

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 342: Let me be thy herald to the poor, Ahura Mazda - Dasturji Dhalla - Homage Unto Ahura Mazda - Part III(b) - Prayer 9

Hello all Tele Class friends:

Dasturji Dhalla, in his famous book: Homage Unto Ahura Mazda requests Ahura Mazda to make him HIS worker to help the poor.

In these days of abject “anomalies of life, with riotous riches on the one hand and grinding poverty on the other”, Dasturji wants to be a helper in anyway possible to help the poor, and it will be appropriate to quote Dasturji Dhalla’s one of the prayers from his wonderful book: **Homage unto Ahura Mazda** about **“Let me be thy herald to the poor, Ahura Mazda”!**

Let me take this opportunity to repeat a previous WZSE introduction of Dasturji Dhalla – Homage Unto Ahura Mazda. Hope you do not mind hearing his wonderful explanation about why he wrote this book – **Homage unto Ahura Mazda!**

Many of you have asked me: Why I should pray in Avesta/Pazand language I do not understand?

Such questions have been asked all the times by our well-meaning Humdins.

In the past, some attempts were made by writing Gujarati Monajats which we used to sing every day in our beloved Cama Institute.

But the best answer to this question was given by none other than one of our greatest Avesta/Pahlavi Scholar and prolific writer, Shams-UI-Ulama Dr. Dasturji Maneckji Dhalla, Vada Dastur of Karachi. One of his very wonderful books is: *Saga of a Soul -- An Autobiography*, which was written by him in Gujarati and was translated later on in English and is available at: <http://www.avesta.org/dhalla/saga.htm>

which I highly recommend to all of you to read. It gives details of his life in a very lucid and detailed manner.

In its Chapter LXI : MY FAITH IN DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS (**please see the attached file and please read it**), he gives a detailed background about attempts by our scholars to compose and sing prayers in Gujarati with accompaniment of a Harmonium; however, the orthodox Parsis really criticized these efforts and eventually it died down.

His dear wife always kept after him to write a book of Zoroastrian prayers in English and finally after 45 years from the time he wanted to write such a book, he wrote the book of Daily Zoroastrian Prayers in English: **Homage Unto Ahura Mazda**, which is available at:

<http://www.zarathushtra.com/z/article/dhalla/>

and it is a wonderful book of daily Zoroastrian Prayers in English which our youths would really like it.

Those who participated in our 17 Tele Classes will remember that at the end of each Tele Class, we always had a cyber Hum Bandagi with an English Zoroastrian Prayer from Dasturji Dhalla's above book.

To all Teachers, parents and guardians: please look up this book and make sure the young ones also look it over.

It would be great if all of us have a family prayer from this book each day and at the beginning of each Religion Class.

So today, we will present one of these prayers on "**Let me be thy herald to the poor, Ahura Mazda**" from this book and hope you enjoy it:

Let me be thy herald to the poor, Ahura Mazda – Dasturji Dhalla – Homage Unto Ahura Mazda – Part III(b) – Prayer 9

Dasturji Dhalla grew up as a very orthodox Zarathushtri. During his stay in NY and USA for his Ph. D. studies, he experienced the free US society and came in contact with many people with varied backgrounds. During this period, he started to open his mind and slowly drifted to become an enlightened person with lofty ideals. On his return to Karachi, he was appointed the Vada (Chief) Dastur of Karachi and Sindh province. Many of our NA friends from Karachi speak very highly of him and he used to teach religious classes to them. He was invited to give lectures to many groups. During his first visit to Mumbai for a lecture series, orthodox Parsis threw rotten eggs on the stage and gave a very hard time to him for his enlightened thoughts on religion.

In one of his prayers in his above book, he talks about "**Let me be thy herald to the poor, Ahura Mazda**". This is a wonderful short prayer by Dasturji on becoming Ahura Mazda's instrument to help the poor. He requests Ahura Mazda to help him be his medium to help the poor.

So today, we present this prayer by Dasturji on helping the poor:

Let me be thy herald to the poor, Ahura Mazda – Dasturji Dhalla – Homage Unto Ahura Mazda – Part III(b) – Prayer 9:

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

We live in the midst of the anomalies of life, with riotous riches on the one hand and grinding poverty on the other. The noblest persons that have walked this earth have given their food to the hungry and the starving and have themselves gone without it. Pious souls vowed to live in willful poverty. Poverty is adorned when greatness is born from it.

My heart beats warm for the poor. I will impose privation upon myself to save something for the poor and the needy. What little I can give to the poor, I will give

with the grace that would make my gift rich in humility and love. Never will I put indignities upon the poor.

Let my heart ever go out to the poor. Let me have a ready disposition to help them. Let me ever be ready to help those that are in need of my help. Let me feel for the poor. Let my thoughts be devoted to their welfare. Let my generosity to the poor know no bounds, when I happen to possess a superfluity. Let me help them in ever so small a degree. Let me think and work for the happiness of the poor, when I am in the midst of poverty myself. Let me always pity them and love them and bless them, even when I cannot help them. Let me feel the sorrows of the poor, as if they were mine and let me sympathize with them, as if their trials were my own concern.

