



atS rawh    atx uh    at amuh

**Avesta Script  
Read Right To Left**



**Hvarshta**  
**Good**  
**Deeds**

**Hukhta**  
**Good**  
**Words**

**Humata**  
**Good**  
**Thoughts**

# Good Morning!

## Welcome all to

### Our Sixth All NA Z Religion Tele Class

Mah Sheherevar (Meher K), Roj Amardad 1381 YZ (S)

Mah Bahman, Roj Daepadar 1381 YZ (F)

Sunday January 22nd 2012 11 AM



atS rawh atx uh atamuh

**Avesta Script  
Read Right To Left**



**Hvarshta  
Good  
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Good  
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**Roj 7 Amardad dAdrama , Maah 6 – Sheherevar rawrvhvC , Y.Z. 1381**

**Let us welcome participants by conference call from all FL –  
Tampa Bay, Orlando, Miami ZAF and all over NA!**

**Jo Ann and I are very humbled by your response, patience and  
attendance to these classes conducted with the help of telephone  
conference call for all NA Humdins and hope we continue this type  
of Z Religious classes in the future for the betterment of all!**

**Thank you all for your Participation, Patience and Time!**

**Let us start with the class!**

# Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs

## Agenda:

1. A complete Broad Brush coverage of all Z Ceremonies (almost 30)

2. Ervad Dr. J. J. Modi's historic Book as reference

3. Available on Internet at:

<http://www.avesta.org/ritual/rcc.htm>

thanks to the painstaking effort by Joseph Peterson

Thanks to Joe, A PDF version is also available to download at the above website.

4. Today we will cover, in a broad brush summary, all Zoroastrian Ceremonies (almost 30)

If you all are interested, we will cover in details those Ceremonies that apply to us in NA in subsequent Classes

5. Cyber Hum Bandagi in English

6. Cyber Hama Zor Greeting

**SHAMS-UL-ULAMA**

**DR. SIR ERVAD JIVANJI JAMSHEDJI MODI**

Kt., C.I.E., B.A., Ph.D., LL.D.



*by*

**Marzban J. Giara**

**THE RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES  
AND  
CUSTOMS OF THE PARSEES**

**J. J. MODI**

**SHAMS-UL-ULAMA**

**DR. SIR ERVAD JIVANJI JAMSHEDJI MODI**

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With the kind Permission of Joseph Peterson

Part 1 Part 2 Part 3 Part 4 Part 5

NOTE: Also available as a PDF.

THE RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES  
AND CUSTOMS OF THE PARSEES.

By JIVANJI JAMSHEDJI MODI,

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FELLOW OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BOMBAY

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OFFICIÉR DE L'INSTRUCTION

PUBLIQUE (FRANCE, 1902),

CAMPBELL MEDALLIST,

B. B. R. ASIATIC SOCIETY (1918).

1922

BRITISH INDIA PRESS, MAZAGON, BOMBAY.



# Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs - Resources

## CEREMONIES OF PAV-MAHEL

With their Merits.

Comprising

*All the ceremonies of PAV-MAHEL for Nirangdin, Varsiyo, Bhasham, Foundation of the Tower of silence &c, The explanation of performing every ceremony, its merits, Maps & Charts, Baj of every Farasta and it includes many other things.*

COMPILED

BY

**Ervad Noshervan Nawroji Unwala.**

*Edited and Published*

BY

**"Bazamo Khademane-Iransha"-Udwada.**

*for the benefit of the Athornans of Udwada and others.*

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1292 Yazdehardi

1292 A. D.

Unwala –  
Pav Mahel  
(Gujarati)  
Ceremonies  
(for Udwada  
Mobeds)



Pavri – Pav  
Mahel  
(Gujarati)  
Ceremonies  
(for Navsari  
Mobeds)



Also Available on Internet, all 9 books, at:  
[http://www.iranchamber.com/history/herodotus/herodotus\\_history\\_book1.php](http://www.iranchamber.com/history/herodotus/herodotus_history_book1.php)

**HERODOTUS** (c. 484-425 B.C.), Greek historian, called the Father of History, was born at Halicarnassus in Asia Minor, then dependent upon the Persians, in or about the year 484 B.C. Herodotus was thus born a Persian subject, and such he continued until he was thirty or five-and-thirty years of age. Among the merits of Herodotus as an historian, the most prominent are the diligence with which he collected his materials, the candor and impartiality with which he has placed his facts before the reader, the absence of party bias and undue national vanity, and the breadth of his conception of the historian's office. His forte is vivid and picturesque description, the lively presentation of scenes and actions, characters and states of society, not the subtle analysis of motives, the power of detecting the undercurrents or the generalizing faculty.

# Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs

## Zoroastrian Ceremonies In A Nutshell

**I. The Socio-Religious Ceremonies:**

**II. The Purification Ceremonies:**

**III. The Initiation Ceremonies:**

**IV. The Consecration Ceremonies:**

**V. The Liturgical ceremonies:**

**(A) The Inner Liturgical Ceremonies (Pav Mahel):**

**(B) The Outer Liturgical Ceremonies (Hoshmordi):**

**(C) Combined Groups of Liturgical Ceremonies  
(Pav Mahel & Hoshmordi):**

**Please note:**

- 1. WILL NOT cover in details Ceremonies that do not apply to NA**
- 2. Cannot cover all Ceremonies in details in one Tele Class and so will cover them in subsequent classes, if there is interest.**





## Child Besna Ceremony A Parsi/Irani Ashirwad



# Zoroastrian Ceremonies In A Nutshell

## I. The Socio-Religious Ceremonies:

- (A) Birth,
- (B) Marriage
- (C) Death Ceremonies.

## II. The Purification Ceremonies:

- (a) Nahn,
- (b) Riman,
- (c) the Barashnoom,
- (d) the purification of contaminated articles

Navario in  
Barashnoom in  
Iranshah





**Triple Navjotes in Miami. Double Navars in Iranshah.  
Dallas Dar-e-Meher Entronement**

## **Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs**

### **III. The Initiation Ceremonies:**

- (a) Navjote (Sedreh Pushi) or the Initiation of a child into the fold
- (b) Nâvar (Nowzuty) and Martab,  
the two grades of Initiation into priesthood.

### **IV. The Consecration Ceremonies:**

- (a) the consecration of Fire-temples,
- (b) of the Towers of Silence,
- (c) of Alat, or religious requisites.



# Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs

## V. The Liturgical Ceremonies:

### (A) The Inner Liturgical Ceremonies (Pav Mahel):

- (a) Yasna,
- (b) Visperad,
- (c) Vendidad,
- (d) Baj.

**Navar Yasna Ceremony.  
Dallas Dar-e-Meher Inauguration Baj Ceremony.  
Orlando Gāhambār Satum Ceremony.**

### (B) The Outer Liturgical Ceremonies (Hoshmordi):

- (a) Āfringān,
- (b) Farokhshi,
- (c) Satum.

