

## Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 383:

Hello all Tele Class friends:

Vakhshur-e-Vakhshuraan Zarathushtra Spitamaan, our prophet, composed his 5 Gathas in 17 Chapters, as songs.

In many of his songs, he has a dialog going between him and Dadar Ahura Mazda in form of Questions and Answers; however, Zarathushtra's questions in Gathas were never answered by Ahura Mazda; instead, Zarathushtra uses his Vohu Mana, good mind, and with the help of Asha – truth, righteousness, love, etc. – figures out his own answers. This is quite a unique dialog in that respect.

Later composers of our scriptures like Yasna, Yashts and Vendidad used the same form of dialog between Zarathushtra and Ahura Mazda to lend their compositions credibility.

However, in this case, all Zarathushtra's questions are answered by Ahura Mazda, a quite distinct difference from the Gathas.

One such dialog between Ahura Mazda and Zarathushtra is presented in Yasna 19.

Yasna 19 is also a unique commentary on Ahunavar – Yathaa Ahu Vairyo.

Kangaji in his English Khordeh Avesta, Page 1 Footnote, writes:

“These two prayers Ashem Vohu and Yathaa Ahu Vairyo are pre-Zarathushtra in age and are the sacred verses of the Creator Hormazd Himself. (See Yasna Ha XIX, paras 1 – 4 and 14; Yasna Ha XX, 3). Yenghe Haataam is the sacred Verse of the Prophet Zarathushtra (See Yasna Haa XXI, Para 1). These three well-known prayers are adored with their specific names. Yasna Haa XIX is an Avestan Commentary on the Yathaa Ahu Vairyo; Yasna Haa XX gives the Commentary on Ashem Vohu and Yasna Haa XXI gives the Commentary on Yenghe Haataam. These three Haas-Chapters are known as Baghaan Yasht. These three prayers, specially “Yathaa” and “Ashem” are frequently recited in our holy Avestan Scriptures. Those Zoroastrians who do not know any other prayer are enjoined to recite “Yathaa” and “Ashem” with a view to gaining a share of meritorious deeds.”

We have presented a unique commentary on Ashem Vohu from Yasna Haa 20, popularly called Fraamraot No Haa - in our previous two WZSEs – WZSE #171 and WZSE #172 at:

<http://www.avesta.org/wzse/wzse171.pdf>

<http://www.avesta.org/wzse/wzse172.pdf>

Today, we will present Ahunavar (Yathaa Ahu Vairyo) Commentary – Yasna Haa 19.

In this Haa, Ahura Mazda replies to Zarathushtra the great efficacy of reciting Ahunavar. He proclaims that anyone who lives by Yathaa Ahu Vairyo's message and keeps on chanting, it is equivalent to 100 righteous persons living by its message and chanting Gathas. But if the person does not live by its message and keeps on chanting Ahunavar, it is equivalent to 10 righteous persons. Quite a recommendation for Yathaa Ahu Vairyo.

Since there are 21 verses of this Yasna 19 (that is quite interesting coincidence since Yathaa

Ahu Vairyo also have 21 words!), we will present 5 verses a week for next 4 weeks starting from WZSE #383.

So, here are the first 5 verses of Yasna 19 – Commentary on Yathaa Ahu Vairyo.

## Commentary on Ahunavar – Yathaa Ahu Vairyo – Dialog Between Ahura Mazda and Zarathushtra – Yasna 19 – Verses 1 – 5

**(Please hear the attached .mp3 file for the recitation of all 52 names)**

Prayer Text	Translation
(1) Peresat Zarathushthro Ahurem Mazdaam, Ahura Mazda mainyo spénishta daatareh gaéthanaam astvaitinaam ashaaum.  Chit avat vacho aas Ahura Mazda yat méh fraavaocho.	(1) Zarathustra asked Ahura Mazda, O Ahura Mazda, the most beneficent mentality, you righteous creator of the corporeal world, what was that word which Ahura Mazda declared forth to me.
(2) Para asmem para aapem para zaam para gaam para urvaraam para aatarem Ahurahéh Mazdao puthrem para narem ashavanem para daévaashcha khrafshtraaish mashyaashcha para vîspem ahûm astvantem para vîspa vohu mazdadhata asha-chithra.	(2) Superior to the sky, superior to water, superior to land, superior to animal creation, superior to plants, superior to the purifying fire of Ahura Mazda, superior to righteous men, superior to the devilish evil person subject to death, superior to all the corporeal world, superior to all the good creation of Mazda containing the principle of righteousness.
(3) Aa-at mraot Ahuro Mazdao, bagha aésha aas ahunahéh vairyééh Spitama Zarathushtra yat téh fraavaochim.	(3) Then spoke Ahura Mazda, "O Spitama Zarathustra that gift was Ahunavar which was declared to you."
(4) Para asmem para aapem para zaam para gaam para urvaraam para aatarem Ahurahéh Mazdao puthrem para narem ashavanem para daévaashcha khrafstraash mashyaashcha para vîspem ahûm astvantem para vîspa vohu mazdadhaata ashachithra.	(4) Superior to the sky, superior to water, superior to land, superior to animal creation, superior to plants, superior to the purifying fire of Ahura Mazda, superior to the righteous men, superior to the devilish evil person subject to death, superior to all corporeal world, superior to all the good creation of Mazda containing the principle of righteousness.
(5) Haa méh bagha ahunahéh vairyééh Spitama Zarathushtra anapyûkhdha anapishûta sraavayamna. satem paiti anyaéshaam rathwaam gaathanaam anapyûkhdhanaam anapishûtanâm sraavayamnanaam, aa-at aipyûkhdha aipishûta sraavayamna dasa paiti anyéh	(5) This is my gift of Ahunavar, O Spitama Zarathustra, if you live upto the spoken word and go to live on chanting, it is equal to other in general hundred righteous persons living upto the spoken word and going to live on chanting the Gathas; but only on the spoken word to go on chanting it is equal to other in

ratavo.	general ten righteous persons.
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(Translation from Tehmurasp R. Sethna - *Yasna excluding the Gathas* – Page 58)

### **SPD Explanation:**

1. It is very interesting to have commentaries in Avesta Yasna for our three pillars of our Religion – Yathaa, Ashem and Yenghe Haataam.

2. According to the above Verse 5, it is very important to chant Ahunavar as well as to live by its message. So, in my regular quest for finding a tune for Yathaa Ahu Vairyo, I found the tune of a very old song from Hindi Film: “Zindagi Hai Pyaar se”. Some Parsis have used this tune to sing Parsi fun song: “Soonabai Laambaa” which is available at:

<https://zoroastrians.net/?s=parsi+songs&orderby=relevance&order=DESC>

I have [attached my rendition of Yathaa Ahu Vairyo](#) using this tune.

I have also found a tune for Ashem Vohu using a Monaajaat we learnt in our beloved Cama Institute: “Aavo Aavo Aatash ne nami Vadhaavo”. I have also [attached this to this WZSE](#).

3. Please remember that I also have found the famous tune of Ode To Joy to sing Aa airyemaa ishyo with the accompaniment of a clarinet by Dr. Daryush Mehta which is at:

<http://www.avesta.org/wzse/wzse312.pdf>

4. In our previous two WZSEs, #134 and #135, we presented a commentary on our Ahmaai Raescha prayer from Aafrin-e-Rapithwan at:

<http://www.avesta.org/wzse/wzse134.pdf>

<http://www.avesta.org/wzse/wzse135.pdf>

but it is in Pazend language.

**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