Let me chase away poverty from my door by hard work and honest industry. Let me always eat my hard-earned bread. Let me fight my way from my poverty in life by strenuous work. Let me ever stand on my own feet to work for and win my independent means.

Wealth has wings. If I lose my wealth and am reduced to poverty after having known plenty, let me battle as best as I can with the hardships of poverty. The thought that I labor to preserve my self-independence, sweetens my toil.

The entire creation attests to thy bounty, O Bountiful Lord. Thy bounty feeds all that live. Thou dost put thy protecting hand on the heads of the poor and soothe their pangs by whispering words of kindness into their ears. Poverty with thee is happier than affluence without thee, Ahura Mazda.

(Dasturji Dr. Dhalla – *Homage Unto Ahura Mazda* Part III(b) Prayer 9:

<http://www.zarathushtra.com/z/article/dhalla/ch3b/iiib21.htm>)

SPD Comments

1. According to Kangaji's word by word translation of Yatha Ahu Vairyo (please see the attached page), its third and last part is:

Khshathremchaa Ahuraai aa yim dregubyo dadat vaastaarem.

Translation:

He who constitutes himself to the protector (or the nourisher) of the poor (accepts) the sovereign rule (of the entire world) (as it were) of Hormuzd.

In the explanation, Kangaji states:

“He who gives help unto the poor virtuous brothers, regards, as it were, Hormazd as the Lord of the entire world.”

2. Dr. Irach Taraporewalla in his famous Gatha book states for this sentence:

“The third line tells us about the secret of these knots (tying Kusti) and about the secret of work: ‘Ahura’s Kshathra surely cometh down on him who serves with zeal his brother meek’. This line points out the Path of Service (Sevaa-Maarga). After having gained Knowledge (the first line of Yathaa) and after having filled the heart with Love (the second line), the fulfillment and the crown of human life should take the form of Service of Brother-Man. There is the well-known saying, ‘What I gave away I have, what I saved I lost.’ This is true of all blessings we receive from Heaven.”

3. The famous saying: “Parsi thy name is charity!” is given to us due to our forefathers’ unbelievable philanthropy not only to the Parsis but to the whole world! Just note the charities of Jeejeebhoy, Tatas, Wadias, Godrejs, and many many more Parsi families

for all humanities!

4. The most famous Lebanese poet, Kahlil Gibran in his very famous book: **The Prophet** (please see the attached book cover), states some very inspiring words for giving. Here is what he states:

“You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give. For what are your possessions but things you keep and guard for fear you may need them tomorrow? And tomorrow, what shall tomorrow bring to the over-prudent dog burying bones in the trackless sand as he follows the pilgrims to the holy city? And what is fear of need but need itself? Is not dread of thirst when your well is full, the thirst that is unquenchable? There are those who give little of the much which they have – and they give it for recognition and their hidden desire makes their gift unwholesome. And there are those who have little and give it all. These are the believers in life and the bounty of life, and their coffer is never empty.”

What a profound statement about giving!

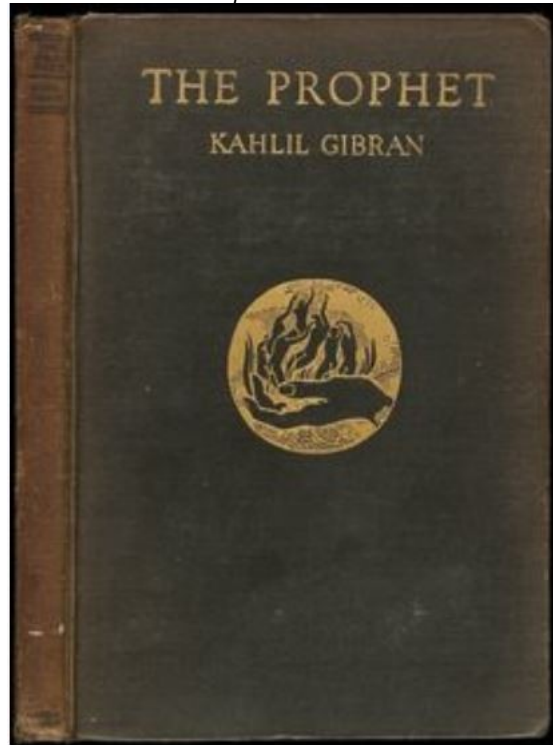
May the Flame of Fellowship, Love, Charity and Respect for all burn ever eternal in our hearts so we can do HIS work with humility, diligence and eternal enthusiasm!

In HIS service 24/7!

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

Love and Tandoorasti, Soli

The Prophet Kahlil Gibran:



First edition cover