**Pav Mahel – Holy/Consecrated House  
Hoshmordi - Common**





**Orlando Gāhambār on Banana Leaves. Miami Muktaḍ Celebration.  
Udwada Home Fareshta Ceremony.**

## **Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs**

### **V. The Liturgical Ceremonies:**

#### **(C) Combined Liturgical Ceremonies (Pav Mahel & Hoshmordi):**

- (1) Nirangdin
- (2) Hamāyasht or Homāsht
- (3) Geti-Kharid (4) Sarosh (5) Zinda-Rawan
- (6) The Gāhambār Ceremony
- (7) Jashan
- (8) Frawardigān or Muktaḍ Ceremonies
- (9) Fireshte [Farestā]



**We will ONLY cover the ceremonies for NA marked in RED**

# Zoroastrian Ceremonies In A Nutshell

## I. The Socio-Religious Ceremonies:

- ➡ (A) Birth,
- ➡ (B) Marriage
- ➡ (C) Death Ceremonies.

## II. The Purification Ceremonies:

- ~~(a) Nahn,~~
- ~~(b) Riman,~~
- ~~(c) the Barashnoom,~~
- ~~(d) the purification of contaminated articles.~~

## III. The Initiation Ceremonies:

- ➡ (a) Navjote (Sedreh Pushi) or the Initiation of a child into the fold
- ~~(b) Nâvar (Nowzuty) and Martab,~~  
the two grades of Initiation into priesthood.

## IV. The Consecration Ceremonies:

- ➡ (a) the consecration of Fire-temples,
- ~~(b) of the Towers of Silence,~~
- ~~(c) of Alat, or religious requisites.~~

**We will ONLY cover the ceremonies for NA marked in RED**

# Zoroastrian Ceremonies In A Nutshell

## V. The Liturgical ceremonies:

### (A) The Inner Liturgical Ceremonies (Pav Mahel):



- (a) Yasna,
- (b) Visperad,
- (c) Vendidad,

➡ (d) Baj.

### (B) The Outer Liturgical Ceremonies (Hoshmordi):

➡ (a) Āfringān,

➡ (b) Farokhshi,

➡ (c) Satum.

### (C) Combined Liturgical Ceremonies (Pav Mahel & Hoshmordi):



(1) Nirangdin

(2) Hamāyasht or Homāsht

(3) Geti-Kharid (4) Sarosh (5) Zinda-Rawan

➡ (6) The Gāhambār Ceremony

➡ (7) Jashan

➡ (8) Frawardigān or Muktaḍ Ceremonies

➡ (9) Fireshte [Farestā]

# Zoroastrian Ceremonies Performed in NA

## I. The Socio-Religious Ceremonies:

- (A) Birth,
- (B) Marriage
- (C) Death Ceremonies.

## III. The Initiation Ceremonies:

- (a) Navjote (Sedreh Pushi) or the Initiation of a child into the fold

## IV. The Consecration Ceremonies:

- (a) the consecration of Fire-temples
- (b) The Bui Ceremony in a North American Dar-e-Meher

## V. The Liturgical ceremonies:

### (A) The Inner Liturgical Ceremonies (Pav Mahel):

- (d) Baj.

### (B) The Outer Liturgical Ceremonies (Hoshmordi):

- (a) Āfringān, (b) Farokhshi, (c) Satum.

### (C) Combined Liturgical Ceremonies (Pav Mahel & Hoshmordi):

- (6) The Gāhambār Ceremony
- (7) Jashan      (9) Fireshte [Farestā]
- (8) Frawardigān or Muktaḍ Ceremonies

# Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs – A Quick Review

## Zoroastrian Ceremonies – A Quick Review

### I. The Socio-Religious Ceremonies:

#### (A) Birth Ceremonies and Customs

- (i) Fifth Month Pregnancy (“Panch mâsiûn”)
- (ii) Seventh Month Pregnancy (Agharni)
- (iii) Birth of the child – a lamp is lighted for 3 days
- (iv) Naming of the child
- (v) When the child first begins to sit down (Besna)
- (vi) When the child first begins to walk (Pag Ladoo)  
(these ceremonies may be borrowed from Hindus)
- (vii) First Birthday – Fareshta Ceremony in child’s name (Jashan with 33 Afringans)



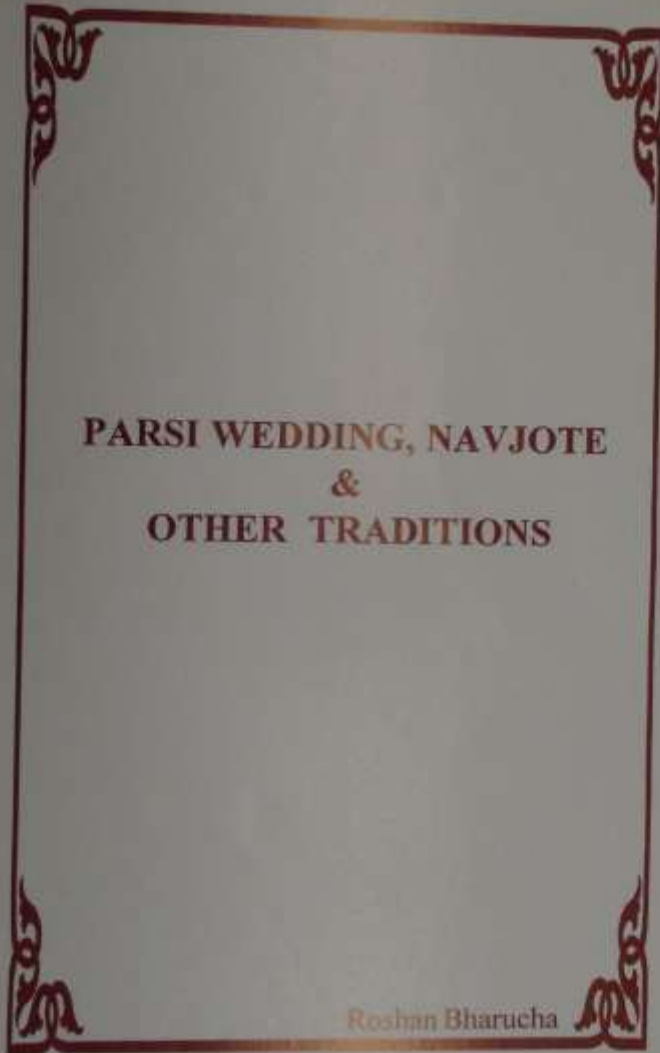
## Roshan Bharucha Book

Dear Soli: Nellie Unwalla forwarded your email to me on the above subject and in response to it, I would like to say:

(1). Besna ceremony is performed when a child is able to sit (approximately at 7 months of age). The child is seated on a "Patla" (little stool) and pendas (Mithai) are placed around him/her. "Tili" is put on the forehead and garland on him/her and the usual ses is done with throwing of rice. Cash and gifts are then given to the child by parents, grandparents and family members.

(2) Pug Ludoo is done when the child starts to take his/her first steps. The child is made to stand on the patlo, the usual ses of Tili, garland and gifts are done. "Khaman na Ludoos" (patties filled with sweetened coconut) are placed in front and the child is helped to walk and kick the Ludoos.

Best regards, Roshan Bharucha  
Delray Beach, FL Tel: 610-613-9591  
Email: bharuchar@msn.com



Some years ago, I had written a book "Parsi Wedding, Navjote and Other Traditions" and It has had a very good response from the Zoroastrian community in U.S., Canada and other places. I am mailing you a complimentary copy for your reference.



