

WZSE – Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 64.

Many of the Zarathushtra's Gatha verses are the questions asked by Zarathushtra to Ahura Mazda; however, Ahura Mazda never replies to him; but Zarathushtra figures them out using his Vohu Mana (good mind).

In Ushtavaiti Gatha, Zarathushtra ask many such questions to Ahura Mazda. In fact, the whole Gatha Yasna 44 in all its first 19 out of 20 verses, Zarathushtra ask:

”Tat Thwaa peresaa eresh moi vaochaa Ahuraa!”

meaning: “Do Thou tell me truly that which I ask Thee, Oh Ahura!”

And in these 19 verses, Zarathushtra ask many varied subject questions, which mostly he answers himself.

In this Yasna 44 Verse 5, Zarathushtra ask Ahura who created light and darkness, sleep and wakefulness, morning, noon and night.

So, here is Gatha Ushtavaiti Yasna 44 Verse 5:

## Gatha Ushtavaiti Yasna 44 Verse 5:

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

(5) Tat thwaa peresaa eresh moi vaochaa Ahuraa!

Ke hvaapao raoshaoschaa daat temaoschaa,  
Ke hvaapao khvafnemchaa daat zaemaachaa,  
Ke yaa ushaao arem-pithwaa khshapaachaa,  
Yao manothrish chazdongvantem arethahyaa.

## Ushtavaiti Gatha Yasna 44 Verse 5 English Translation:

(5) Do Thou tell me truly that which I ask Thee, Oh Ahura Mazda!

What architect fashion light and darkness?

What architect fashion sleep and wakefulness?

Who created dawn, noon and night?

Which (these three parts of the day) are the reminders as it were to the religious priest about his duty or mission?

(From Ervad Kangaji [Gatha Baa Maaeni](#) translated in English)

## **SPD Explanation:**

### **1. Dr. Irach J. S. Taraporewalla:**

“Moulton draws attention to this idea of One Creator for both Light and Darkness. And he adds that "in the original Zarathushtrian doctrine, even as in the emphatic words of Deutero-Isaiah, there was no room for the dualism which removed from the Creator's province the darker side of the world. In Isaiah 45.7 Yahveh creates 'darkness' and 'evil', and in the Gāthās (Yas. 44.5 ) Ahura creates darkness, being indeed, as the context emphatically declares, the Creator of 'all things'." Moulton goes on to say that the ( later) Magians would naturally "eliminate this feature...having developed the idea of a counter-creation ". These are remarks with which I am wholly in agreement. Still in one other place, Moulton seems to have made a reservation, for he says that the 'evil' created by God is "of course, physical or material, not moral". This seems to me to be a lowering of the entire conception of Ahura Mazda and His Creation to an exceedingly low level. Ahura Mazda is above all the Lord of the Moral and Spiritual Worlds and as such moral 'evil' must necessarily be under His domain and guidance. This, in fact, is the inner significance of the whole of Hâ 30.”

### **2. One very important fact is also mentioned in this Gatha verse.**

According to it, there were only 3 parts of the day: Dawn (Ushaao), Mid-day (Arem-Pithwaa) and night (Khshapaachaa).

Later on, five Gehs were reckoned in a 24 hour day, with Ushaao becoming Ushahin Geh (midnight to dawn), the fifth Geh, Haavan Geh added as the first Geh (Dawn to 12 noon), Rapithwan Geh (changed from Arem-Pithwaa, from noon to 3 PM), Uziran Geh added (from 3 PM to sunset), and Aiwisruthrem Geh (Khshapaachaa) renamed (from sunset to mid-night).

The three parts of the day mentioned in this Yasna 44 Verse 5 indicates that the place Zarathushtra lived was in very high Latitudes.

3. The last sentence of the verse indicates the duty of a Mobed to perform prayers (called Farajyaat nowadays) in those three parts of the day.

**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!**

**Atha Jamyaat, Yatha Aafrinaamahi! (May it be so as we wish?)**