

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 309: Monajaat - In the Praise of Asho Zarathushtra - Firoze Rustomjee Batliwalla - Verses 5 - 8

Hello all Tele Class friends:

In our last WZSE #308, we presented the first four verses of this Monajaat. Today, we will present the rest of it.

Our very good scholar friend Fariborz Rahnmoon replied to our last WZSE #308 as follows:

“The word Monajat is **NOT A PERSIAN WORD it is an ARABIC WORD**. The Arabic word *munajat* is derived either from *yunaji* or *najawa* means "talking in secret." Besides, the word *najawa* itself is rooted from *najah*, meaning "deliverance" or "salvation." Hence, in the technical term of the poetry, the word *munajat* offers the meaning of "supplication for repentance of sins." According to "Ilmi Urdu Lughat" (Lahore, 1972, O. 1427) by Warris Sirhindi, "*munajat* means secret conversation, whispering, prayer, longing or yearning. It is a poem glorifying God as well as an act of offering prayer by submitting humble supplication." The term *munajat* has also the connotation of conveying greetings and reverence to a sanctified person.

With Regards, Fariborz Rahnmoon - <http://www.ancientiran.com>

<http://zarathushticalendar.com/>”

We want to thank Fariborz for his observation. As mentioned in our last WZSE #308, many of our Persian and Gujarati Monajaats also has Arabic words. Even the beginning of our *Khorshed Nyaayesh* also has few Arabic words.

“Sir Dr. Ervad Jivanji J. Modi gives an illustrative description of the prayer *Monajaat* concerning its function for the believer as an outlet of religious emotions: “It is a prayer in which the person praying holds, as it were, a converse with his God and pours forth his own inward personal feelings of devotion and expression of humility”. This definition of Zoroastrian *Monajaat* stresses the individuality and intimacy of the prayer which is suited to build up a very close personal relationship to God in the form of a dialogue. In contrast to the official Zoroastrian prayers which are composed in the ancient Avestan language, the language of the *Monajaat* is normally the mother tongue of the praying person, Persian or Gujarati, so that the believer is able to follow each formulation of the prayer.” (<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/monajat-i>)

Sir Dr. Ervad Jivanji Jamshedji Modi was an amazing scholar, prolific writer, and the author of the Zarathushti Ceremonies book available at <http://www.avesta.org/ritual/rcc.htm>

About this Monajaat presented in this WZSE, his grandson and a very good friend of ours, Jamshed Modi, wrote the following in an email to our very good friend Kersee Kabraji, which I take liberty to reproduce here:

“Two of them are short WORD files, being English transcriptions (not translations)

of Gujarati hum-Bandagis that Sir Jivanji Modi used to get his family to recite, especially during Muktd days which are going on now, and on Khordad Sal. That tradition was continued by his children in their respective families and is continuing to this day in many of his grand-children's families. I think you will find the words beautiful, and in support of your own views on what constitutes the essence of Zoroastrianism. The *Asho Farohar Ni Yaad* was written by Sir Jivanji himself. The *Asho Zarthost Ni Yaad* was written by someone who used the pen-name "Firoj".

The Firoj mentioned by Jamshed Bhai is the famous Parsi poet – Firoz Rustomji Batliwala – the author of this Monaaajaat.

Many of our loyal readers of WZSEs do understand Gujarati well and many times they have requested me to present the original Gujarati of some songs or Monaaajaats we have presented. Hence, we have attached the Gujarati Monaaajaat to this WZSE. In the Monaaajaat presented in this WZSE, the first sentence will be the Gujarati transliteration and the second one is its English translation.

In this Monaaajaat for the praise of Zarathushtra, the last part of each sentence is the repetition: "Asho Zarthosht Paygambar" meaning "Righteous Zarathushtra Prophet". In the Monaaajaat, these three words are supposed to be repeated three times and they give a very good ending to each verse. So, I have decided to use these three original words as is after the first time so as to give the original three words of the Monaaajaat and we want you to recite them as is in Gujarati.