**Agharni ceremony in Udwada Village – Expectant mother is gifted a complete dress with a sari which she wears and mother-in-law places in her lap wheat, rice, moong, nariyel, bijoroo or dadam, pan, sopari, kharak, sakar. Her mother also does the same for her.**

For Besna, the child is made to wear new clothes after bath. Then he is made to sit on a patla, decorated with chok and Five Pendas. Then all gift him Paheramni (money)!



Pag laroo is done only when child is falling a lot, and maybe in those olden times pendas were not available so ladvas were made as sweet for Pag laroo and also for besna.







**Agharni in Mumbai and the new born boy - Vihaan!**







**Simone Todywalla's Besna Ceremony in Miami celebrated by ZAF Z Club!**







## Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs – A Quick Review

### I. The Socio-Religious Ceremonies:

#### (B) Marriage Ceremonies

- Marriage, a good institution preferred by God
- Helping Marriage, a meritorious act. Herodotus
- Marriageable age
- Betrothal. Divo (lamp) and Adarni
- Marriage day and time, Sacred bath
- Marriage Dress, tillis, presents, dowry, and procession
- Welcoming Ceremonies. Ceremonial fire. Witnesses.
- Aaraa Antar, thread 7 times around, throwing rice
- Religious Ceremony. The Benediction
- Washing the feet. Eating together
- Entertainment, Sumptuous Parsi Lagan-nu-Bhonu





Supraa Ceremony –  
Red & yellow tillis, cotton  
thread wrapped around,  
put wheat, rice, turmeric,  
sopari, kharak, badam,  
rock candy, banana.

**Maadav Sarav –**  
planting a mango sapling.

**4 women exchanging supraas.**

**Adarni – Bridegroom family to Bride's home. Bride standing on a Patla.  
New sari put on, and all the rest of the gifts to the bride.**







**Nahn to Bride. Bride dressed for wedding and here comes the BRIDE!  
Ashirwad – Waiting Bridegroom. Aaraa Antar.  
Mobed asking agreement of the Bridegroom's witness.**



## I. The Socio-Religious Ceremonies:

### (C) Funeral Ceremonies and Customs

#### 1. Ceremonies relating to the Disposal of the body.

- The object of observances, summed up in two principles:
- (1) to break the contact of the living with the real center of infection;
- (2) to destroy this center itself.
- Washing the shroud. Final Bath.
- Isolation of the Corpse
- The Shroud, Paywand, Direction of the head.
- The Kasha or Boundary line. The Sanitary isolation.
- The Sag-did
- The presence of Fire. Prayers, Time of removal
- The corpse-bearers; Their even number
- The Geh sârnâ recital. The Bâj. The last look and the removal
- The Gaomez as a purifier
- The Funeral Procession. The disposal
- The Tower of Silence



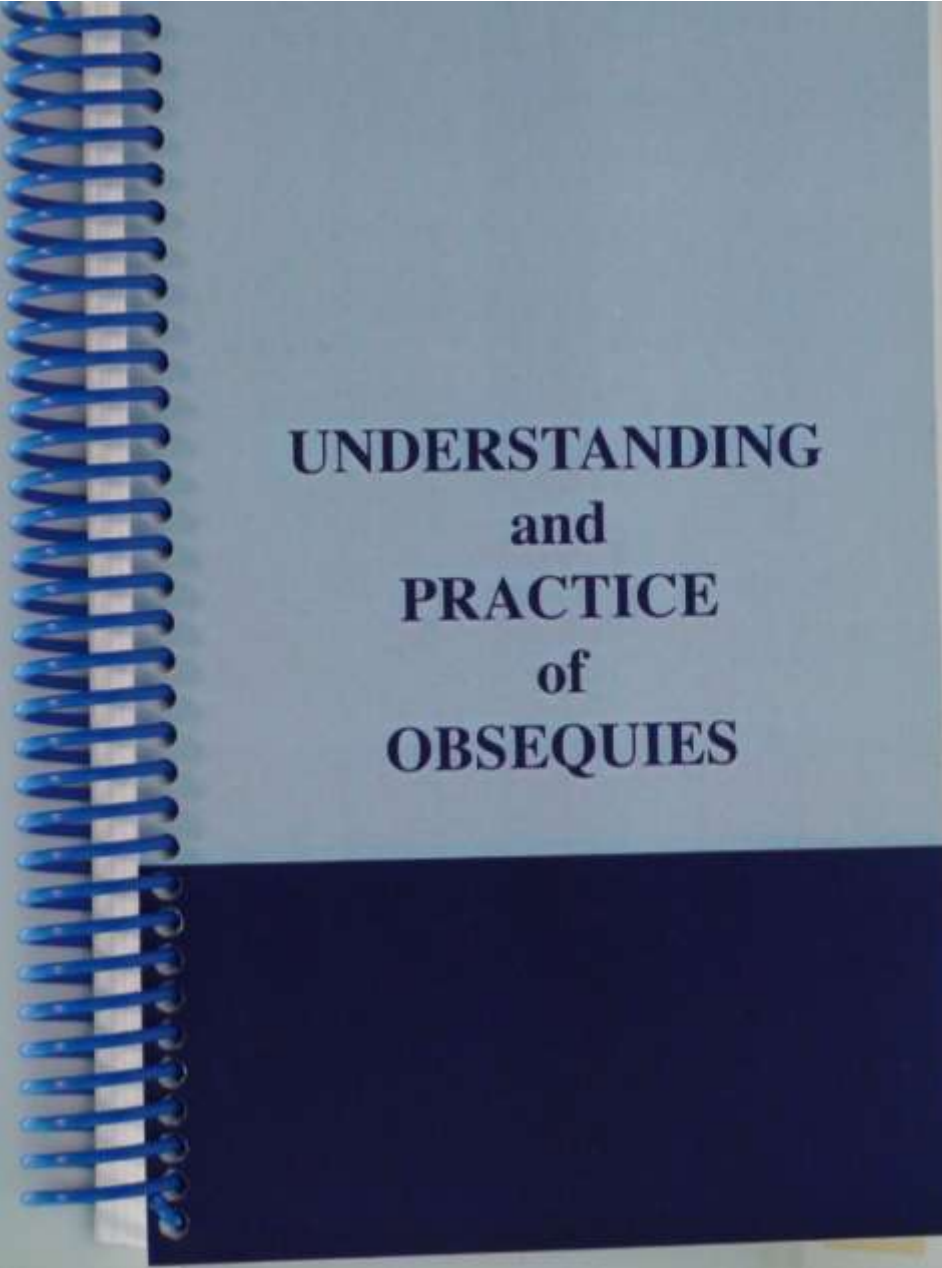
## I. The Socio-Religious Ceremonies:

### (C) Funeral Ceremonies and Customs

#### 2. Ceremonies relating to the Soul.

- Soul remains in this world for 3 days and nights
- The Sarosh Ceremonies – Sarosh-nu-Paatru.
- The Uthamnâ – Uziren Geh on 3<sup>rd</sup> Day
- Commemoration/ Adoption of a benevolent Behdin
- Naam Ghahran custom – Behdin/Osta/Osti/Ervad
- Paalak – adopted son if deceased has no son
- Fourth Day Hoshbam - The Chinwat Bridge judgement
- Mithra, the Judge, Rashnu (Justice), Ashtad (Truth)
- Early morning Uthamnâ plus Afringāns and Bajs
  
