

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 363: Zarathushtra's Questions to Daadaar Ahura Mazda in Yasna 44 and Hemant Kumar beautiful song from 1954 Film Pehli Jhalak

Hello all Tele Class friends:

Zarathushtra Questions to Ahura Mazda:

In his Gathas, especially in Ushtavaiti Gatha, Yasna 44, Zarathushtra asks many questions to Daadaar Ahura Mazda. However, Ahura Mazda never answers him. Zarathushtra with his Vohu Mana (Good Mind) and Asha (righteousness) and meditation, answers himself, usually at the end of the same verse.

The questions Zarathushtra asks Ahura Mazda, from Yasna 44, Verses 3 – 6, are:

- What has been the creator and First Father of the Truth?
- Who laid down the path of sun and stars?
- Who made the moon to wax and wane betimes? (Verse 3)
- What power doth hold the earth and the heavens apart and prevents the latter from falling?
- Who is the Creator of water and plants?
- Who imparts swiftness to the wind and wafts from the dark clouds charged with rain?
- Who is the Creator inspiring Vohuman, O Mazda? (Verse 4)
- Who is the Creator of light and darkness?
- What architect has fashioned sleep and waking, rest and activity?
- Who has created the dawn, the day, and the night, teaching the wise man to fulfil his daily duties properly? (Verse 5)
- For whom has Thou created this fruitful and joy bringing Mother Earth? (Verse 6)

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

These are profound questions and of course Zarathushtra acknowledges Ahura Mazda as the sole Creator of all the above things in the world.

For this Haa 44 (Chapter), Dr. Taraporewalla, in his opus of Gathas states:

This Haa is among the grandest in the Gaathaas. For poetic beauty it is perhaps the best in the whole of the extant Avesta texts. The very first line:

“Tat Thwaa Peresaa eresh moi vaochaa, Ahuraa!”

“This do I ask Thee, tell me truly, O Ahuraa!”

Introduces the ‘rhetorical questions’ which in sublimity are comparable to the highest levels reached in the Psalms of the Bible.

Hemant Kumar song from Bollywood Film “Pehli Jhalak” (1954):

I am an ardent lover of all old songs and this song came to my mind last week and when I realized the questions in the song, it brought memory of Zarathushtra’s above questions from his Gatha. The song asks the similar questions about our earth, heavens, nature, etc. like Zarathushtra’s questions.

So, we would like to present this song, sung so beautifully by Hemant Kumar:

Please note that most of the lines are repeated twice in the song.

The song can be heard at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1UH-JvmtcYU>

I am not a scholar of Hindi and so please forgive me for the errors in my translation and if you find some please let me know.

| Hindi Text | Translation |
|---|---|
| Zameen chal rahi, Aasmaan chal rahaa hai Yeh kisakeh ishaareh Jahaan chal rahaa hai | The earth moves on, the heavens roll on. On whose signal the whole world is moving. |
| Zameen chal rahi, Aasmaan chal rahaa hai | The earth moves on, the heavens roll on. |
| Chaleh jaa rahi hai zamaaneh ki naiyaa Najar se na dekhaa kisie neh khivaiyaa Na jaaneh yeh chakkar Kahaan chal rahaa hai Yeh kisakeh ishaareh Jahaan chal rahaa hai | The world ship is moving on But no one has seen its Master Captain! Do not know where this puzzle is moving to, On whose signal the whole world is moving. |
| Zameen chal rahi Aasmaan chal rahaa hai | The earth moves on, the heavens roll on. |
| Yeh hasanaa yeh ronaa Yeh aashaa niraashaa | These laughter and tears, these hope and despair, |
| Samajh mein na aaye Kyaa hai tamaasha Yeh kyun raat din Kaarwaan chal rahaa hai | Can’t figure out what is this whole show. Why does this world Caravan is moving on day and night? |
| Yeh kisakeh ishaareh Jahaan chal rahaa hai | On whose signal the whole world is moving. |
| Zameen chal rahi Aasmaan chal rahaa hai | The earth moves on, the heavens roll on. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Ajab hai yeh mehfil, Ajab daastan hai Naa manjil naa koi, Naa koi neeshaan hai Toh feer kees leeyeh Kaarvaan chal rahaa hai Yeh kisakeh ishaareh Jahaan chal rahaa hai Zameen chal rahi Aasmaan chal rahaa hai. | Amazing is this feast, amazing is this story There is no road, there is no sign, Then for whom the World Caravan is moving on, On whose signal the whole world is moving. The earth moves on, the heavens roll on. |
| Bhatakteh toh dekheh Hazaaroh seyaaneh Magar raaz kudarat kaa koi na jaaneh Yeh sub silsilaa beh neeshaan chal rahaa hai Yeh kisakeh ishaareh Jahaan chal rahaa hai Zameen chal rahi Aasmaan chal rahaa hai | We see thousands of smart persons roaming around, But no one knows the secret of mother nature. This whole world succession is moving on unnoticed, On whose signal the whole world is moving. The earth moves on, the heavens roll on. |

SPD Explanation:

1. Zarathushtra asks many a question to Ahura Mazda in his Gathas but Ahura Mazda never answers him. However, later Dasturs who composed Younger Avesta like Yashts, Vendidad and some of the Yasna chapters used these modes of questions/answers to authenticate their own thoughts on the questions by having Zarathushtra asking questions and Ahura Mazda answering them. Vendidad is full of such dialogs. In such dialogs, it is wrong to believe that these are actual questions/answers.

2. In the above Zarathushtra's questions, he mentions three parts of a day as:

- Who has created the dawn, the day, and the night,

The question then arises: were there only 3 Gahs in a day in Zarathushtra's time? And the other 2 were added later? In Sassanian times, there definitely were 5 Gahs in a day.

3. Similarity between Zarathushtra's questions with the questions in the above song is quite intriguing. They were separated by over 3500+ years!

4. Zarathushtra's questions are direct. Whereas in the song the same questions are presented in an indirect way.

5. On the Silk Road, the beast of burden are still camels, to and from, moving on and on. And the resulting Caravans in our Hindi songs are compared with the whole world moving on and on. And hence the reference of the Caravans in the above song with the world.

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