

*TIME TO REVISIT  
THE GATHAS  
&  
THE CALENDAR*

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# INTRODUCTION

- u When we talk about the Zarathushti Religion and tradition we like to believe that, what is being followed today is 3755 years old and is what Zarathushtra himself has preached and lived by.
- u Let's quickly browse through history and find out the Truth.

## A VERY BRIEF HISTORY

- u In recorded history the Achaemenian period can be called the golden age of the Gathas.
- u Then came the 20-year-old Alexander whose tutor was Aristotle. Aristotle told Alexander
- u **“If you destroy the Persians you will destroy one of the pillars of civilization and we shall rule the world.”**
- u **So TRUE.**

## THE ROMAN GODS



**Today the Roman culture and Roman Gods are ruling the world. Machiavellian and not Cyropaedia is being practiced by politicians and businesses alike.**



# SASSANIANS

- u 580 years after Alexander when the Sasanians tried to reassemble the pillar, they had to collect the scattered Avesta. By now the Avesta had elements of the powerful Mithraism incorporated into it, just like it was and is in Christianity. To top it aspirant prophets like Mani (216CE) and Mazdak (524CE) expanded on Zarvanism and developed dualism.
- u ***“Zarvaneh Akarneh Daregu Khodadateh”***
- u Thus the collected Avesta comprised of all the existing beliefs of the time and was attributed to Zarathushtra.

## *Anthropomorphic God of the Greeks*



*By this time The Anthropomorphic God of the Greeks had established his rule on the Earth.*

# ARAB INVASION

641-656 CE

- u Then came the invading Arabs hordes with the Quran in one hand and the sword in the other, they believed that all the knowledge that mankind required was in the Quran, so they converted libraries into mosques and burnt the scholars on the pyre of their books.
- u Submit or Die is the command of Allah, in the Quran.

# Maneckji Limji Hataria

## The Saviour

- u When Maneckji Limji Hataria visited Iran in 1854 he could save only 7711 Zarathushtis that were left in Iran, who had survived the sword of Islam for over 1200 years.
- u They lived as untouchables in ghetto like conditions, in the desert, forbidden to learn to read and write. Punished for wearing new clothes or riding a donkey or allowing their shadow to fall on a Muslim.
- u But they bravely endured it to preserve whatever was left of their religion, which did not include the knowledge of the existence of the Gathas.



## THE PARSES

- u The 120,000 Parses who were better off and enjoyed complete freedom in India, whenever they had religious questions they asked for clarifications from their battered brethren in Iran.
- u Those questions and answers are preserved as Rivayets.

# DISCOVERY OF THE GATHAS

- u The Gathas was discovered by Prof. Martin Haug in 1858. Since then the Gathas have been translated by scholars who believe in the *Anthropomorphic Almighty Roman God who created the earth in 7 days.*
- u They have mentioned this Lord God about 353 times in their translations of the 241 verses. Thereby making the Gathas all about God.
- u It is time to REVISIT it.

# UNDERSTANDING THE GATHAS

- u To understand the GATHAS you have to put aside your prejudices, put aside your beliefs, you have to put aside your preconceived ideology and theology. You have to transcend yourself, acquire the innocence of a child and only then will you be comfortable and fearlessly understand the teachings of this Great Teacher.
- u You have to look at things as they are.
- u You have to imprison ZAHAAK

## *GATHAS DURING ANCIENT TIMES*

- u The Gathas of Zarathushtra was surely practiced by the Achaemenians for they were unique.
- u The Achaemenians saw humanity as a whole. Roman historians write that the Persians introduced the domestic hen wherever they went, they also introduced the Alfa Alfa fodder wherever the right climate existed. They charted waterways and built high ways, not temples.
- u We also read that Cyrus the Great bows to god Mardukh after conquering Babylonia but a couple of generations later Herodotus when visiting Babylonian writes “*The erection of statues, temples and altars is not an accepted practice among the Persians*”.
- u We further know that one of the first acts of Alexander was to refurbish the deserted Babylonian temples. So how and why did things change in Babylonia?

# Gatha 28.5

- u The Persians being followers of the Gathas they spread whatever was good wherever they went, peacefully with words, even among conquered Nations.

Asha when you gain  
With mind's good use  
Having realized wisdom  
The path to creativity  
The ultimate message of Wisdom  
Through words excellent  
We shall turn (convert)  
Those who do not know  
(With tongue) By speaking

- u Zarathushtra - Gatha -Yasna Ha 28.5 (FR)
- u Cyrus gives gold to the Jews to rebuilt their temple but two generations latter the temple is still not built. The local Jews want to help but they are told WE SHALL BUILT OUR TEMPLE LIKE CYRUS THE KING OF PERSIA INSTRUCTED US.



