

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 381: Monaajaat - In the Praise of Asho Zarathushtra - Verses 1 - 4

Hello all Tele Class friends:

Dr. Ervad Ramiyar Karanjia, Principal, Dadar Athornan Institute states:

“Monaajaats are Zoroastrian devotional songs. The word Monaajaat is from the Persian language, and the earliest Monaajaats were in Persian, many of them composed by Dastur Mullan Firoz bin Kaus.”

“Later, Monaajaats were composed in Gujarati, the language understood by the majority of Zoroastrians. The earliest Gujarati Monaajaats were published in the mid 19th century on historical and religious subjects, usually at the back of Khordeh Avesta books.” (Dr. Ervad Ramiyar Karanjia -

<https://ramiyarkaranjia.com/2017/07/21/what-are-monajats-tmy-jame-jamshed-of-9-7-17/>)

Our very good scholar friend Fariborz Rahnamoon replied to the above statement about the origin of the word Monaajaat as follows:

“The word Monajat is **NOT A PERSIAN WORD it is an ARABIC WORD.**

The Arabic word *munajat* is derived either from *yunaji* or *najawa* means "talking in secret." Besides, the word *najawa* itself is rooted from *najah*, meaning "deliverance" or "salvation." Hence, in the technical term of the poetry, the word *munajat* offers the meaning of "supplication for repentance of sins." According to "Ilmi Urdu Lughat" (Lahore, 1972, O. 1427) by Warris Sirhindi, "*munajat* means secret conversation, whispering, prayer, longing or yearning. It is a poem glorifying God as well as an act of offering prayer by submitting humble supplication." The term *munajat* has also the connotation of conveying greetings and reverence to a sanctified person.

With Regards, Fariborz Rahnamoon - <http://www.ancientiran.com>

<http://zarathushticalendar.com/>”

We have presented a number of Monaajaats in our weeklies. In our last Monaajaat weekly:

WZSE #309, available at: <http://www.avesta.org/wzse/wzse309.pdf>

We have stated that many of our Persian and Gujarati Monaajaats also have Arabic words. Even the beginning of our Khorshed Nyaayesh also has few Arabic words.

Encyclopedia Iranica states:

“Sir Dr. Ervad Jivanji J. Modi gives an illustrative description of the prayer

Monaajaat concerning its function for the believer as an outlet of religious emotions: “It is a prayer in which the person praying holds, as it were, a converse with his God and pours forth his own inward personal feelings of devotion and expression of humility”. This definition of Zoroastrian *Monaajaat* stresses the individuality and intimacy of the prayer which is suited to build up a very close personal relationship to God in the form of a dialogue. In contrast to the official Zoroastrian prayers which are composed in the ancient Avestan language, the language of the *Monaajaat* is normally the mother tongue of the praying person, Persian or Gujarati, so that the believer is able to follow each formulation of the prayer.” (<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/monajat-i>)

In our beloved MF Cama Athornan Institute (MFCAl), we used to have a *Monaajaat* booklet with 15 or so *Monaajaats* in it, all in Gujarati. All these *Monaajaats* were written with rhymes. Our Duty Teacher in charge of our morning and night prayers will select one of these *Monaajaats* and we had to sing them every day. And of course, the last official routine just before going upstairs to bed is to line up in two lines facing one another and singing that beautiful Khudaavind Khaavind *Monaajaat* ending with “Goodnight Sir”! Those were the wonderful days!

We have presented many a Vakhshur-e-Vakhshuraan Zarathushtra Spitamaan’s words from his 17 Gatha songs and a *Monaajaat* in his praise in our WZSEs #308 and #309. Today we will present another beautiful Gujarati *Monaajaat* in praise of our Prophet Zarathushtra which was one of the *Monaajaats* we used to sing in MFCAl from the book mentioned above.

All the *Monaajaats* I know are in Parsi Gujarati which have old Parsi Gujarati words, some Persian, a few even Arabic. Some of these words are difficult to translate into English and sometimes there is no suitable English words for some of them. With this background, I have tried my best to translate this beautiful *Monaajaat* in praise of our dear Prophet. Many of our loyal readers of WZSEs do understand Gujarati well and many times they have requested me to present the original Gujarati of some songs or *Monaajaats* we have presented. Hence, we have attached the original Gujarati rendition of this *Monaajaat*.

