

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 376: In Praise of Aavaan Ardvisur Baanu - Aavaan Nyaayesh, Verses 9-11

Hello all Tele Class friends:

Background

The female Aavaan Yazad, also known as Aavaan Ardvi Sura Baanu, presides over the waters and in her name, we have the 5th Aavaan Yasht as well as Ardvi Sura Nyaayesh. The latter is composed mainly from Aavaan Yasht verses plus “Aa Haataamcha” prayer from Yasna 65 Verses 6 - 14.

Aavaan Yazad, together with Deen, Ashishvangh, and Maarespand Yazads, is a Humkaar (co-worker) of Asfandaard Ameshaaspad who presides over our earth. According to Kangaji, Ardvi Sura Nyaayesh should be recited everyday if possible. Otherwise it is enjoined to be recited on the above 5 days. Usually, we pray this Nyaayesh facing water such as a well in an Agiary or a river or sea or lake outdoors.

Eminent American essayist, Dale Carnegie, was in Mumbai on Aavaan Parabh and was astounded by all the Parsis praying on the beach and has written a very flattering account of our custom!

A very familiar scene on the Mumbai Marine Drive and Chowpatty Beach on Aavaan Mahino and Aavaan Roj, “Aavaan Yazad Nu Parabh” (celebration of Aavaan Yazad) is of Parsis/Iranis Humdins praying at the beach. Attached please find some photos of Aavaan Yazad Parabh Celebrations.

So, today we will present the Verses 9 – 11 verses of this beautiful prayer Yasna 65 (Aavaan Ardvi Sur Baanu Nyaayesh) in praise of the Aavaan Ardvi Sur Baanu.

In Praise of Aavaan Ardvisur Baanu - Aavaan Nyaayesh - Verses 9 - 11

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

Prayer Text	Translation
(9) Aapo gaatava raamoidhvém, yavata zaota yazaaitéh. katha zaota khsaata vacha aapo vanghushish yazaaitéh. kuthra bavaat hito-hizvaao yézi	(9) O pure waters! as long as the Joti praises you, so long as, may you be pleased in your place! How shall the Joti praise the good waters with the word taught? But if that Joti invokes the waters contrary to the prescribed rule, then

<p>an-aréthéh yazaaitéh.</p> <p>Kuthra vaacho avi-buta, yaan héh chakhséh aéthra-paitish,</p> <p>kuthra taao frayo bavaan;</p> <p>kuthra taao ishudo bavaan.</p> <p>Kuthra taao raatayo bavaan,</p> <p>yaan Ahuro Mazdaao Zarathushtraai fravavacha,</p> <p>fraa Zarathushtro gaéthaaabyo astvaitibyó.</p>	<p>how will he be silenced?</p> <p>How will he apply those words which the Herbad taught him?</p> <p>How might that prayer be fulfilled?</p> <p>In what way will that gratefulness be accomplished?</p> <p>How will that offering be made?</p> <p>About whom the creator Ahura Mazda had spoken to the Prophet Zarathushtra, and in turn the Prophet Zarathushtra proclaimed to the people of the corporeal world?</p>
<p>(10) Avajastim paurvaam aapo jaidhyoish Zarathushtra,</p> <p>paschaet aiwyo zaothraao frabaroish yaozdaataao dahmo-pairishtaao,</p> <p>imaan vacho framru.</p>	<p>(10) O Zarathushtra! Thou shouldst pray first the petition to the waters.</p> <p>Thou shouldst then carry the libation to those waters examined by a pious and wise man and thou shouldst pronounce the following words.</p>
<p>(11) Aapo yaanem vo yaasaami mazaaontem tém méh daayata, yéngheh daaiti paiti vangho nisrita</p> <p>an-aiwi-drukhti.</p> <p>Aapo ishtim vo jaidhyaami</p> <p>pouru-saredhaam amavitim, frazantimcha khaaparaam yénghaao paorushcha béréjyaan.</p> <p>Naéchishcha anghaao yaasaaiti jyaanaai,</p> <p>noit snathaai, noit mahrkaai, noit aénanghéh, noit apayaté-éh.</p>	<p>(11) O ye waters! Ye grant me that great favor, I beseech you.</p> <p>Through the bestowal of this favor, goodness is produced by means of honesty.</p> <p>O ye waters, I beseech you for wealth of many kinds, and large and self-supporting progeny. On whom plenty of children and plenty of blessings may spread.</p> <p>None, even amongst that family, will desire to harm others, to raise arms against them, to hurt them or to take revenge and to destroy them.</p>

SPD Comments

1. In the above verses, a Joti is guided to pray Aavaan Ardvi Sur Baanu correctly as taught by a Mobed. Then Daadaar Ahura Mazda requests Zarathushtra to pray to Aavaan Ardvi Sur Baanu and Zarathushtra does it and asks for certain boons from her.
2. Kangaji in his English [Khordeh Avesta](#) (pages 63 – 64) in Ardvi Sura Nyaayesh gives the following explanation for ancient river Ardvi Sura:

“Explanation: - Ardvi Sura is the name of the river flowing from certain quarters of the provinces of Ancient Iran.

This river was longer and broader than all other rivers known at that period. It is compared with the River Ämu or the Oxus.

The source of the present Oxus River is from the Pamir mountains. The Mount Hukairya is known as the source of Ardvi Sura.

This river was not only praised in the whole of Iran from very ancient times, but was well known in certain parts of Europe and many other places.

In later times it was recognized widely, and the angel Anaahitaa presided over it.

As mentioned in the Seventh Fragard of the Vendidad, its original name is ‘Ardvi’.

The description of this river, as seen in the Pahlavi Books is derived from the Ardvi Sura (or Aavaan) Yasht.

According to the description in the Pahlavi Book called *Dadistan i Denik*, this Ardvi Sura River, where the tree called, “Harvisp-Tokhmi” is situated, and where all kinds of trees and various medicinal plants are found, mingled with the source of the trees mentioned above and, with the fallen branches etc., spreads her water to all other places. On account of this, too, the water of this river is considered healthy and healing and superior to all other waters”.

At present our people generally regard the water of all rivers and seas as “Ardvi Sura” or, “Aavaan Ardvi Sura”.

In Aavaan Yasht, there are accounts of ancient religious stalwarts praying to Aavaan Yazad asking for some boons. All good people were granted their wishes but not the bad ones like Zohaak!

In this respect, she is supposed to help a couple to beget a child and hence

many couples pray this Yasht trying to conceive. Many orthodox Parsis pray this Aavaan Yasht every day of the Aavaan Mahino (month).

I have recorded the whole Aavaan Yasht and is available in 2 parts in YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QLO9HM5nFg&t=10s>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kxroyT6_C_U&t=8s

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

004 Mumbai Marine Drive AYNP Torans



006 Parsis performing kasti prayers



007 Kasti prayers next to AYNP offerings



009 Jashan for AYNP at the Radio Club Colaba

