Irani Zoroastrian Wedding Prayers as a fusion of Irani Wedding Prayers and Parsi Ashirwad Prayers.](#)

Once again, thanks to my Dear friend Joseph Peterson, the audio file for the above Irani Zoroastrian Wedding prayer is at:

http://avesta.org/mp3/Irani_Zoroastrian_Wedding_Ceremony_Prayers.mp3

As promised in the last WZSE #207, we will present the symbolisms of the Sofreh Table items as explained by the Mobed to the Wedding couple.

Facing the wedding couple, the Mobed states:

While recommending, once again, to follow the Religious recommendations already advised and to do all you can to be a good Zartoshty, I would now like to bring to your attention the philosophy and significance of some of the items that are customarily placed on this ceremonial ses, hoping that you will further learn and benefit from these as well.

One of these is **a pair of scissors** which, is formed by the joint of two blades and, will cut, effectively, only if the two blades move in unison.

Starting from today you two are also joined in wedlock together, symbolically the same as the blades of this pair of scissors.

In order to cut successfully through the problems and objectives of your life make sure that all your actions and planning are in unison.

The needle and thread kept here are normally tools for darning.

As in the course of any married life, occasions may arise, generally due to misunderstandings or other related problems that a slight “Cut” may appear in your relations.

Immediately, in such cases, make use of the philosophical “Needle and thread” which is simply looking at the problem logically and with humility and forgiveness, making use of your mutual love and affection and any other conceivable remedy to make sure to “Darn” the cut and cover it up so well such that the cut should disappear and never deepen.

The egg:

Considering that an egg nurtures the embryo, within itself, and prepares it for the life outside its shell, has come to be considered the symbol of the rights of parents over their children.

By giving away this egg after this ceremony, the parents make it

understood, between themselves, that from this day on they have given out their children with a view that they can establish an independent and a self-established life.

As from today between these three families nothing beyond mutual love, respect, advice, and consultation should be expected.

The Khordeh Avesta and Kusti is to remind you of your pledge to the Good Religion of Mazdayasni and adherence to the practice of good thoughts, good words and good deeds.

The green wrapped sugar cone represents long life and sweet happiness, and a symbol of sweetness and strength in your relationship and I pray that you enjoy all of them.

Pomegranate signifies riches and childbearing. I pray to Ahura Mazda to bestow you with honestly earned riches and several well behaving children.

The reflection in the "mirror"
represents a bright future for the couple.

The "two lighted Deevaas (floating candles)"
will brighten the path of righteousness in each other's life.

The "green silk handkerchief"
symbolizes good fortune and stability for Rayomond and Nisha.

The mixture of "nuts"
offered to the audience after the ceremony,
makes them a part of good fortune together.

The "Persian Sweet"
when shared by the couple during the ceremony,
reminds them to be always sweet to each other.
Amen.

At this point, the Mobed asks the wedding couple to pick up a piece of Baklava and feed one another reminding them to be sweet to one another

all their lives.

After this, the Mobed recites the special Doaa-Tandoorasti-e-Paymaan for the wedding which concludes the wedding ceremony.

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