

WZSE – Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 24.

Hello all Tele Class friends:

Today we revert back to our Vakhshur-e-Vakhshuraan Zarathushtra's Gathas.

In Vendidad, Zarathushtra enquires of Ahura Mazda, "How shall I fight against the Druj that rushes from the dead and defiles the living?" To this Ahura Mazda replies, "**Say aloud those words in the Gathas that are to be said twice....thrice.... four times**". (Vendidad Fargard 10.1-2)

There are only three liturgies to be **recited four times!** They are Yasna 27.13 (Yathaa Ahu Vairyo), non-Gathic older Avestan prayer Yasna 54 – Aa Airyemaa Ishyo, and the Ahunavaiti Gatha stanza Yasna 34.15 – Mazdaa At Moi.

Being the only prayers to be recited four times, indicates their power and importance!

Today we will present the last of these prayers, the Ahunavaiti Gatha stanza Yasna 34.15 – Mazdaa At Moi.

Gatha Ahunavaiti – Yasna 34.15 - AVESTA PRAYER

Mazdaa at moi vahishtaah sravaaoschaa shyaothanaachaa vaoochaa,
Taa tu vohu mananghaa ashaachaa ishudem stuto,
Khshmaakaa khshathraa Ahuraa ferashem vasnaa haithyem daao
ahum. (Recite 4 times).

English Translation :

Whatever words and deeds are noblest and
best,

Teach me, O Mazda!

Through Love of Fellow-man,

Through Search for Truth,

Make my life express

The yearnings and the prayers of my heart!

Through the Strength to Serve, O Ahura!

Renew my Life, and make it as True as Thou
wishest!

(Translation by Dr. Irach Taraporevalla
from his opus – *Divine Songs of Zarathushtra*, rearranged
by SPD)

“Zarathushtra concludes his Ahunavaiti Gatha with this stanza. In his concluding wish, he prays, in fact, prepares himself for best words and deeds that issue from good mind and clear thinking. It is these words and deeds that continue to renovate – update – our life with divine support because that is what Mazda wishes us to accomplish.”

(Dr. Ali Jafarey – The Gathas of Zarathushtra)

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If one learns about noble words and performs righteous deeds, then that is the way of regenerating the life. In this verse Zarathustra requested Ahura Mazda to improve the life of the man and bestow on him the final gift of salvation. He was asking for success of his mission on this earth. He was asking for help so that his message is accepted by all mankind. He was asking the world to keep their mind pure and sing hymns of praise. He acknowledged Ahura's authority, that He is omnipotent and all powerful.”

(Dr. Purvez Dinyar Kolsawalla – his PhD Thesis)

AHUNAVAITI RAMESH SRINIVASAN:

On Sunday, November 10, 2002 7:48 PM, Ramesh Srinivasan
<ramesh@its.caltech.edu> wrote in a Zoroastrian email list:

“Dear friends,

Respectful greetings. My name is Ramesh Srinivasan and I am a student from India currently based in California, USA. I am a member of an interfaith youth group, which is dedicated to promoting respect and harmony amongst all faiths. For an upcoming interfaith meeting, we are hoping to begin the function with selected sacred chants from the major world religions.

For the Zarathushtrian religion, we have chosen a prayer that was very close to Gandhiji's heart and was sung during the evening prayer meetings at his ashram. However, our only reference for this is an audio CD that was produced in conjunction with the 125th birth anniversary of Gandhiji. We would like to confirm the correctness and pronunciation and also the original reference in the Zarathushtrian scriptures for this prayer.”

His pronunciation given in the message were not quite correct and of course, we replied him with Ahunavaiti Gatha Yasna 34.15 verse with correct pronunciation and translation.

The fame of this Mazdaa At Moi Gathic verse has spread far and wide!

May the Flame of Fellowship, Love, Charity and Tolerance burn ever eternal in our hearts so we can do HIS work with humility, diligence and eternal enthusiasm!

Atha Jamyat, Yatha Aafrinaamahi! (May it be so as we wish?)

Love and Tandoorasti, Soli