

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 352: Zarathushtra proclaims - man understanding Ahura Mazda's Message Receives the treasure of HIS Teachings - Spentaa Mainyu Gatha - Yasna 48 - Verses 3 - 4

Hello all Tele Class friends:

Zarathushtra's third Gatha Spentaa Mainyu (Pahlavi: Spentomad) consists of 4 songs – Yasna 47 – 50 with 41 verses.

Scholars explained Spentaa Mainyu in different ways.

Our eminent late ZAGNY scholar and Prof. Kaikhosrov D. Irani states:

(<http://www.zarathushtra.com/z/gatha/dji/The%20Gathas%20-%20DJI.pdf>)

“Ahura Mazda meaning the Wise Lord, is the Divinity of Gathic theology. He is the Creator and the Source of Goodness. The two opposed Spirits, Principles, or Mentalities:

1. Spenta Mainyu, meaning the bountiful or progressive spirit in the ethical dualism, it is the Good-Spirit.
2. Angre Mainyu is the spirit of destruction or opposition. In the doctrine of ethical dualism it is the Evil Spirit. Although the concept is used, this term itself does not appear in the Gathas. It was employed a little later in the Avestan literature.”

For the second Haa 48, of the Spentaa Mainyu Gatha, late Prof. Kaikhosrov D. Irani, in his father, Dinshaw J. Irani's book, *The Gathas The Hymns of Zarathushtra*, states:

“The Ha probably was composed in a period of social and political uncertainty. Zarathushtra asks Ahura Mazda for assurance that the righteous will be vindicated. Although the question is rhetorical, the affirmative response is elaborated by a reinforcement of the teachings already propounded. The good existence shall come by human effort dedicated to righteousness. There is the wish that the righteous with wisdom and right-mindedness rule us thereby bringing peace and prosperity. The contrast between the good and the evil is reformulated. It is through wisdom and understanding that the practice of evil shall be averted. And one who can bring about this form of action to human practice is declared to be a benefactor, a savior of humanity.”

In our previous WZSE #130, we covered Verses 1 – 2 of this Haa 48.

<http://www.avesta.org/wzse/wzse130.pdf>

In our another previous WZSE #201, we covered Verses 11 – 12 of this Haa 48.

Today, we will cover Verses 3 – 4 of this Haa 48:

**Zarathushtra proclaims - man understanding Ahura Mazda's Message
receives the treasure of HIS Teachings - Spentaa Mainyu Gatha -
Yasna 48 - Verses 3 - 4**

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

**(3) At vaedemnaai vahishtaa saasnanaam,
Yaam hudaao saasti Ashaa Ahuro,
Spento vidvaao, yaechit guzraa senghaaongho;
Thwaavaas Mazdaa Vangheush khrathwaa Manangho.**

**(4) Yeh daat mano vahyo Mazdaa ashyaschaa,
Hvo daenaam shyaothanaachaa vachanghaachaa;
Ahyaa zaosheng ushtish vareneng hachaiteh;
Thwahmi khrataao apemem nanaa anghat.**

**Zarathushtra proclaims - man understanding Ahura Mazda's
Message receives the treasure of HIS Teachings –
Spentaa Mainyu Gatha - Yasna 48 - Verses 3 – 4 Translation:**

**(3) O Benevolent, Omniscient Mazda!
To the man understanding Thy Message
Thou dost bestow the profound treasure of Thy Teachings;
That which Thou hast established through Truth!
With an intelligence inspired by the Good Mind,
Verily, one becomes worthy of Thee, O Mazda!**

**(4) Those whose minds move to uplifting thoughts
And those others whose minds turn to what is base,
Their words and deeds will reflect their thoughts;
For their choices will follow their sentiments.
Their ends will be different, as Thy Wisdom declares.**

SPD Comments

4. In the first Verse 3 Yasna 48 above, it states that the person who has followed Ahura Mazda's message, taught by Zarathushtra, is bestowed by HIS Teachings and he is worthy to be HIS follower.
5. Dr. Kolsawalla in his thesis have presented translations of all Gathas by 17 scholars. While reading these translations, one is very confused by the differences in these translations for the same verse.
6. To illustrate it today, we will present a few of these translations of the second verse from above - Yasna 48 – Verse 4:

(a) Kangaji:

“Whoso, O Ahura Mazda! Keeps his mind better and holier, he himself through word and deed keeps even the religion the same. His wish follows his faith and fealty; the destiny of that man is distinctly in Thy wisdom, O Ahura Mazda!”

(b) Prof. Irach Taraporewalla:

“Whoso makes his mind better, O Mazda, or else worse, he surely through deed and word makes his own Inner-Self also better or worse; his Will follows his voluntary choice; in Thy Wisdom their destiny shall be distinct.”

(c) Mobed Firouz Azargoshasb:

“One who makes his mind better or worse, O Mazda, his deed, word and conscience shall follow sure. The path selected by one's voluntary choice, his will and faith shall also follow the same and shall be in tune with them. According to Thy wisdom, O Mazda, their destiny shall be distinct from each other.”

(d) Prof. Insler:

“Who has set his mind on the good, Wise One, and who on the bad, each such person follows his conception in action and in word; also his pleasures, his desires, and his preferences. But Thy will shall be done, the end shall be different for each.”

(e) Shri Jitendra Chatterji:

“One who holds his mind to the greater as well as to the smaller, he upholds religion in deeds and words. His pleasure, wish and choice, all accord together. In Your duty, diverse are the methods.”

(f) Ali Jaffery:

“Whoever, Wise One, has set his mind on the better or the worse, sets his conscience accordingly with actions and words. His desire follows his cherished choice. But in Your wisdom, the end of the two will be different.”

4. It can be seen that there are some similarities as well as differences among various translations of the same Gatha Verse. A common person like me has to use his Vohu Mana (Good Mind) to select whichever appeals to him the best.
5. In our WZSEs, we have tried to give a flavor of translations by different scholars.

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