This Monaaajaat has 8 verses so we have decided to present the first four verses in the last WZSE #308 and then present the rest four verses this week in WZSE #309.

With this long drawn out background, let us present the last four verses of this beautiful Monaaajaat:

Monaaajaat – In the Praise of Asho Zarathushtra – Firoze Rustomjee Batliwala – Verses 5 – 8

(Please hear the attached .mp3 file for its complete recitation)

5. Khudaahnee raaha upahr chaalee, ashoinch sadaa paalee,

5. You always walk on the path of Mazda, you always lived with righteousness,

Sadaa raajee keedho parawar, Asho Jarthosht Paygambar.

You so made Mazda very happy, Asho Jarthosht Paygambar.

6. Badee, agnyaan, undhaaroo, kidhuhn tehn gnyaanthee nyaaroo,

6. Vice, ignorance, darkness, you resolved them using knowledge,

Bhaloh tuhn neka taalewar, Asho Jarthosht Paygambar.

You are our good guide, Asho Jarthosht Paygambar.

7. Padhee sahu aafareenoh laakhoh, fidaa jaanoh karee naakho,

7. Let us all bestow thousands of blessings upon him with our all gratitude,

Kaho tuhn rehnumaaee kahr, Asho Jarthosht Paygambar.

And let us ask for his guidance, Asho Jarthosht Paygambar.

8. Bhaleh Daadaar tehn sthaapyo, janama Jarthoshtaneh aapyoh,

8. Well done Daadaar Ahura Mazda, that you sent Zarathushtra to this world,

Khulyuh jehthee sukhoneh ghar, Asho Jarthosht Paygambar.

Because of him, the home of happiness was opened for all of us, Asho Jarthosht Paygambar.

SPD Comments:

1. Many Gujarati Monaajaats are written in the praise of Zarathushtra by a number of Parsi Poets, like the one above.
2. Word Paygambar is actually a Persian word – Paygaambar – Paygaam = message, bar is the imperative of the Persian verb Bordan = to carry, and so Paygaambar = message carrier = messenger = Prophet.

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 Aafrinaamaha! (May it be so as we wish!)

Love and Tandoorasti, Soli

અશો જરથોશ્તની સિફતમાં

- ૧ સરસ સહુધી ખરો રેહબર, અશો જરથોશ્ત પયગમ્બર;
ઠરૂઠ તારાં રવાન ઉપર, અશો જરથોશ્ત પયગમ્બર.
- ૨ અમારી ઠાઠ તેં લીધી, તજાવી તેં બઢી ઢીધી;
ઉતારી નેક રાહોપર અશો જરથોશ્ત પયગમ્બર
- ૩ જગતને કાજ તેં દુઃખને, લિધું માંથે તજી સુખને;
કિધો દુખનો દિલે નહિ ડર, અશો જરથોશ્ત પયગમ્બર.
- ૪ લડાઈ તું લડયો સતની, અહુરમજ્દની મહોબતની;
મુકી માલો, મહેલો, જર, અશો જરથોશ્ત પયગમ્બર.
- ૫ ખુદાની રાહ પર ચાલી, અશોઈને સદા પાળી;
સદા રાજી કિધો પરવર, અશો જરથોશ્ત પયગમ્બર.
- ૬ બઢી, અજ્ઞાન, અંધારું, કિધું તેં જ્ઞાનથી ન્યાડું;
ભલો તું નેક તાલેવર, અશો જરથોશ્ત પયગમ્બર.
- ૭ પઢી સહુ આફરિનો લાખો, કિઠા જાનો કરી નાખો;
કહો તું રેહનુમાઈ કર અશો જરથોશ્ત પયગમ્બર.
- ૮ ભલે ઠાઠાર તેં સ્થાપ્યો, જનમ જરથોશ્તને આપ્યો;
ખુલ્યું જેથી સુખોનું ઘર, અશો જરથોશ્ત પયગમ્બર.

(કવિ - ફીરોઝ રૂસ્તમજી બાટલીવાલા)