- Ceremonies on the 4th, 10th, 30th, and Anniversary days

# Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs - Resources



**UNDERSTANDING  
and  
PRACTICE  
of  
OBSEQUIES**

**Understanding  
And  
Practice  
of  
Obsequies**

**By  
Ervad Jehan Bagli**

**Ervad Adi Unwalla**

## II. The Purification Ceremonies:

### A. The Pâdyâb and the Nâhn

- Reason, why importance is attached to Purificatory Ceremonies
- Two objects of Purification, Physical and Symbolic
- Four kinds of purification ceremonies
  - 1 Pâdyâb, the first kind. Four occasions: getting up, after meals, before praying, after nature calls  
Avesta paiti-â (Pahlavi – pâdyâv). It means "throwing water (âb) over (paiti) the exposed parts of the body."
  - 2 Nahn, the second kind. The four parts of its Process:
    - (a) The Pâdyâb-Kusti; (b) the symbolic eating of a pomegranate leaf and the drinking of Nirang (c) The Patet or the Prayer of repentance (d) The final bath
- The four occasions of Nahn (a) Naojote [Navjote] (b) Marriage (c) Accouchement (before/after child birth) (d) During 10 Frawardigân Holidays

## II. The Purification Ceremonies:

### Bareshnum, the third kind of purification

#### 1. Its meaning and object

- How it differs from other kinds of Purification
- Original and modern objects.

#### 2. Description, as given in the Vendidad

- A Karsha or Kasha (trench or furrow)
- The Pâvi (sacred permanent trench)
- The Naogar (nine knotted stick)

## II. The Purification Ceremonies:

### 3. The Bareshnum *gâh* or the place of Bareshnum

To lay out the place: (a) Digging *magas* or pits

(b) Drawing *Kashas* or furrows;

(c) Covering it with sand or earth

□ A modern Bareshnum *gâh*:

(a) Its Locality

(b) Its area

(c) The form of its *maga* or pits

(d) The distance between the *magas*. Sets of stones there

❖ Plan of the Bareshnum *gâh*

## **II. The Purification Ceremonies:**

**Bareshnum, the third kind of purification**

### **4. The Process of giving the Bareshnum**

#### **(A) Preliminary Preparations of**

- (a) the Requisites,
- (b) the Purifier,
- (c) the Place, and
- (d) the Candidate



## II. The Purification Ceremonies:

### Bareshnum, the third kind of purification

#### (B) The Process proper

- ✓ The Dog in the Ceremony
- ✓ Application of :
  - (a) the Nirang or consecrated cow's urine,
  - (b) of sand,
  - (c) of consecrated water,
  - (d) The final Bath
- ✓ Table, showing the number of applications
- ✓ Consecration of the clothes

## II. The Purification Ceremonies:

### Bareshnum, the third kind of purification

#### (C) Retreat of 9 days after the Bareshnum

- (a) The *navshu* Baths during the Retreat; (b) the Khub,
- (c) The season for the ceremony

#### Causes that vitiate the Bareshnum:

- (a) Eating of food cooked by non-Zoroastrians,
- (b) non-observance of the Baj,
- (c) Long Travels and Voyages. Tacitus on the subject.

Reason for the Prohibition.

- (d) Taking of oaths.
- (e) Falling off of the Turban, the turban and the padân being the insignias of Priesthood

## II. The Purification Ceremonies:

### *Riman* Purification. Its Process. A Plan of its Place

- ❑ Riman - person polluted by coming into contact with filth from dead bodies.
- ❑ Old Iranian Purification and Modern Plague Operations.
  - (a) Disinfection of polluted houses,
  - (b) The Contacts (the Hamrît and the Patrît),
  - (c) The Evicts (the Patrîts),
  - (d) Baths and Fumigations,
  - (e) Conversation with the Infected,
  - (f) Destruction of suspected things,
  - (g) Prohibition of Burial
- ❑ Iranian, Hebrew, and Roman Purifications

## II. The Purification Processes in Daily Life:

### Purification of:

- (a) a House
- (b) and of Things defiled or infected

### Some Purificatory Processes in Daily Life

### Uncleanliness of:

- (a) Saliva
- (b) Nail and Hair
- (c) Issues – men and women

## III. The Initiation Ceremonies and Customs:

### (A) Navjote (Sedreh Pushi) or the Initiation of a child into the fold

- ✓ The Navjote [Navjote]
  - (a) Meaning of the Word (one who offers prayers)
  - (b) Age for the Initiation (7 – 15)
- ✓ Sudreh, the sacred shirt.
  - Its Structure and symbolism
- ✓ Kusti or the Sacred Thread.
  - Its Structure and symbolism.



## III. The Initiation Ceremonies and Customs:

### (A) Navjote (Sedreh Pushi) or the Initiation of a child into the fold

#### ✓ The Ceremony:

- Sacred Bath
- Ceremonial Requisites

#### ✓ The Initiation Proper:

- (a) The Recital of the Confession Faith,
- (b) Nirang-i-kusti
- (c) The Articles of Faith,
- (d) the final Benediction



**Nahn to Navjotia girl.  
Procession to stage after Nahn.  
Garlanding Sudreh.  
Kushti Prayer.  
Tandoorasti Benediction.  
Final dressing up of the Navjotias.**







## 14 Children Group Sedreh Pushi in Yazd.

All candidates with the Lead Mobed  
Procession to the stage with Afarganyu  
Kushti Prayer.

Affirmation and Tandoorasti Benediction.  
Final presentations of the new Zarathushtris.  
Courtesy of [www.amordadnews.com](http://www.amordadnews.com)







**Over 100 Mobeds in a Navjote on the specially constructed Persepolis environment at the JeeJeebhoy Dadabhoy Colaba Agiyari in Mumbai!**



# Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs – A Quick Review

## III. The Initiation Ceremonies and Customs:

### (B) Nâvar and Martab,

the two grades of Initiation into priesthood

#### ➤ Priesthood hereditary

#### 1. The Nâvar, the first Initiation

The different stages of Initiation:

(a) The Bareshnum

(b) The Gewrâ

(c) The Initiation proper

#### ➤ Gurz, the symbolic mace

#### 2. The Martab

## IV. The Consecration Ceremonies:

### (A) Consecration of the Sacred Fire and Fire-temples

#### (1) Consecration of the Atash Behram,

the sacred fire of the first grade

#### ➤ The Requisite 16 fires of different kinds:

(a) the Collection,

(b) Purification,

(c) Consecration

(d) Union of the Fires

(e) The Consecration of the united fires.

(f) Consecration of the Chamber of fire,

(g) The final Enthronement

#### ➤ The Spiritual rule of the sacred fire

#### ➤ A National toast connected with the sacred fire

#### ➤ Signification of the purifying and consecrating processes

#### ➤ The sacred ash

## **IV. The Consecration Ceremonies:**

### **(A) Consecration of the Sacred Fire and Fire-temples**

The Bui ceremony for feeding the fire,

(a) Variation for the different grades of the sacred Fire,

(b) The five times for the ceremony

The Bui Ceremony in an Atash Behram

### **The Bui Ceremony in a North American Dar-e-Meher**

(2) Consecration of the sacred fire of the Atash Adaran.

(a) Collection, (b) Purification, (c) Consecration of four fires.

