

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 349: Jatindra Chatterji - The Hymns of Atharvan Zarathushtra - Ahunavaiti Gatha - Yasna 29 - Verse 4

Hello all Tele Class friends:

Shri Jatindra Mohan Chatterji, an unknown amazing Sanskrit/Gatha Scholar

The Parsi Zoroastrian Association of Calcutta, The Publishers of Shri Jatindra Chatterji's book, *The Hymns of Atharvan Zarathushtra*, in its Introduction states:

The Parsi Zoroastrian Association (of Calcutta) has great pleasure in presenting to the public this monumental work by Sri Jatindra Mohan Chatterji.

Sri Chatterji was born in 1889 in the village of Sungar, District Dacca, Bangladesh and obtained his M.A. degree from the Calcutta University in 1912. He joined Government service in 1917 and served in the district of Murshidabad from 1924 to 1929. At about this time he became interested in the study of the Zoroastrian Religion and the message and teachings of its Founder. It speaks volumes for Sri Chatterji's perseverance and scholarship that he taught himself Gujarati and Persian in his search for a deeper understanding of the subject.

About 35 years ago (1932 CE), Sri Chatterji published *The Ethical Conception of the Gathas*, and a translation of the Gathas which is now out of print. Sri Chatterji has published other books in Bengali on the life and teachings of Zarathushtra and short commentaries on the Gathas as well as on the gospels of Guru Nanak and Govinda Singh.

The present volume (*The Hymns of Atharvan Zarathushtra*) is truly Sri Chatterji's *magnum opus* and is the product of a lifetime of devoted study of the Gathas and the religion of Zarathustra. The Association makes no claim that this commentary is infallible, and scholars may disagree very strongly with a particular view taken by Sri Chatterji. This does not, in any way, detract from the value of this publication; on the contrary, the Association feels certain that this work is indeed a notable contribution to the literature on the subject.

The learned Introduction of the author contains much that is worth knowing and deserving of our serious attention. Even criticisms are helpful in the investigation of Truth. I hope the work will receive a wide publicity among scholars, especially among serious students of Comparative Religion.

This Association is proud to have been given the opportunity to publish this labour of love from one who is indeed a worthy disciple of the noble Prophet of Iran.

Outside Cover of the Book: Ahunavaiti Gatha – Yasna 29 – Verse 4:

(please see the photo below)

When I saw this outside cover photo, I was intrigued that out of all 238 verses of Gathas, why the author chose this particular Verse to place it on the outside cover?

The answer is in Chatterji's translation of this Verse whose main theme is:

Mazdaa alone is the adorable one!

Thy will be done!

With this background, let us present Ahunavaiti Gatha – Yasna 29 – Verse 4 with its translation according to Chatterji:

Jatindra Chatterji – The Hymns of Atharvan Zarathushtra – Ahunavaiti Gatha –

Yasna 29 – Verse 4

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

**(4) Mazdaao sakhaareh mairishto yaa zee vaaverehzoï pairichithit,
Daeavaaishchaa mashaayaaishchaa yaachaa varehshaiteh aipichithit;
Hvo vichiro Ahuro, athaa neh anghat yathaa hvo vasat.**

Jatindra Chatterji – The Hymns of Atharvan Zarathushtra – Ahunavaiti Gatha – Yasna 29 – Verse 4

**(4) Mazda alone is the most adorable.
Whatever has been done heretofore by men and devas,
or will be done hereafter;
He, Ahura, is the Judge thereof.
Let it be unto us as He wills.**

(Translation by Chatterji – Hymns of Atharvan Zarathushtra, pages 24-27.)

Chatterji's Comments:

[\(I have attached the pages for Yasna 29.4 from Chatterji's book for more details. Sanskrit, Avesta and Farsi scripts are not recognizable and are all gibberish\)](#)

Ethics leads to religion, for Mazda is the source of rectitude. The man had not been made what he is, if he had not been provided with conscience, he would not have made any distinction between the right and the wrong ; there would not have been any course of duty for him, just as there is none for the beasts. So, we must look to the source, and learn that Mazda is the sole adorable:

“Mazdaao sakhaareh mairishto” “Mazda alone is the most adorable!”

He alone can rectify evil.

Monotheism is the fundamental lesson of religion, and this is enunciated here unambiguously—for the first time in the world - **Mazdaao sakhaareh mairishto!**

The Hindu echoed it, as :

“Eko hee Rudro nah dweeteeyaaya tasthu” Swetaswatara Upanishad 3-2

“Rudra is one and does not stand (tolerate) a second.”

The Musalman echoed it as, ‘Laa ilaahi-il-Allaah.’ None is adorable except Allaah.

The source of all this however is in the Gatha. This Rik (Verse) also lays down the ultimate lesson of Religion viz. complete surrender to the Will of God.

“Athaa neh anghat, yathaa hvo vasat.” Thy will be done.

Man is not left to his own resources alone. We did not create ourselves and there is a wise judge at the head of the affairs of the world. It is prudent to leave the matter (of rectifying the wrongs) to Him and submit to His decision.

Jalal, the inheritor of the spiritual lore (chisti) of the Gatha, enjoins us to have full faith in Mazda—faith in His existence and faith in His desire and ability to rectify all wrongs.

(pardon for my inaccuracies in transliterating original Farsi)

“Kharkahee maa raa bedar duzandeh hast,
Varneh khus maa raa barhanehtar beh hast.” Masnavi 3-1743

“Rend my garment—if you would. There is One who will sew it.
If I cannot count upon Mazda’s sewing it,
it is better that I should give up all thoughts of mending
and go about naked, for my own efforts are ineffectual.”

SPD Comments

1. Shri Chatterji, in his very lengthy introduction (over 180 pages), demonstrate his vast knowledge of Vedas, Gathas, other Sanskrit scriptures, Hafez and Rumi’s poems, Guru Nanak and Sikhism, Kabir’s poems, etc. It is quite amazing.
2. In the above Rumi’s lines, we see the wonderful analogy of him about various subjects.

3. According to Shri Chatterji, Zarathushtra is Parsuraama of Vedas, and Gathas are the Aatharva Veda. There are numerous other relationships between Sanskrit scriptures and Avesta demonstrated by Shri Chatterji in his Introduction.

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

Love and Tandoorasti, Soli

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