

WZSE – Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 30.

Hello all Tele Class friends:

When I was a student in our beloved M. F. Cama Athornan Institute, Andheri, from 1945-1954, we always yearn to visit Maadar-e-Vatan Iran, our Mother Country Iran! For years, we learnt the Iranian History of the 5 Iranian Dynasties and every Sunday, we heard one of us read from the Kutar Brothers Gujarati Shahnameh an episode and we all marvel at the accomplishments of our forefathers in Iran!

Well, this yearning of mine came to fruition when I joined 10 others with Silloo Mehta and Malcolm Bhesania's Iran Tour for 27 days in October-November 2006! What a gorgeous experience it was! Silloo and Malcolm made this tour so memorable to us by their exquisite organization, Parsi food cooked everywhere including out in the open on Primus Stoves and the amazing narrations of history on every subject by Malcolm! This Iran Tour will always be one of my life's best experiences!

One of my greatest satisfaction of this tour was to perform a Boy Ceremony with the local Iranian Mobeds in Shiraz, Sharifabad and in the Yazd Atash Behram!

What a magnificent Atash Behram structure it is in Yazd! And the oldest continuous fire burning in the whole world since 470 AD!

One of the plaques on its walls states:

“Atashkadeh (Zoroastrians' Fire Temple)

This Zoroastrians' temple was built in 1934 in a site belonged to the Association of Parsi Zoroastrian of India under the supervision of Jamshid Amanat. The sacred flame, behind a glass case and visible from the entrance hall has apparently been burning since about A.D. 470, and was transferred from Nahid-e-pars temple to Ardakan, then to Yazd and then to its present site.”

WOW! The oldest continuously burning Atashkadeh fire in the world!

I have been to all 8 Atash Behrams of India, 4 in Mumbai, Iranshah in Udwarda, Navsari Bhagharsath Atash Behram, and 2 in Surat. However, in this Yazd Atash Behram, I was very much impressed by its simplicity and the plaques on its walls quoting our own Vakhshur-e-Vakhshuraan Zarathushtra Spitaman from his Gathas with English Translations from Translation of Gathas the Holy Song of Zarathustra, from Persian into English by Mobed Firouz Azargoshasb, March 1988, San Diego, California! None of our 8 Atash Behrams or Agiyaris and Adarians have such plaques on their walls, except in

Wadiaji and Anjuman Atash Behrams in Mumbai, the imposing Zarathushtra's paintings has Zarathushtra holding in his right hand a scroll that is from his Ahunavaiti Gatha, Yasna 30.2, the famous "Sraotaa Geush-aaish vahishtaa" verse!

Our today's quote is this verse from Ahunavaiti Gatha, Yasna 30.2:

Ahunavaiti Gatha, Yasna 30.2:

2. Sraotaa geush aaish vahishtaa

avaênataa suchaa mananghaa.

Aa vare naao vichithahyaa

narem narem khakhyaai tanuye.

Paraa maze yaaonghô

ahmaai ne sazdyai baodañtô paiti.

English Translation (from the plaque in Yazd Atash Behram):

Listen with your ears the highest truth,
Consider them with illumined minds carefully,
And decide each man and women personally,
Between the two paths, good and evil,
Before ushering in of the great day, or the day of judgment,
Arise all of you and try to spread Ahura's word!

(Translation of Gathas the Holy Song of Zarathustra, from Persian into English by Mobed Firouz Azargoshasb, March 1988, San Diego, California!)

SPD Comments:

What a wonderful way to present our Vakhshur-e-Vakhshuraan Zarathushtra Spitaman's own words from his Gathas on the walls of our Atash Behrams, Adarians and Agiyaris! Hope some of these Atash Behrams, Adarians and Agiyaris in India/Pakistan follow this wonderful example from Yazd Atash Behram!

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

Love and Tandoorasti, Soli