

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 350: Dr. Khosro Khazai (Pardis) - The Way Zarathushtra was teaching - Ahunavaiti Gatha - Yasna 31 - Verse 8, Ushtavaiti Gatha - Yasna 44 - Verses 6 & 2

Hello all Tele Class friends:

Vakhshur-e-Vakhshuraan Zarathushtra's Gathas have been translated by a number of scholars, Eastern as well as Western. One of them is Dr. Khosro Khazai (Pardis), an Iranian Zarathushtri, who received his Doctorate in 1978 from the Universities of Brussels and Ghent in Belgium. He is a specialist in Middle Eastern and Central Asian Studies, focusing principally on the history of Persian civilization, archeology, linguistics and ideas. He was one of the founders of the European Center for Zoroastrian Studies, Brussels, Belgium. One of his nine books is *The Gathas – The Sublime Book of Zarathushtra*, published by European Center of Zoroastrian Studies, its English version in 2007 (Please see the attached photo of its cover).

In our WZSE #313, we have presented Dr. Khazai's writing about **The Assembly of Magi** at:

<http://www.avesta.org/wzse/wzse313.pdf>

Today, we present his interesting presentation about: ***The Way Zarathustra was teaching***

Let me quote Dr. Khazai from his above book, Pages 33 – 35 below:

“The Way Zarathustra was teaching

A short look through the songs of the Gathas clearly shows Zarathustra's way of teaching.

His approach is astonishingly modern. One can say timeless. It is based on stimulating the thought, awakening the brain, widening and refreshing one's outlook on life.

The method he uses is based on *“asking questions and searching for the answers”*.

He doesn't accept anything unless he understands it with his own wisdom *“khratu”*.

He asks questions about everything, from apparently the least important events in life to the greatest phenomena in the existential world. He asks over and over again and never rests until he receives the answer. He knows that nothing should remain in the dark. It is in the darkness that doors open wide to deception and superstition.

Zarathustra asks more than 100 questions. Song 9 (*Ushtavaiti Gatha – Yasna 44*), is composed exclusively of questions.

But whom is he asking, and from whom is he expecting to receive the answers?

His method is to go deep into his thoughts, to their furthest reaches. It is in the deepest place of his thought that he connects with the “source of wisdom” and meets Ahura Mazda face to face.

(in the following translations by Dr. Khazai's Gatha quotes, I have added the corresponding Gathic words to complete these quotes)

Dr. Khosro Khazai (Pardis) – The Way Zarathushtra was teaching

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

*(8) At thwaa menghi pourvim Mazdaa yezim stoi mananghaa,
Vangheush patarem Manangho hyat thwaa hem chashmaini hengrabem,
Haithim ashahyaa daamim angheush Ahurem shyaothnaeshu.*

Dr. Khosro Khazai (Pardis) – The Way Zarathushtra was teaching

*(8) “O Mazda Ahura,
The moment I recognized You in my thoughts,
I realized that You are the beginning
and the end of existence...”*

(rest of the translation from Dr. Khazai's book)

*“and You are the source of Good Thought.
And as I envisioned You with my inner sight,
I knew that You are the true creator of Righteousness”*

(Dr. Khazai – The Gathas - Ahunavaiti Gatha, Yasna 31 - Verse 8 – Page 69)

He then continues questioning. He wants to know everything: *What is life? Where is its direction? What is its sense and meaning? How can a happy life be set up? How are the events in life shaped and where are their sources?*

He asks all these questions to Ahura Mazda. He wants to know again, who has created the earth, sun, moon and stars? Who has created Righteousness and Good Thought? He asks:

Dr. Khosro Khazai (Pardis) – The Way Zarathushtra was teaching

*(6) “Tat thwaa peresaa eresh moi vaochaa Ahuraa;
..... kaeibyozim raanyo-skeretim gaam tasho”*

Dr. Khosro Khazai (Pardis) – The Way Zarathushtra was teaching

*(6) “Tell me O Ahura Mazda,
So that I may rightly comprehend.
..... for whom did You create this joyful and prosperous world”?*

(Dr. Khazai – The Gathas - Ushtavaiti Gatha, Yasna 44 - Verse 6 – Page 110)

He asks again:

Dr. Khosro Khazai (Pardis) – The Way Zarathushtra was teaching

(2) Tat thwaa peresaa eresh moi vaochaa Ahuraa;

Kathaa angheush vahishtahyaa paourvim,
Kathe suidyaai yeh ee paitishaat

Dr. Khosro Khazai (Pardis) – The Way Zarathushtra was teaching

(2) “Tell me O Ahura Mazda,

So that I may rightly comprehend.

where is the source of a happy life and what is the reward of the one who looks for such a life?”

(Dr. Khazai – The Gathas - Ushtavaiti Gatha, Yasna 44 - Verse 2 – Page 108)

Tell me, tell me O, Ahura Mazda.

It is with questions and answers that Zarathustra builds his outlook on the existential world and arrives at his teachings.

That is why there is not a single contradiction in the Gathas and nothing remains in darkness or confusion. Everything is as limpid as water from a spring and as bright as a sunny day.”

(Dr. Khazai)

SPD Comments:

1. In the above Dr. Khazai’s quote from his book, he has a very interesting way to present – ***The Way Zarathushtra was teaching.***
2. In Greek history, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle are known to be the greatest philosophers, Socrates the teacher of Plato, Plato the teacher of Aristotle. All of them knew about Zarathushtra and his teachings. It is said that Socrates while discussing with other persons, especially with his students, mainly asked questions and let his pupils think and answer him followed by more questions. This method is called Socratic technique. Knowing how Zarathushtra in his Gathas asks questions to Ahura Mazda and mostly answers them himself, one wonders if Socrates knew about Zarathushtra’s technique?!
3. Let me repeat from our WZSE #78 the following interesting events in our lives at the beloved MF Cama Athornan Institute relating to Ushtavaiti Gatha – Yasna 44 mentioned above:

When we were students in the beloved M. F. Cama Athornan Institute, one of the toughest exams we had to face was the oral Navar examination by that famous scholar of our religion and Avesta-Pahlavi, late Ervad Rustomjee Dinshahji Meherjirana (lovingly called “Baapaajee”). He was a terror among us young students appearing for the oral Navar exam with him as an outside examiner. His favorite Yazashne Haa was always Yasna 44 – “Tat Thwaa Peresaa”! We all knew that he will eventually ask us to recite this Haa during our oral exam.

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

