

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 58 – [Gathas in our Farajyaat \(Daily Prayers\) – Dr. Dasturji Peshotan Dastur Hormazdyar Mirza’s comments! \(June 18, 2014\)](#)

Hello all Tele Class friends:

After reading our last two weekly extracts, Respected Dasturji and scholar Dr. Dastur Peshotan Dastur Hormazdyar Mirza wrote the following email to me and I would like to share it with you today. It fits right into our weekly extracts from last two weeks – Gathas in our Farajyaat (Daily Prayers). At the end, we will have the first verse of Spenta Mainyu Gatha, thus continuing our weekly extracts.

Love and Tandoorasti, Soli

From: [Peshotan Mirza](#)

Sent: Wednesday, 18 June, 2014 9:43 AM

To: [soli dastur \(usa\)](#)

Subject: Gathas as daily prayers

Dear Solibhai,

Regarding Gathas as our Farajyaat (daily prayers) I state as under:

- Gathas are the earliest Avesta. There is no reason why Gathas cannot/should not be included in our daily prayers.

- Gathas may be prayed:

- On any day of the year and in any Geh of the day.

- Either all 5 Gathas may serially or any 1 Gatha or any 1 chapter of any Gatha or select passage/passages from 1 or more Gathas

- Our elders including my father (late Respected and well-known scholar Dr. Dasturji Hormazdyar Dastur Kaiyoji Mirza) recommended that if you are short of time, at least first stanza of each of 5 Gathas may be prayed after our daily prayers. Around 14-15 years ago a distant relative of mine Raiomand Mirza (now Dr. Raiomand Mirza) who was then working for his Ph.D. in Music visited India. He contacted several priests from different *Panthaks* – Dioceses and requested each one of them to pray the first chapter of the first Gatha (Ha. 28 of Yasna) which is in poetry form and Atash Niyash that is Avesta in prose form for his study. Due to his very advanced age and ill health, my father asked me to pray as per Raiomand’s requirement. Raiomand however wanted to record my father’s voice and requested him

to pray any Avesta. My father then prayed the first stanza of each of the 5 Gathas. Further, you may be aware that my father used to often go to Udvada by the night train and arrive at the station at 3.30am and from Udvada station walk 4 miles to get home. Whilst walking he used to pray all the 5 Gathas.

•Mr. Porus (Dadabhoy in an email to Soli) is incorrect in surmising that “Mobeds and Dasturs in India were wrong for over a century.” **Perhaps he may not be aware that higher liturgical ceremonies namely Yasna, Visparad and Vandidad were performed regularly in large numbers in the Agyaris & Atash Behrams in Udvada, Navsari, Surat and Mumbai till late 80’s and presently are being performed regularly though in smaller numbers. Yasna which includes the Gathas, Visparad is prayed interwoven with Yasna and Vandidad is prayed interwoven with Visparad and Yasna and therefore Gathas were and still are prayed regularly by at least our priests trained in the Athornan Institutes.**

•The book *Niran-i-stan in Pavmehel ni criyao* in Gujarati contains a nirang which includes Gatha 1 Chapter 5, Yasna Ha. 32. During our basic Kusti ritual we pray the Kemna Mazda prayer which is a formulated prayer with passages from the Gatha and a passage from Vandidad.

•Similarly Atash Niyash also contains passages from the Gathas.

•Thus Gathas form the intrigal part of our daily prayers and higher liturgical ceremonies.

I hope this finds you and your family in good health. Mahrookh, Darayus and Aban join me in sending good wishes and regards.

Love & Tandoorasti

Peshotan.

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Thank you so much Dasturji for your thoughts on this subject.

So, today, we will present the first verse of Spenta Mainyu Gatha Yasna 47 Verse 1:

Weekly Extract #14:

Spentaa Mainyu Gatha Yasna 47 Verse 1:

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

**Speñtaa mainyû vahishtaachaa mananghaa,
Hachaa ashaat shyaothanaachaa vachanghaachaa,
Ahmaai daan Haurvaataa Ameretaataa,
Mazdaao khshathraa aarmaitî ahurô!**

(to be recited two times)

Spentaa Mainyu Gatha Yasna 47 Verse 1 Translation:

**Through His holy spirit and His sovereign mind,
Ahura Mazda will grant self-realization and immortality
to him whose words and deeds
are inspired by righteousness, moral courage and divine
wisdom.**

(Spenta Mainyu Gatha: Yasna 47.1 T. R. Sethna translation)

SPD Explanation:

In this first Para of Spenta Mainyu Gatha, it is very interesting to note that all 7 Amesha Spentas are mentioned.