## Gatha 28.1

The Persians are referred to as wise, particularly in the Bible.  
No doubt their only prayer was

This I seek with reverence  
With uplifted hands  
The perfect-ness of the mind

Wisdom is the prime righteous gift of Asha

All should aspire to make  
Good use of the intelligence in the mind  
To create harmony between the universe  
And the inner-self.

Zarathushtra - Gatha - Yasna 28.1 (FR)

## Gatha 28.2

- u The Persians were determined to pursue enlightenment in life

Certainly, I shall acquire  
The Wisdom in Creation  
Through Good use of the Mind

I shall master the dual forces  
Physical and Mental  
Through Knowledge

Whereby the truthful achieve enlightenment.

Zarathushtra - Gatha - Yasna 28.2 (FR)

## Gatha 28.3

- u The AIM of a Zarathushti was to achieve Perfection in the profession that was close to their heart. The Gatha Gives a Perfect Formula.

Truly, the **Asha (Ultimate Truth) (2)** derived

By the **Good Mind (1)**

Never before known

Among the wise and all creation

With it, make **Good Rules (3)** and never waning

Increasing **Righteousness (4)**

Leading us towards **Perfection (5)**

Zarathushtra - Gatha -Yasna Ha 28.3 (FR)

## Gatha 28.10

- As a reward for their inventions and discoveries they did not seek wealth. Their reward was the satisfaction of gaining knowledge and their bonus was becoming **Ameretat- Immortal**.

And those who are righteous are known for

Good deeds and use of the wise mind

In righteous way in harmony with the Wisdom in Existence

Their aim achieved

Their desire assuredly happiness

Their reward, knowledge and being known as  
righteous, faithful and are praise worthy **(6)**

Zarathushtra - Gatha - Yasna HA 28.10 (FR)

# Haft Amesha Spenta

These last two verses were later canonized and called the  
**Haft Amasha Spenta.**

## **THE 7 ETERNAL LAW**

- u 1- BAH MAN - Good Mind- Use your Good Mind to inquire and learn the
- u 2- ARDIBESHT - Ultimate Truth- the Laws of Nature- Use them to make
- u 3- SHAHRIVAR- Good Rules - Good Laws- Good Products - Which will lead to
- u 4- ESFAND- Lawful Desire - Righteousness - that will pave the way toward
- u 5- KHORDAD- Perfection - Mental, Physical and Spiritual - which will lead to
- u 6- AMORDAD- Immortality -(a) In Death being remembered for generations for your good work (b) In Life by losing the fear of Death -resulting in oneness with
- u 7- AHURA-MAZDA - The Creator of Wisdom through Self Realization-Khod Ah KHOD = Self AH = to come.



# SEEKER not a BELIEVER.

- God in Persian and in many related languages is

**KHOD AH**

**KHOD = SELF    AH = TO COME**

Come to Oneself

Self Realization

Seek the God within



Good Mind, Intelligence:  
Animals



Truth and Justice: Fire



Righteous Power:  
The Sky, Metals



Holy Serenity, Devotion:  
The Earth



HAURVATAT



Immortality: Plants



Holy Creative Spirit:  
Human Beings

Unfortunately we have been told that Amesha Spentas are Angels, they are Bountiful Immortals, they are divinities and attributes of God, every translator has personified them and even pictures have been drawn.

They are not Angels, for proof please refer to the Bible. The first three were given to Baby Jesus as gifts by the Magi's and their meaning is in Mathew and Luke chapter 4.

GOOD THOUGHTS GOOD WORDS GOOD DEEDS

Everything that is created was first a Thought

So, let your **Thoughts be Good**

Good Thoughts are those that are in harmony with the  
Wisdom in Creation (Nature)

Let your Good Thoughts be known through **Good Words**

For that's when **Creation** first comes into being

(Free translation of) ZARATHUSHTRA - GATHA - YASNA HA. 28.11 (FR)

## Gatha 28.11

Truly with these facts  
We shall keep our thoughts good forever  
In tune with the Wisdom in Creation

I instruct that  
You all declare your thoughts  
Through the word of mouth  
Whereby **creation** first comes into being

Zarathushtra - Gatha - Yasna 28.11 (FR)

## Gatha 28.9

Through these, NOT Ahura Mazda  
Asha also brings fury

That Mind is the best  
Which strives' to give good guidance  
For you to be worthy  
Mighty, satisfied, also worthy of praise