(d) Final Consecration of the united fire. (e) Its Enthronement

(3) Consecration of the sacred Fire of the Atash Dadgah

### **(B) Consecration of the Towers of Silence**

### **(C) Consecration of Alat, or religious requisites**



**Dallas ZANT inaugurates a new Dar-e-Meher!**  
**Vendidad Recital, Inauguration Jashan**  
**Procession to enthrone the Jashan Fire**  
**Baj Prayer**  
**Final Enthronement of the Dadgah Fire with the Bui Ceremony**  
**Mobed Kobad Jamshed performs Bui Ceremony**  
**in beautiful San Jose ZANC Dar-e-Meher**





## **V. The Liturgical ceremonies:**

### **(A) The Inner Liturgical services (Pav Mahel):**

**(a) Yasna, (b) Visperad, (c) Vendidad, (d) Baj.**

➤ **The Dar-e-Meher,**

**the place of the Liturgical ceremonies**

➤ **The Yazashna-gah, or the Urvisgah, or the Hindholâ**

**The two parts of the Yasna:**

**(a) The Paragnâ and**

**(b) the Yasna proper (72 Has of Yasna)**

## V. The Liturgical ceremonies:

### (A) The Inner Liturgical services (Pav Mahel):

- 1 The Paragnâ consisting of the ceremonies of
  - (a) Barsom, (b) Aiwiyâonghan, (c) Urvarâm, (d) Jivâm, (e) Zaothra, and (f) Haoma
- The Liturgical apparatus.
- The Ritual of making it pâv or pure
  - (a) The different *khwâns* or stone slabs
  - (b) The Hâvanim and the Lâla. The Tashta, the Mâhrûi
  - (c) The Barsam. Its use in the recital of Grace before meals. Its Preparation, Gathering, and Tying
  - (d) The Varas ni viti, *i.e.*, the hair-ring
  - (e) The Astra or *kâplo*, *i.e.*, the knife
  - (f) The *Kundi* and other water-vessels

## **V. The Liturgical ceremonies:**

### **(A) The Inner Liturgical services (Pav Mahel):**

#### **The two parts of the Yasna: (continued)**

#### **Organic Requisites:**

- (g) The Aiwiyâonghan, made from the leaf of the Date-Palm tree, a symbol among the ancient Iranians.  
Its preparation and signification
- (h) The Urvarâm (pomegranate twigs)  
Its Signification and Preparation
- (i) The Jivâm (goat's milk)
- (j) The Dron or Sacred Bread. Its ceremonial eating (Châshni)
- (k) The Goshudô (Ghee, clarified butter)

# Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs – A Quick Review

## V. The Liturgical ceremonies:

### (A) The Inner Liturgical services (Pav Mahel):

#### The two parts of the Yasna: (continued)

#### Organic Requisites:

(l) The Haoma. Its Botanical name. Its purification

The Antiquity of the Ceremony

4 Steps of the Yasna ceremony: (1) Preliminary preparation, (2) Purifying and consecrating the twigs, (3) Preparing and straining the Juice, (4)

Drinking the Juice

(m) Zaothra Water. Its Purification and Consecration.

The object and symbolism of the ceremony

The Ritual of mixing the Zaothra or Zor (Zor melavvi)

(n) Fire and its Requisites.

The metallic Censer, the ladle, tongs, and the fragrant fuel



# Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs – A Quick Review

## V. The Liturgical ceremonies:

### (A) The Inner Liturgical services (Pav Mahel):

(a) Yasna, (b) Visperad, (c) Vendidad, (d) Baj.

### I. The Yasna Proper (all 72 Has of Yasna)

- Preparation and Consummation of the Haoma Juice
- Description of the 72 chapters with the ritual
- A View of the Antiquity of the Ritual, based on its Liturgical Apparatus

### II. THE VISPERAD CEREMONY (72 Yasna Has + 23 Kardas of Visperad)

#### Visperad, A prayer for the Ratus.

- ❖ The texts treating of the *ratus*. The Asha and the Ratu
- ❖ The eight priests referred to in the Visperad
- ❖ Their positions in the Yazashna gâh as determined in the Nirangistan
- ❖ The best Typical prayers referred to by the Visperad. The Staota Yasna, the Ahunwar with the number of its recital on different occasions, the Ashem, the Yenghe Hatam

### III. THE VENDIDAD CEREMONY (Visperad + 22 Fargards of Vendidad).

- ✓ The order of the recital of its chapters with those of the Yasna and Visperad

**For Detailed Information on the Inner Liturgical Services,  
NAMC Seminar Available:**

ZAMWI and the North American Mobeds Council present:  
*DivineMessage: JOURNEY THROUGH ZOROASTRIAN SCRIPTURES*

**Four distinguished priests will enlighten us**

Ervad Brig. Behram M. Panthaki: Khordeh Avesta

Ervad Dr. Jehan F. Bagli: Yasna

Ervad Dr. Soli P. Dastur: Visperad

Ervad Gustad M. Panthaki: Vandidad

What should we pray?

Can the Yasna be performed in

North America?

What is a Ratu?

What is the Vendidad?

What is the future of our faith and our priests?

# Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs – A Quick Review

## V. The Liturgical ceremonies:

### (A) The Inner Liturgical services (Pav Mahel):

#### IV. THE BAJ CEREMONY (Has 3 – 8 of Yasna)

- The various Significations of the word Bâj
- The Requisites for the Bâj recited with religious ritual
- Different kinds of Bajas described

#### Baj of:

- (a) Panch tâi
- (b) Sraosha
- (c) Fireshtas
- (d) Pantha Yazata
- (e) Nairyosangh
- (f) Agrêras
- (g) Vanant with the ritual of Vanot kâpvi
- (h) Jashan days
- (i) Ardâfravash, etc.

- The Lesser Bâj recited before having a meal – Jamwaani Baj
- Silence observed during meals after the recital of the Bâj (Prayer of Grace)
- Bâj recited on occasions of natural functions
- Bâj for the consecration of new woven Kushti

**Excellent Book on Baj:  
The Bâj-dharnâ  
By  
Ervad Dr. Ramiyar Karanjia**



# Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs – A Quick Review

## V. The Liturgical ceremonies:

### (B) The Outer Liturgical ceremonies (Hoshmordi):

(a) Āfringān, (b) Farokhshi, (c) Satum

#### I. Āfringān.

- The Participants. The Zoti and the Râthwi
- The three parts of an Āfringān: The Dibacheh, the Āfringān proper, and the Āfrin
  - 1 The Dibache. The Khshnuman. The Yâd, Farmayâyashna
  - 2 The Āfringān proper. Its variable and unvariable parts
  - 3 The Āfrin. The eight Āfrins, 1 Gâhambâr, 2 Rapithwin, 3 Ardafarosh, 4 Buzorg, 5 Myazd, 6 Spitaman Zarthosht, 7 Hamkârâ or Dahmân, 8 Gâhambar Pâvi
- The Ritual of the Āfringān:
  - The Myazda. Its requisites, Fruit, Flower (Language of Flowers), Wine. &c.
  - The Arrangement of Flowers. The Expression of Approval
  - The Orientation or Pointing of the 4 Directions and corners
  - The Hamâzor. Its occasions.
  - The Asho-dâd



# Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs – A Quick Review

## V. The Liturgical ceremonies:

### (B) The Outer Liturgical ceremonies (Hoshmordi):

(a) Āfringān, (b) Farokhshi, (c) Satum (Continued)

