

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 260: 5 Years of WZSEs! - Firdausi's Opening Lines of Shahnameh in Praise of Daadaar Ahura Mazda!

Hello all Tele Class friends:

5 Years of WZSEs!

5 Years – 260 Weeks – seems a long time to continuously write weeklies of our wonderful Religion, Prayers, Community, etc.! I did not imagine when we started to write these WZSEs that this will come to fruition! But with the help of Daadaar Ahura Mazda, dear friends and loyal readers like you all we have achieved this day of completing 5 years of continuous weeklies! Thank you all for your loyalty, good comments, best wishes over these 5 years!

I cannot thank enough my very good friend Joseph Peterson for voluntarily including all WZSEs in his wonderful website at:

<http://www.avesta.org/wzse/index.html>

Thank you Joseph for this helps as well as for all you do for our Religion and Community!

My efforts for publishing these 5 years of weeklies are nothing compared to 30 years of very hard work in poverty and isolation that our Persian Poet par excellence, none other than Firdausi Toosi who composed the masterful 60,000 couplets of *Shahnameh*, the story of the ancient Persian Kings, Wise men, Pahelvaans (brave men), etc., around 1010 AD! What an epic poem it is! And he summarizes his amazing effort by his famous couplet:

**Basee ranjeh bordan dar een saal-e-see!
Azam zandeh kardam badeen Farsi!**

English Translation:

For thirty years I toiled very hard (to write this Shahnameh), (And in so doing) made this Shahnameh (the history of the Kings) world famous in Farsi language! (SPD comment: not in Arabic!)

As you can see, my 5 years of WZSEs are nothing compared to 30 years of hard work and toil of this great poet!

Opening Lines of Shahnameh in Praise of Daadaar Ahura Mazda

For this special WZSE #260, we would like to present the opening lines of Firdausi in praise of Daadaar Ahura Mazda. Firdausi in glowing couplets praises HIM and we want to use them to thank Daadaar Ahura Mazda for making it possible to publish five years of continuous weeklies!

Please note that I am using 10 Gujarati Volumes of *Shahnameh* by Mobed brothers, Ervad Maahiyaar Navroji and Faraamarz Navroji Kutar Sahebs. They published these 10 volumes of *Shahnameh* in Gujarati in 1914, with original Persian couplets on left and their meaning in Gujarati in verse on right. I then have transliterated the Persian couplets from Gujarati into

English, as well as translated the meaning of them by the Kutar brothers in Gujarati into English. In so doing, I apologize for any shortcomings and translations on my part.

So, here are the opening lines of *Shahnameh*:

Opening Lines of Shahnameh in Praise of Daadaar Ahura Mazda

[\(Please hear the attached .mp3 file for its recitation\)](#)

(Also, I have attached 4 photos from the Firdausi Tomb and Monument in Toos, his village. In the photo – *Shahnameh* Opening Lines – line 1 is the first line below and line 2 is the third line below, etc.)

(Please note that I have transliterated word by word the Persian lines from the Gujarati Kutar Brothers' *Shahnameh*. I apologized to my Iranian friends for mis-translitterating some Persian words.)

1. Banaameh Khodaavandeh jaano kharad,
Kazeen bartar undeeshah bur noogzarad.
2. Khodavandeh naamo khodaavandeh jaai,
Khodaavandeh neekeedehe rahnomaai.
3. Khodaavandeh gayhaano gardaan sepehr,
Foruzandaeh maaho naaheedo meher.
4. Khodaavandeh hasto khodaavandeh neest,
Hamah bandagaanando eezad yakeest.
5. Sepaas az jahaandaareh peeruzgar,
Kazoo hast neeroo vazoo ham honar.
6. Hamah neekoi zeereh farmaaneh oost,
Hamah dardahaa zeereh darmaaneh oost.
7. Az shaadmaanee vazoo ham gameest,
Azooyat fozoonee vazooyat kameest.
8. Baneeko babad daad maan dastagaah,
Rawaanraa baneekke nomaayandah raah.
9. Zeh naamo nashaano makaan bartarast,
Negaarandae barshudah gauharast.
10. Babeenandagaan aafreenandahraa,
Nabeenee maranjaan do beenandahraa.

Opening Lines of Shahnameh in Praise of Daadaar Ahura Mazda

1. I start writing this poem by taking HIS Name who is the Creator of our souls and the Good Mind (and in front of this Creator's Name, our thinking ability ends.)
2. That Creator has named all the creations of this world, He is also the Creator of the vast Universe, He is the bestower of all righteousness and the guide to the

whole world.

3. He is the Creator of the earth and the whole revolving universe, and the giver of light to the Sun, Moon and all the planets.
4. He brings to life all the living things, and He also ends the life of the same; All the materials and the living beings who follow His Wishes are innumerable, but Khudaa (the Creator) is the one and only.
5. I humbly worship the Holy and World Creator who has created all crafts and industry and who has given strength to mankind to perform all these crafts and industry.
6. He is responsible for all the good deeds, and He has the ability to remove all the pain and ailments.
7. (Oh Man!) All your happiness and affliction both are from Him – and your prosperity and bad times are also from Him.
8. Even though He gives us the strength to do the good and bad deeds, yet He shows the Good Path to our souls.
9. He does not have a Name, does not have a shape, does not have a specific home, yet He is the Creator of all the jewels of our universe.
10. (Oh Man!) You cannot see with your eyes this Mighty Creator; and so, do not give trouble to your eyes to see Him.

(Gujarati 10 Volumes Kutar Brothers *Shahnama*, page1, translated by me in English. Please note that it is difficult to translate from old Gujarati to English these lines. I have done my best to translate them.)

SPD Explanation:

1. What a wonderful beginning of this epic poem by Firdausi!
2. Please note that the first two words of Shahnameh are:

Banaameh Khodaavandeh

In our wonderful Cama Institute, our learned and humble English teacher, Kaikhushroo Daruwala, always made us start a new page by writing “Banaameh Khudaa” in upper lefthand corner in Persian and the today’s date below and I still do that whenever I start a new page!

3. That famous night Monajat also starts with the word: **Khudaavind!**
4. The way Firdausi praises Daadaar Ahura Mazda seems like he is praying our famous short Doaa Naam Setaayashneh prayer! We have presented this prayer in multiple WZSEs in the past at:

<http://www.avesta.org/wzse/wzse80.pdf> (verses 1 - 3)

<http://www.avesta.org/wzse/wzse81.pdf> (verses 4 - 5)

<http://www.avesta.org/wzse/wzse82.pdf> (verses 6 - 8)

Hope you all look them up. It is a beautiful little prayer to pray all the times.

5. With the guidance and help from Daadaar Ahura Mazda, and friends and loyal readers like you all, let us start on our next five years of WZSEs starting next week!

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!

In HIS Service 24/7!
Atha Jamyat, Yatha Aafrinaamahi! (May it be so as we wish!)

Love and Tandoorasti, Soli



Firdausi Monument



Firdausi Statue



Firdausi Tomb



Shanameh opening lines:

