

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 294: Aa airyemaa Ishyo - Yasna 54 - Verse 1 - Brotherhood of Mankind - Beethoven's Ninth Symphony - Ode to Joy

Hello all Tele Class friends:

In our last WZSE #293, we covered Dasturji Dhalla's Prayer in English on Progress for the New Year 2019. Today, we will cover a very important prayer and a Choral Symphony on Brotherhood of Mankind!

Aa Airyemaa Ishyo – The Brotherhood of Mankind Prayer – Yasna 54 – Verse 1

Of all the prayers we have in Yasna, Visperad, Vendidad, and Khordeh Avesta, only 3 prayers are to be recited 4 times indicating their importance: Yathaa Ahu Vairyo, Mazdaa at Moi (Ahunavaiti Gatha – Yasna 34.15), and Aa Airyemaa Ishyo (Yasna 54.1). We have covered these in our previous WZSE #195 at:

<http://www.avesta.org/wzse/wzse195.pdf>

Aa Airyemaa Ishyo is at the end of all Gathas in Yasna and according to Dr. Taraporewalla, it is also written by Zarathushtra as his ending of the Gathas, having the same meter as Yasna 53 – Gatha Vahishtoisht. It is also known as the Brotherhood of Mankind. It is also recited in the Zoroastrian Wedding Pazand Aashirwaad for the joy of the wedding couple. We have discussed this in detail in our previous WZSE #144 at:

<http://www.avesta.org/wzse/wzse144.pdf>.

Aa airyemaa ishyo, Yasna 54.1:

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

Aa airyémaa ishyo rafedhraai jantû,
Nerebyaschaa naairibyaschaa Zarathushtrahéh,
Vanghéush rafedhraai manangho,
Yaa daénaa vairîm hanaat mîzhdem,
Ashahyaa yaasaa ashim,
Yaam ishyaam ahuro masataa mazdaao!

(Recite four times)

Aa airyemaa ishyo, Yasna 54.1 Translation:

**May the-much-desired Brotherhood come hither for our rejoicing,
For-the-men and for-the-maidens of Zarathushtra, –
For-the-fulfilment of Vohu Mano (good mind);**

**Whosoever's Inner-Self earns the precious reward.
I-will-pray to Asha for-the-blessing,
Which greatly-to-be-desired,
Ahura Mazda hath-meant (for us).**

(Translation by Dr. Irach J. S. Taraporewalla – *The Divine Songs of Zarathushtra* – Page 858)

Aa airyemaa Ishyo – Brotherhood of Mankind – and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony Chorus – Ode to Joy

I got a New Year greeting email from our very good friend, Phiroza Sethna, with a link to a Flash Mob performance video at the town square of Sabadell, Spain, for an uplifting performance of the "Ode to Joy" by Ludwig van Beethoven. Such Flash Mob performances are becoming quite common all around the world. Beethoven's Ode To Joy, 9th Symphony Chorus, has always been one of my very favorite music piece. On further reading the actual translation of the chorus, I was intrigued that the original composer of the poem, the **German poet and philosopher Friedrich Schiller**, wrote it in 1785 **to celebrate the brotherhood and unity of all mankind.**

I instantly saw the connection between Aaa Airyemaa Ishyo and Ode To Joy! Their common theme is Brotherhood of Mankind!

Beethoven's 9th Symphony – The Choral Symphony

'This symphony is considered by many leading musicologists to be one of the greatest works in western music. What makes it so special is Beethoven's use of the human voice; he was the first major composer to include it within a symphony. This is why you'll often see Symphony No. 9 referred to as the *Choral* Symphony. Beethoven's 9th symphony, with an orchestra bigger than any other at the time and a play time of well over an hour (longer than any other symphonic work), was a major turning point for classical music; it was a catapult into the Romantic Period, where composers began breaking the rules of composition and exploring the use of large ensembles, extreme emotion, and unconventional orchestration.'

'[Ludwig van Beethoven](#)'s "Ode to Joy" was composed in 1824, in the final movement of his last, and arguably most famous, symphony, Symphony No. 9. The premiere took place in Vienna on May 7, 1824, and despite its unpracticed and under-rehearsed presentation, the audience was ecstatic. It was the first time Beethoven had appeared on stage in 12 years.'