#### II. FAROKHSHI.

- The Fravashis or Farohars. Their Relation to the Higher Intelligences. Their work and classes
- The Fravashis, the Transcendental Essences
- The Fravashis and (a) the Ideas of Plato, (b) the Patterns of the Bible
- The Fravashis of men, living (born and unborn) and dead
- The Spiritual Constitution of man
- The Fravashi of the living and the Genius of the Romans, the Demons of the Greeks
- The Fravashi of the Dead. The Destiny of the soul
- Relations between the Living and the Dead

#### III. SATŪM.

- Satûm, a general hymn of Praise for the dead
- Satûm, recited over the meals
- The morsel of the dog

# Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs – A Quick Review

## V. The Liturgical ceremonies:

(A) The Inner Liturgical services (Pav Mahel):

(B) The Outer Liturgical ceremonies (Hoshmordi):

(C) Combined Groups of Liturgical Ceremonies (Pav Mahel & Hoshmordi):

1. Nirangdin (consecration of Bull's urine and water)

2. Hamâ-yasht (144 Yasnas and Vendidads, Afringans and Bajs)

3. Geti-kharid (To perform good deeds while living so as to be helped when dead)

4. Sarosh: 4 days of ceremonies for the dead described before

❖ 3 Sarosh-nu-Patru, 3<sup>rd</sup> evening Uthamnâ, 4<sup>th</sup> night Uthamnâ, Chehâram Ceremonies

5. Zindeh-ravan (for living, 4 days of Sarosh ceremonies described above)

6. The Gāhambārs: Their importance, (a) Agricultural/Seasonal and  
(b) Cosmogonical

▪ The six Gāhambārs as Season festivals

▪ The Gāhambārs, as connected with Cosmogony

▪ The two principal functions of the Gāhambārs:

(a) The liturgical service; the Āfringān, Baj, Visperad, Pâvi

□ The Pâvi. The ritual and its name

(b) the feast

# Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs – A Quick Review

## V. The Liturgical ceremonies:

### (C) Combined Groups of Liturgical Ceremonies (Pav Mahel & Hoshmordi):

## 6. The Gāhambārs: (continued)

(b) The solemn Feast. How to celebrate a Gāhambār

- ✓ The sacred feasts of the Iranians and of the Jews
- ✓ The Washing of hands in the feast
- ✓ The present practice. The public gatherings

## 7. Jashan: Its three kinds. Those connected with:

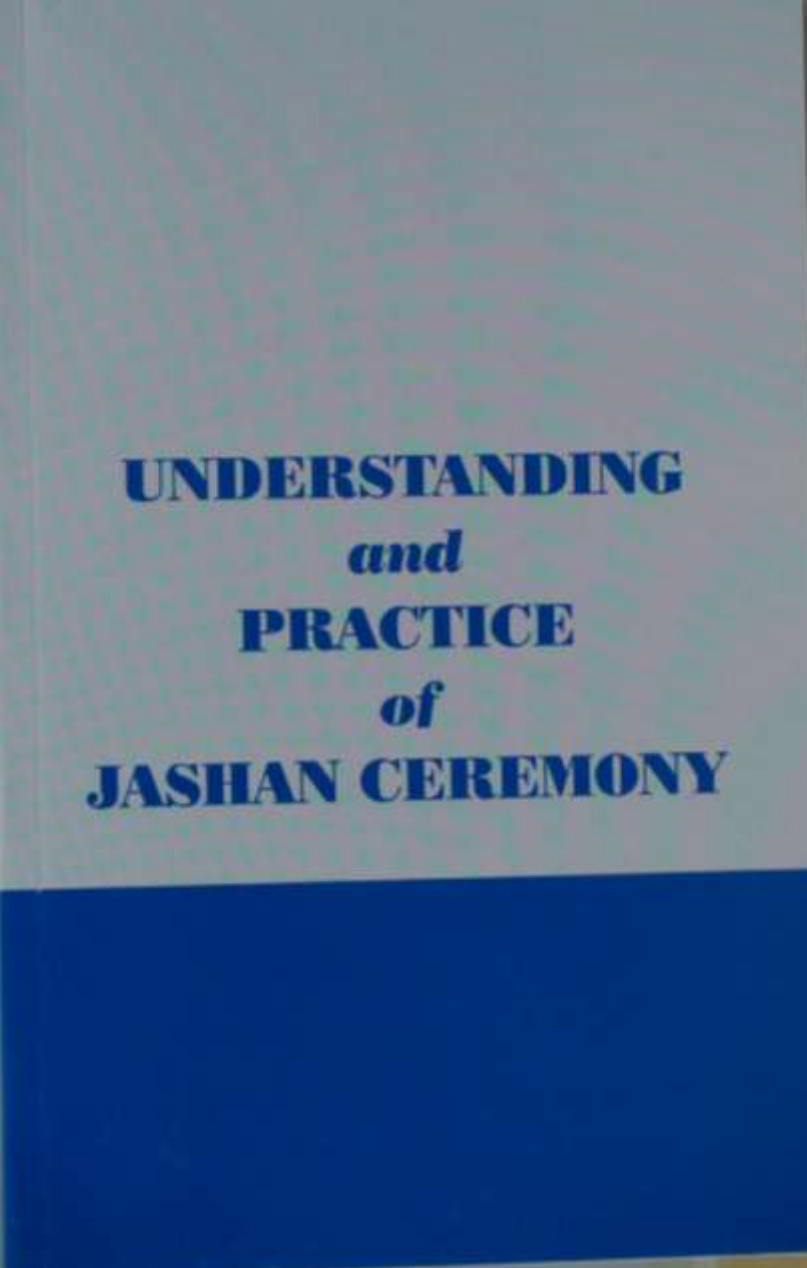
(a) the season festivals

(b) the dead

(c) past Historical events

- ✓ The Jashan days during the 12 months of a Parsee year

# Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs - Resources



**UNDERSTANDING  
*and*  
PRACTICE  
*of*  
JASHAN CEREMONY**

**Understanding  
And  
Practice  
of  
Jashan Ceremonies**

**By  
Ervad Jehan Bagli**

**Ervad Adi Unwalla**



## **All over the world Jashan Ceremonies!**

**Jeejeebhoy Dadabhoy Colaba Agiyari**

**London World Zoroastrian Congress**

**Mobedyar Initiation in Chicago Dar-e-Meher**

**Vancouver WZYC Jashan Demonstration by Young Mobeds**

**Satum Ceremony at the Orlando Gahambar**

**Inauguration of the Coonoor Zoroastrian Guest House in Nilgiri Hills**







## **Tehran Maidhyoshahem Gahambar Jashan – Amordad News!**

**Three Mobeds performing the Gahambar Jashan**

**Mobed Mehraban Firouzgary with the Myrtle Twig (Mord) in Flower Ceremony**

**Anjoman participating in the Flower Ceremony with a raised finger**

**Young Ladies joining in the Ceremony**

**The Jashan Afarganyu with Atash being circulated**

**Anjoman attendants and distribution of Myazda**







## **Typical Parsi Gahambar Cooking and Serving in Udwada!**

**Making the rotlis**

**Cooking the rice for 2000+ people who were fed!**

**Famous Udwada fried Bouy Fish and Papeta per indoo!**

**Palav Dar and Rotli!**

**The three Musketeer Babarchis (chefs)!**

**Feeding 2000+ people in multiple sittings under a tent!**







## **Gahambar Cooking and Serving in Florida!**

**Friday night preparations in the industrial kitchen!**

**Preparing the chicken at the watchful eye of the Master Chefess Urvazi!**

**Preparations of the banana leaves**

**The final satisfaction of the sumptuous food being served on banana leaves!**

**Miami ZAF Gahambar on banana leaves with hard working servers!**

**A professional way to serve the people various courses!**



# Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs – A Quick Review

## V. The Liturgical ceremonies:

### (C) Combined Groups of Liturgical Ceremonies (Pav Mahel & Hoshmordi):

#### 8. Frawardigān or Muktaḍ

- ✓ The Nâm-grahan recited on the occasion
- ✓ Its Importance and the principal observance
- ✓ Flowers and the Memory of the dead
- ✓ Ideas symbolized by the ceremony. The prayer