Zarathushtra - Gatha - Yasna HA 28.9 (FR)



<sup>1</sup> 9. anāiš <sup>2</sup> Vā <sup>3</sup> nōit, <sup>4</sup> Ahurā [<sup>5</sup> Mazdā ]  
<sup>6</sup> Ašəm <sup>7</sup> -cā <sup>8</sup> yānāiš <sup>9</sup> zaranaēmā,  
<sup>10</sup> Manas <sup>11</sup> -cā <sup>12</sup> hyat <sup>13</sup> Vahištəm ;  
<sup>14</sup> yōi <sup>15</sup> Və <sup>16</sup> yōiθəmā <sup>17</sup> dasəmē <sup>18</sup> stūtām,—  
<sup>19</sup> Yūžəm <sup>20</sup> zəvištayāηhō,  
<sup>21</sup> +Išō <sup>22</sup> -+Xšaθrəm <sup>23</sup> -cā <sup>24</sup> +sravaηhām.

(7-9-7 ; 9-7-9)

<sup>3</sup> 9. Never, <sup>4</sup> O <sup>5</sup> Ahurā [<sup>2</sup> Mazdā ], <sup>1</sup> Thee through these,  
<sup>8</sup> (Thy) blessings, <sup>9</sup> may-we-provoke-to-wrath, <sup>7</sup> nor <sup>6</sup> Aša,  
<sup>11</sup> nor-yet <sup>10</sup> Manō, <sup>12</sup> who (is) the <sup>13</sup> Best ;  
<sup>14</sup> (we), <sup>16</sup> who strive-eagerly <sup>17</sup> to-offer (our) <sup>18</sup> songs-of-praise  
<sup>15</sup> unto <sup>15</sup> Ye,—  
<sup>19</sup> (for) <sup>19</sup> Ye (are) the-most-worthy-to-be-invoked <sup>20</sup>  
<sup>24</sup> in-prayers, <sup>23</sup> together-with the <sup>21</sup> Mighty <sup>22</sup> -Xšaθra.

Free English Rendering :

Never, O Mazdā Ahūrā, through these,  
 Your gifts abused, may we provoke Your wrath,  
 Neither of Aša, nor of Manō Best;  
 Most eagerly we strive Your praise to sing,  
 We deem Ye, Lords, worthiest to invoke  
 In Holy Chants,—and Mighty Xšaθra, too.

## Gatha 30.2

Listen with your ears to the best  
Consider with open mind  
Among the **paths** before deciding  
Person by person for his own self

Before greatness of this message  
Is truly spread understand each one

Zarathushtra - Gatha - Yasna 30.2 (FR)

# THE CALENDAR

- u After invading Iran the Arabs imposed their inferior lunar calendar on the Iranians.
- u The Zarathushtis tried to compromise by combining their solar calendars with the lunar calendar.
- u In the confusion, over the years, due to the shorter lunar years, their New Year drifted to July and August. Then they realized the mistake and instead of correcting it they froze it.
- u Even today the Iranian Zarathushtis in Iran are repeating the same process, they have superimposed their 30 day Fasli calendar on the 31 day national calendar.

# BUNDAHISHN 25:25

## THE MAZDA YASNI CALENDAR

- u The 'vehizaki' month Farwardin, the month Ardwahisht, and Hordad compose the season of **Spring**.
- u The month Tir, the month Amordad, and the month Shahrewar are of **Summer**.
- u The month Mehr, the month Aban, and the month Adar are of **Autumn;**
- u and the month Day, the month Vohuman, and the month Spandarmad are of **Winter**.

# Unequal Seasons

The four positions of the Earth in its orbit around the Sun determine the seasons.

None of the 4 seasons are of equal length.

Spring has 92.8 days,

Summer 93.6 days

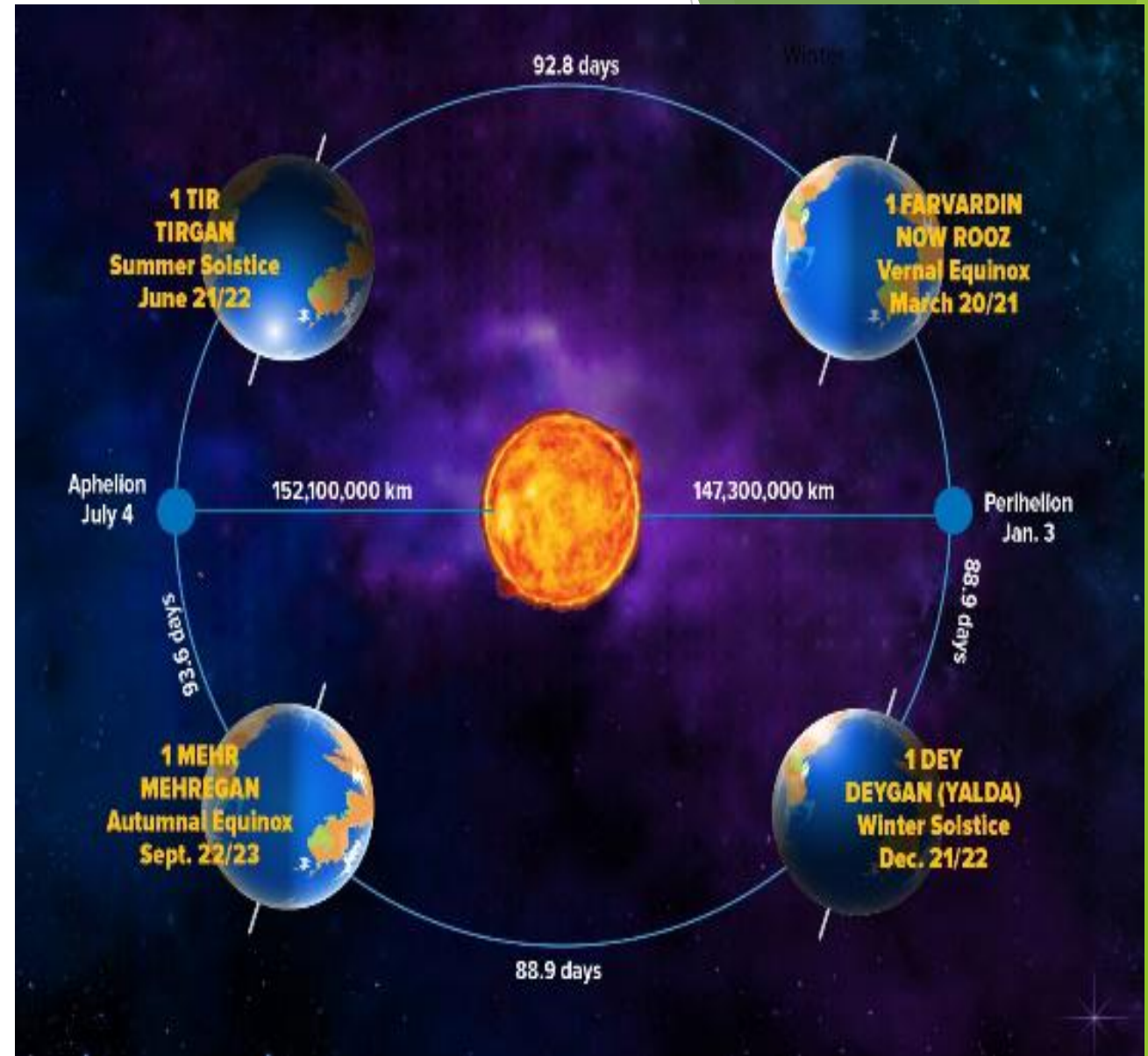
Autumn 89.9 days and

Winter with 88.9 days is the shortest.

Each season individually divided into 3 months works out to

31 days each for the first six months, the next 5 months of 30 days each

and the last month of the balance of the days before the Vernal Equinox which is 29 or 30 determined by the Vernal Equinox.





# FESTIVALS

- Since Seasons are marked by the position of the Earth in its orbit around the Sun the accuracy of the calendar is guaranteed by nature. These natural occurrences are also celebrated as festivals.
- 1- **Vernal Equinox** the beginning of Spring as New Year - **Now Rooz** - 1 Farvardin
- 2- **Summer Solstice** the beginning of Summer as **Tirgan** 1 Tir
- 3- **Autumnal Equinox** the beginning of Fall as **Mehregan** 1 Mehr
- 4- **Winter Solstice** the beginning of winter as **Deygan (Yalda)** 1 Dey
- The Mazdayasni Calendar needs NO adjustment for 10,000 years. (less than 1sec./year)
- This fact has been recognized by [TimeAndDate.com](http://TimeAndDate.com) as the PERSIAN Calendar from the 2nd Millennium BCE

# WHY THE DAYS WERE NAMED

- u The National Science Foundation in the US has come to the conclusion that a regular person has about 70 thousand thoughts in a day. The result is a waste of the brain power. None of the thoughts can mature because the mind has less than one second to delve on each thought.
- u Recently science has realized that if a group of people, over a period, collectively think about a single subject or single problem, or a single project, they can find solutions and advance in their research at a faster pace. Many hi-tech companies have started to put this into practice.

# PURPOSE OF NAMING DAYS

- u In modern days we dedicate a day to a causes, like Labor day, Veterans day, Mothers Day, Fathers Day, etc. By dedicating a day to a cause or a subject, the whole population concentrates on that cause or subject producing a positive result.
- u With the same aim, in ancient times, the days of each month were named to produce a concentrated effort by the entire population towards that name. So we see that the entire population did not eat meat on the day named Life, *Gaush Gosh* whereby, there was no slaughtering of animals on that day.
- u On the day named Aban - water was venerated reminding every one of the importance of water & people were reminded not to pollute or waste it, and so on.
- u Today Zarathushtis have chosen a few of those name and given it superstitious values and left the rest alone.

# NAME OF THE DAYS of the WEEK

- u In the ancient calendar, the week was not given importance. There was no seven-day week.
- u In modern day society, seven day week is of major significance.
- u So in the modern version of the Mazda Yasni calendar, the days of the week are named after the 7 Amesha Spenta. To remind us of the seven Gathic steps towards Perfection & Spirituality.
- u Monday=Bahman - **Good Mind**, Tue = AshaVahista - **Truth**, Wed = Shahrivar **Good Rule**, Thu = Espan - **Righteous**, Fri= Khordad - **Perfection**, Sat = Amordad **Immortality**, Sun= Ormazd -**Spirituality**

# GAHANBAR

## ARCTIC Gahanbar

- ***Maidhyo-Shahem (Mid-Summer)*** *Gahanbars*. Arctic Summer is of 7 months (Farvardin to Mehr) 216 days so Mid Summer falls on the 108th day. Which is 15 of Tir corresponding to July 5.
- ***Ayeh-Threm (Saarem) (Coming of Winter)***. Arctic winter is of 5 months. (Aban to Esfand) Coming of Winter is celebrated on 30 Mehr, (21 October ), just before the Arctic winter starts When the sowing of winter root crops is completed.
- 5 day Gahanbar are to cover the 1to5 days lost due to 30 day calendar.

## TEMPERATE Gahanbar

- ***Maidhyo-Zarem (Mid Spring)***: Spring has 92.8 days so Mid Spring falls on the 46<sup>th</sup> day (15 Ardibesht 4 May- ) when plenty of Fresh vegetable is available.
- ***Paiti-Shahem (End of Summer)***: Summer ends on 186<sup>th</sup> day (31 Shahrivar / 21 Sept.). Fruits and Vegetables have been picked.
- ***Maidh-Yarem (Mid- winter)***: 320.75<sup>th</sup> day. When farmers, shepherds and their animals are resting. (15 Bahman/4Feb).
- ***Hamas-Path-Maedem (Equality of heat and cold, day and night)***: preparation for the revival of Nature.(28/ 29 Esfand) (March 19/20).

# RESOLUTION

- υ Our life on Earth is regulated by Nature
- υ Each Season requires of us to perform differently
- υ Nature has the answers to all our questions to all our quest to all our ambitions
- υ Nature feeds us, cloths us and provides for our shelter
- υ Nature belongs to all, so we should all endeavor to preserve it, recognize it, celebrate it, and enjoy it together
- υ To keep us connected to Nature and to understand it we should recognize and celebrate all the landmarks in nature
- υ To aid, guide and to regulate us, a common calendar based on Nature should be desired by all
- υ WE resolve to revive, adopt and spread the Ancient Mazda-Yasni Calendar based on the Bundahishn, which encompasses all of the above and needs no adjustment for 110,000 years.

# an important point to note

- u The Arab invasion started in the South, by the time they reached Khorasan and the Balkh the Iranians were aware of the consequences, and so in Khorasan, they took their libraries underground then convert to Islam and practiced their Zarathushti faith in private.
- u When the dust settles and Iranian rulers like the Somanians and Barmakis take control, all of a sudden hundreds of scholars' flourish in Khorasan, like Ibn Sina, Rudaki, Zakaria Razi, Ibn Balkhi, Biruni, Farabi, Estakhri, just to name a few, and astronomers and mathematicians like Kujandi, Kharagi, KhaRazmi, GorGani and Omar Khayam who brings back the ancient Mazdayasni Calendar and dedicates it to the ruler of the time Jalal al-Din Malik Shah. In order that the calendar, be protected by the king, he calls it the Jalali Calendar.
- u Western scholars who are on the payroll of the Saudis call them Islamic scholars and credit Islam for the Renaissance in Europe.