'At the end of the performance, it was said that Beethoven continued conducting even though the music had ended. One of the soloists stopped him and turned him around to accept his applause. The audience was well aware of Beethoven's health and hearing loss, so in addition to clapping, they threw their hats and scarves in the air so that he could see their overwhelming approval.'

"Ode to Joy": A Worldwide Significance

"Ode to Joy" is the final movement of Beethoven's 9th Symphony composed in 1823. It is based on a poem written by German poet and philosopher Friedrich Schiller in

1785, celebrating the brotherhood and unity of all mankind.

In 1972, the Council of Europe made Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" its official anthem. Years later, in 1985, the European Union did the same. Although Schiller's text isn't sung in the anthem, the music conveys the same ideas of freedom, peace, and unity.'

(<https://www.thoughtco.com/beethovens-ode-to-joy-lyrics-history-724410>)

So, here is one of the English translations of the original Schiller's poem:

English "Ode to Joy" Translation

**O friends, no more of these sounds!
Let us sing more cheerful songs,
More songs full of joy!
Joy!
Joy!**

**Joy, bright spark of divinity,
Daughter of Elysium,
Fire-inspired we tread
Within thy sanctuary.**

**Thy magic power re-unites
All that custom has divided,
All men become brothers,
Under the sway of thy gentle wings.
Whoever has created
An abiding friendship,
Or has won
A true and loving wife,
All who can call at least one soul theirs,
Join our song of praise;
But those who cannot must creep tearfully
Away from our circle.**

**All creatures drink of joy
At nature's breast.
Just and unjust
Alike taste of her gift;
She gave us kisses and the fruit of the vine,
A tried friend to the end.**

**Even the worm can feel contentment,
And the cherub stands before God!**

Gladly, like the heavenly bodies
Which He sent on their courses
Through the splendor of the firmament;
Thus, brothers, you should run your race,
Like a hero going to victory!

You millions, I embrace you.
This kiss is for all the world!
Brothers, above the starry canopy
There must dwell a loving father.

Do you fall in worship, you millions?
World, do you know your creator?
Seek Him in the heavens;
Above the stars must he dwell.

Ode to Joy Performance by Flash Mob at the Town Center, Nurenburg, Germany

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a23945btJYw>

In the above Flash Mob YouTube video, please note in the very beginning, the very young and talented musician girl playing the main tune on a fiddle. The whole performance by the orchestra and chorus is something worth watching to start our new year 2019! I hope you all enjoy watching this as much as I have!

SPD Comments

1. Message of Zarathushtra in Aa Airyemaa Ishyo of Brotherhood of Mankind is repeated almost 3000 years later by a German poet and made world famous by Beethoven in his Ode To Joy!

2. 'The very first Western scholar who translated our Avesta scriptures was a French adventurer and scholar, Anquetil-Duperron. He arrived in Surat in March 1758 and learnt our scriptures from two Parsi priests, Darab Kumana and a certain priest Kaus. He obtained almost 180 Avestan manuscripts and was able to translate some Avesta manuscripts in 1760. He left India and arrived in Paris in March 1762 and deposited all his manuscripts in the Paris Royal Library. In 1771, he published his three-part '*Zend Avesta* of works ascribed to [Zoroaster](#)'. This provoked passionate discussions in Europe among philosophers and writers.'

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_Hyacinthe_Anquetil-Duperron)

'Voltaire, Grimm, Diderot, Goethe, Von Kleist, Byron, Wordsworth, Shelley and later Nietzsche and many others joined this ideological turmoil.'

'Great musicians participated as well. Rameau included Zarathustra in his opera "Zoroastre", Mozart in his "The Magic Flute" and Richard Strauss in his symphony "Thus Spake Zarathustra" ' (Khosro Khazai – The Gathas – Pages 43 – 46)

So, Zarathushtra and his Gathas and our other Religious literature have been studied by the Western scholars, Poets and Musicians for a long time.

3. Word "Elysium"

Did You Know?

'This word came into Latin from the Greek *Elysion*. In classical mythology, Elysium, or the *Elysian fields*, was the home of the blessed after death, the final resting place of the souls of the heroic and the pure. So it's easy to see how the word came to mean any place or state of bliss or delight. When we try to picture heaven, many of us probably see a lovely park; the great boulevard of Paris was named for the beautiful park that originally bordered it: the Champs-Élysées, or Elysian Fields.'

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/Elysium#synonyms>

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 Janyaat, Yatha Aafrinaamahi! (May it be so as we wish!)

Love and Tandoorasti, Soli