

Hello all Tele Class friends:

Our eminent Avesta, Pahlavi and Sanskrit Scholar, Dr. Irach J. S. Taraporewala in his book: The Divine Songs of Zarathushtra, writes about this Yasna Haa 44 of the Ushtavaiti Gatha thus:

“This Haa (Yasna 44) is among the grandest in the Gathas. For poetic beauty it is perhaps the best in the whole extant Avesta Texts. The very first line introduces the ‘rhetorical questions’ which in sublimity are comparable to the highest levels reached in the Psalms of the Bible. This first line is repeated as a refrain at the beginning of every verse, except the last, of this Haa. These questions are “expressions of devotion and only in few instances appeals for knowledge.”

“The first verse asks the fundamental question how Ahura is to be worshipped.”

With that as a profound introduction, let us present this verse of Gatha Ushtavaiti, Yasna 44 Verse 1:

How shall I worship Thee, Ahura? Ushtavaiti Gatha - Yasna 44 Verse 1

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

(1) Tat thwaa peresaa ereshmoi vaochaa Ahuraa!
Nemangho aa: “yathaa neme khshmaavato?”
Mazdaa, fryaai thwaavaans sakhvyaat mavaite,
At ne ashaa fryaa dazdyaai haakurenaa,
Yathaa ne aa vohu jimat mananghaa.

How shall I worship Thee, Ahura? Ushtavaiti Gatha - Yasna 44 Verse 1 – English Translation:

(1) This do I ask, Ahuraa, tell me true,
I humbly ask: “How shall I worship Thee?”
Mazdaa, my heart is full of love for Thee,
Let one who knows Thee guide me on the Path;
May Ashaa help us to enlarge our minds,
May Vohu Man come down and with us dwell!

(Translation from Dr. Irach J. S. Taraporewala – *The Divine Songs of Zarathushtra* - Page 459

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SPD Explanation:

1. As mentioned before in our previous WZSEs, Zarathushtra in his Gathas employs the technique of asking questions to Ahura Mazda but Ahura Mazda does not answer any of his questions.

Instead, Zarathushtra uses his Vohu Mana and answers them himself mostly in the same verse.

2. In many Yashts and Vendidad, Ahura Mazda answers most of the questions posed to HIM by Zarathushtra, a marked difference from Gathas.

3. Dr. Purviz Kolsawalla in his Thesis describes Zarathushtra's quest for peaceful knowledge and steady progress:

“The state of existence of human beings confused and disturbed him. They were groping in darkness, ignorance and superstition. They had been subjugated by the powerful and oppressed. Some corrupt priests had benefited from their ignorance and continued to exploit them.”

“Zarathustra's thinking was a quantum leap from the conditions of his times. Instead of violent force, chaos, rapine and pillage he recommended a quest for peaceful knowledge and steady spiritual progress. The knowledge he had acquired and passed on to the people was through a personal study of nature and it's working. Through it he recognized an All-Powerful, All-Knowing, Compassionate God who is the Creator, Maintainer and Promoter of His Creation.”

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 Jamyat, Yatha Aafrinaamahi! (May it be so as we wish?)

Love and Tandoorasti, Soli