

WZSE – Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 38.

Hello all Tele Class friends:

Should we recite Gaathaas and Ahunavar prayer as we recite other Avesta prayers daily?

The renowned and well respected Avesta Pahlavi scholar Ervad Kawasji Eduljee Kangaji has this to say about this question:

He uses the dialog between Vakhshur-e-Vakhshuraan Zarathushtra Spitaman and Hom Yazata in Yasna Ha 9.1:

Haavanim Aa Yasna 9.1: (Please hear the [attached .mp3 file](#) for its recitation)

(1) Haavanîm aa ratûm aa haomo ûpaaît Zarathrushtrem,
Aatrem pairi-yaozdathéntém, **gaathaoscha sraavayantem**,
Aadim pérésat Zarathushtro ko naré ahî,
Yim azém Vîspahé anghéush astvato sraéshtém daadaresa,
Khvahé gayéhé khvanvato ameshahé!

Haavanim Aa Yasna 9.1 Translation:

(1) During the Haavan Gaah Hom Yazata came to the Prophet Zarathushtra,
Who was purifying the throne of the Fire vase,
And was chanting the Gaathaas!
The Prophet Zarathushtra asked him:
“Oh man! Who art thou?
Whom do I see, the most excellent and beautiful
And of immortal life in the entire corporeal world.”

(Translation from English *Khordeh Avesta Baa Maenee* of Ervad Kawasji Eduljee Kanga)

Ervad Kangaji’s Comments:

(Nowhere the verb “recite” occurs for the Gaathaas and Ahunavar, but the verb ‘sraavaya’ Sanskrit ‘sraavaya’ i.e. to chant occurs. It will be clearly seen from this that the Gaathaas as well as the Ahunavar prayer should not be recited as we Zoroastrians recite other Avesta at present, but they should be chanted like songs.

The meaning of the word 'Gaathaa' is equivalent to Sanskrit 'Gaathaa' 'Holy Song')

SPD Comments

I like to make two observations in this dialog:

1. Zarathushtra was: **“purifying the throne of the Fire vase,”**

During a Boi ceremony in our Atash Behrams, the Boiwalla Mobed Saheb also purifies the throne (Hindoro) of the Padshah Saheb before starting the Boi ceremony.

2. And Zarathushtra was: **“chanting the Gaathaas”**

Which clearly corroborates Ervad Kangaji's comments above.

There are many attempts to put to music our prayers and Gaathaas, especially by some Iranian groups and also Ashem, Yatha and Yenghe Haataam prayers by Mehta brothers.

However, in our intelligent and learned community, we have many experts in music, and I have a fervent wish that one of them will come up with full music for our Gaathaas and Ahunavar.

Any takers out there?

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?)

Love and Tandoorasti, Soli