Please understand I am no Gujarati or Parsi Gujarati scholar, and even with my best efforts, please accept my apology for any mistakes in my translation.

In the following transliteration, the Gujarati word “tehn”, “te” with a nasal sound, is used. I have transliterated it as “tehn” and please do not think it is a spelling error – it is nasal “te”.

This *Monaajaat* has 8 verses so we have decided to present the first four verses today and then present the rest next week in WZSE #382.

Monaajaat – In the Praise of Asho Zarathushtra - Verses 1 – 4

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

Gujarati Monaajaat Text	Translation
Asho Jarathosta Pegamber,	Righteous Prophet Zarathushtra,
Amaaro tunja maaleek chheh;	You are our leader.

Rahamdaataa sadaa taaree,	Your help giving is always there,
Shikhaamun shud-dha baareek chheh.	Your advice is pure and concise.
Dekhaadee tehn ajaba roshnee,	You showed us amazing light,
Amo Jarhostee-oh sa-uneh;	To all of us Zarathushtris;
Sakhunoh raasteenaa deh-ii,	Giving us discourses of righteousness,
Saral keedho jeevan bhavaneh.	You made our lives very easy.
Ramat Meenoi haa taahree,	Your play of the spiritual life,
Ati Gaathaa wisheh jo-ii;	Yes, by your Gaathaas we see.
Namana kotee tahneh vhaalaa,	Our loving accolades and hugs to you,
Paho-chee naa shakeh ko-ii.	And no one can be your equal.
Samaja tehn satya-nee paadee,	You taught us about truthfulness,
Aneh haa nekee sheekhawaadee;	And also taught us righteousness.
Ratan t-haaroo amoneh ho,	May we have your yearning,
Peewaadee gnyaan-nee pyaalee.	You gave us the chalice of knowledge.

SPD Comments:

1. Many Gujarati Monajaats are written in the praise of Zarathushtra by a number of Parsi Poets, like the one above.
2. Word Paygambar is actually a Persian word – Paygaambar – Paygaam = message, bar is the imperative of the Persian verb Bordan = to carry, and so Paygaambar = message carrier = messenger = Prophet.

The rest of the Monajaat will be presented in our next WZSE #382.

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

Love and Tandoorasti, Soli

પેગમ્બર અશો જરથોસ્ત સાહેબને વંદન.

અશો જરથોસ્ત પેગમ્બર, અમારો તુંજ માલીક છે;
રહમદાતા સદા ત્હારી, શિખામણ શુબ ભારીક છે.
દેખાડી તેં અજબ રોશની, અમો જરથોસ્તીઓ સૌને;
સખુનો રાસ્તીનાં દેઈ, સરળ કીધો જીવન ભવને.
રમત મીનોઈ હા ત્હારી, અતિ ગાથા વિષે જોઈ;
નમન કોટી ત્હને જ્હાલા, પહોંચી ના શકે કોઈ.
સમજ તેં સત્યની પાડી, અને હા નેકી શીખવાડી;
રટણ ત્હાં અમોને હો, પીવાડી જ્ઞાનની ખ્યાલી.
વામીએ સંકટો ભારી, અમોને રહેમ હા ત્હારી;
ન હિંમત કોઈની કરતાં, અમારી હામ તું ભારી.
જીવન જીતાવવા કાજે, કલામો કીમતી કીધી;
બિકટ રસ્તા છતાં જ્હાલા! સરળતા ખુબ ત્હેં દીધી.
લીયે સૌ આફતો ખેંચી, અજબ જ્યોતિ કિરણ ફેંકી;
મોહક આ વાડીમાંજ્હાલા રીપુ સૌ નાખતો છેદી.
રીઝાવવા પાક પેયગમ્બર, નમન જરથોસ્ત હા તમને;
આશક હા આપના સૌ કો, નિરંતર રહતા અમને.