#### 9. Fireshte (Farestâ): The Yazatas.

- The Fireshta ceremony is almost always performed on merry occasions, like marriage, birthday, Naojote, the occupation of a newly built house, the fulfilment of a long cherished object.
- It is a mega Jashan with 33 Kardas for 30 Yazatas representing 30 Days in Z Calendar, plus Burjor, Hom and Daham as additional 3 yazatas





# **Farwardegān – Muktdad – Hamaspathmaedem Gahambar – 5 Gatha Days in NA!**

**Muktdad in Chicago Dar-e-Meher**

**Muktdad Jashan in Vancouver – Irani and Parsi Mobeds Praying together!**

**Muktdad Gatha Jashan in San Jose Dar-e-Meher**

**Atash Nyayesh after jashan in the sanctum of San Jose Dar-e-Meher**

**First ever Muktdad in Miami in 2009!**

**Expanding Muktdad tables in Miami in 2011!**





**We will ONLY cover the ceremonies for NA marked in RED**

# Zoroastrian Ceremonies In A Nutshell

## I. The Socio-Religious Ceremonies:

- ➡ (A) Birth,
- ➡ (B) Marriage
- ➡ (C) Death Ceremonies.

## II. The Purification Ceremonies:

- ~~(a) Nahn,~~
- ~~(b) Riman,~~
- ~~(c) the Barashnoom,~~
- ~~(d) the purification of contaminated articles.~~

## III. The Initiation Ceremonies:

- ➡ (a) Navjote (Sedreh Pushi) or the Initiation of a child into the fold
- ~~(b) Nâvar (Nowzuty) and Martab,~~  
the two grades of Initiation into priesthood.

## IV. The Consecration Ceremonies:

- ➡ (a) the consecration of Fire-temples,
- ~~(b) of the Towers of Silence,~~
- ~~(c) of Alat, or religious requisites.~~

# Zoroastrian Ceremonies In A Nutshell

## V. The Liturgical ceremonies:

### (A) The Inner Liturgical Ceremonies (Pav Mahel):



- (a) Yasna,
- (b) Visperad,
- (c) Vendidad,

➡ (d) Baj.

### (B) The Outer Liturgical Ceremonies (Hoshmordi):

➡ (a) Āfringān,

➡ (b) Farokhshi,

➡ (c) Satum.

### (C) Combined Liturgical Ceremonies (Pav Mahel & Hoshmordi):



(1) Nirangdin

(2) Hamāyasht or Homāsht

(3) Geti-Kharid (4) Sarosh (5) Zinda-Rawan

➡ (6) The Gāhambār Ceremony

➡ (7) Jashan

➡ (8) Frawardigān or Muktaḍ Ceremonies

➡ (9) Fireshte [Farestā]

# Zoroastrian Ceremonies Performed in NA

## I. The Socio-Religious Ceremonies:

- (A) Birth,
- (B) Marriage
- (C) Death Ceremonies.

## III. The Initiation Ceremonies:

- (a) Navjote (Sedreh Pushi) or the Initiation of a child into the fold

## IV. The Consecration Ceremonies:

- (a) the consecration of Fire-temples
- (b) The Bui Ceremony in a North American Dar-e-Meher

## V. The Liturgical ceremonies:

### (A) The Inner Liturgical Ceremonies (Pav Mahel):

- (d) Baj.

### (B) The Outer Liturgical Ceremonies (Hoshmordi):

- (a) Āfringān, (b) Farokhshi, (c) Satum.

### (C) Combined Liturgical Ceremonies (Pav Mahel & Hoshmordi):

- (6) The Gāhambār Ceremony
- (7) Jashan      (9) Fireshte [Farestā]
- (8) Frawardigān or Muktaḍ Ceremonies

# Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs

## Agenda:

1. A complete Broad Brush coverage of all Z Ceremonies
2. Ervad Dr. J. J. Modi's historic Book as reference
3. Available on Internet at:  
<http://www.avesta.org/ritual/rcc.htm>  
thanks to the painstaking effort by Joseph Peterson  
Thanks to Joe, A PDF version is also available to  
download at the above website.
4. Today we covered in summary all Z Ceremonies
5. Cyber Hum Bandagi in English
6. Cyber Hama Zor Greeting

# Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs

## Agenda: 5. Cyber Hum Bandagi in English



### ➤ Are there any prayers I can pray in English?

Many of the Zoroastrian Dastoor (highly-qualified Mobeds) and scholars have written books offering guidance to Zoroastrians on how to live a faithful and productive life. One of the best of these is *Homage Unto Ahura Mazda*. This excellent book, in the form of daily thoughts, was written meticulously by a great scholar who was the Head Dastoor of the Anjuman (Zoroastrian Community) in Karachi, Pakistan, over a long period of time until his death, Dastur Dr. M. N. Dhalla.

The full text of the book is available for free online at <http://www.zarathushtra.com/z/article/dhalla/index.htm>.

For those who find themselves lost in our Prayers, not understanding their meanings, and are interested in praying in English language related to our Religion, I recommend this book with a whole heart. Its wisdom is such that I believe it would be inspirational to people of all religious traditions.

**Dasturji explains why he wrote this book in his Autobiography:**  
**You have received this chapter in a WORD File:**  
**[Dhalla Homage Unto Ahura Mazda Background.doc](#)**



# Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs

## Agenda: 5. Cyber Hum Bandagi in English



**Dasturji explains why he wrote this book in his Autobiography, website: [www.avesta.org/dhalla/saga.htm](http://www.avesta.org/dhalla/saga.htm)  
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[Dhalla Homage Unto Ahura Mazda Background.doc](#)**

### ➤ **Are there any prayers I can pray in English?**

Christians use the 'Prayer Book' in their churches and recite the prayers contained therein composed by different people in comprehensible languages. Together with this they use the 'Hymnal' and sing the hymns composed by various musicians to the accompaniment of the organ.

The Rehnumai Mazdayasnan Society had taken the lead to initiate such a reform when the learned Ervad Sheriarji Bharucha was delivering his sermons. At first the assembly would rise and recite in unison a verse or two from the Avesta and thereafter sing the substance of that verse in Gujarati, accompanied by the harmonium. There was an uproar from orthodox circles against such prayer set to music and this practice was abandoned in time.

# Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs

## Agenda: 5. Cyber Hum Bandagi in English



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### ➤ **Are there any prayers I can pray in English?**

Later, in all sections of the community, public religious meetings commenced with the congregation reciting such devotional prayers. The audience recited passages of the Avesta followed by readings of the translation in Gujarati. This custom prevails to the present day. However complete a translation may be, it is bound to be drab and dry. Devotional songs and hymns that can regale the mind and heart are best suited to such congregational gatherings.

The followers of all the major religions of the world possess devotional literature that would suffice to satisfy its devotees. In this respect we are sadly lagging behind others. Knowledge and devotion ought to be entwined in religious literature. To the sensitive devotee literature that is replete with knowledge but lacking in devotion seems insipid, unresponsive and uninspiring. The devout worshipper needs God's grace and love in his daily life more than he needs knowledge of God.

# Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs

## Agenda: 5. Cyber Hum Bandagi in English



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### ➤ **Are there any prayers I can pray in English?**

He needs [641] prayers, devotional: songs and benedictions that can bring radiance into the darkness of his life and hope to his despairing heart, assuage his wounds, wipe away his tears and drown his sorrows. He yearns for songs that can soothe and stir the innermost recesses of his being, that can enkindle the flame of divine love in his heart so that it bursts into songs in praise of the Almighty. Listening to such prayer, he is inspired to lay down his life at the feet of the Master and his spirit takes wings and floats in the realms of imagination. They lend joy, sweetness, serenity and inspiration to living.

# Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs

## Agenda: 5. Cyber Hum Bandagi in English

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### ➤ **Are there any prayers I can pray in English?**

During the days of the Zoroastrian Conference, Sir and Lady Hormusji Wadia requested me to give five public lectures at Bombay. At the commencement of those talks I used to pray a verse from the Avesta and recite its meaning in Gujarati in verse form. Thereafter they urged me to compose inspirational benedictory songs in English and Gujarati;

In 1938, on my way back from New York, I began this work on the Atlantic Ocean and continued it across the Mediterranean and the Arabian Sea. On reaching Bombay I composed quite a few devotional and inspirational prayers in English. [642] Mr. Pirojshah Nusserwanji Mehta, a patron of literature and the person who was maintaining the model Parsi School at Nasik, published them personally and distributed them free of charge, thousands of copies of 'Homage unto Ahura Mazda' and later its Gujarati interpretation, 'Ahura Mazda ni Nemaj,'



# Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs

## Agenda: 5. Cyber Hum Bandagi in English



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### ➤ **Are there any prayers I can pray in English?**

On receiving and utilising these, many coreligionists wrote to me stating that, despite all their honest efforts, when they had simply failed to have any desire to pray in Avesta, which they could not understand, they had turned in despair to Christian prayers. But now that they had found Zoroastrian prayers in a comprehensible language they had started using them every day.

In this manner my resolution made forty years ago while I was studying at Columbia University to compose in Gujarati devotional and benedictory prayers for daily use and for congregational purposes is at last being fulfilled by the grace of God.

# Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs

## Agenda: 5. Cyber Hum Bandagi in English

An extract from: Homage Unto Ahura Mazda

Part III(b) Prayer #20 (last page of WORD file)

<http://www.zarathushtra.com/z/article/dhalla/ch3b/iiib20.htm>



### ➤ Are there any prayers I can pray in English?

***Orthodoxy courts puerilities (immaturities, childishness, foolishness) of dogmatic theology, casuistry (deceptive, fallacious, dishonest) and irrational formalism***

All communities are hydra-headed. They have their orthodox and their reformers, fanatics and sober-minded persons, visionaries and men of commonsense, mystics and rationalists, hypocrites and sincere persons. The orthodox see not the absurdity of remaining in bondage to the customs of the infant humanity, when it was in swaddling clothes. They are wedded to the beliefs and practices, good and bad, that have come down to them through a long past and whose origin lies buried on obscurity. Blindly do they believe on the dogmas of the bygone days of their primitive ancestors. Stubbornly do they refuse to deliver themselves from the yoke of bigotry fostered by priest craft.



# Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs

## Agenda: 5. Cyber Hum Bandagi in English

An extract from: Homage Unto Ahura Mazda

Part III(b) Prayer #20 (last page of WORD file)

<http://www.zarathushtra.com/z/article/dhalla/ch3b/iiib20.htm>



### ➤ Are there any prayers I can pray in English?

*Orthodoxy courts puerilities (immaturities, childishness, foolishness) of dogmatic theology, casuistry (deceptive, fallacious, dishonest) and irrational formalism*

The mere mention of reform acts upon them like a red rag on a bull. They are daggers drawn over the controversy with the reformers. They indulge in hair-splitting pureities. Charlatanism thrives on credulity and superstition.

Save me, my Savior, from bigoted narrowness and sectarian exclusiveness. Let me not take the form for the substance. Let me not live according to the letter of religion, but according to its spirits. Let me see that it is wrong to assert fanatically that whatever is, is right. Let me wisely see that there is much that is wrong and it has to be righted. Let me always unswervingly aim at accuracy and truth in my research work.

# Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs

## Agenda: 5. Cyber Hum Bandagi in English

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Part III(b) Prayer #20 (last page of WORD file)  
<http://www.zarathushtra.com/z/article/dhalla/ch3b/iiib20.htm>



### ➤ Are there any prayers I can pray in English?

***Orthodoxy courts puerilities (immaturities, childishness, foolishness) of dogmatic theology, casuistry (deceptive, fallacious, dishonest) and irrational formalism***

Let me always strive to be just to those with whom I differ. Let me put myself in the place of those who differ from me and know and understand their views that I may be tolerant and forgiving in my dealings with them. Above all, let me always remember that abuse is neither argument nor logic. Zarathushtra, the wisest priest of my religion, does not forcibly exact implicit, mechanical obedience from me to his teachings. He does not impose his prophetic yoke on my thought, but leaves me freedom of thought to exercise my will freely.

# Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs

## Agenda: 5. Cyber Hum Bandagi in English

An extract from: Homage Unto Ahura Mazda  
Part III(b) Prayer #20 (last page of WORD file)  
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### ➤ Are there any prayers I can pray in English?

***Orthodoxy courts puerilities (immaturities, childishness, foolishness) of dogmatic theology, casuistry (deceptive, fallacious, dishonest) and irrational formalism***

May the breath of Vohu Manah, Good Mind, blow the mists of superstition and credulity that generate orthodoxy, from my mind and illumine it with the gleams of the sunshine of needful reform. May he, the premier archangel of Ahura Mazda, so guide me that I may not be impervious to the light of the new age. May he prevent me from blindly holding to the old order of the dead past. May he inspire me to move with the times.



# Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs

## Agenda:

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thanks to the painstaking effort by Joseph Peterson  
Thanks to Joe, A PDF version is also available to  
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4. Today we covered in summary all Z Ceremonies
5. Cyber Hum Bandagi in English
6. Cyber Hama Zor Greeting



Pak Iranshah  
Atash Behram

JD Colaba  
Atash Adarian



San  
Jose  
Atash  
Dadgah



## Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs

### Agenda: 6. Cyber Hama Zor Greeting

# Hamaa Zor Greeting

And let us now perform the Hamaa Zor Greeting  
with our neighbors.

“Hamaa Zor, Hamaa Asho Bade”

“Let us be united in Righteousness!”





Pak Iranshah  
Atash Behram

JD Colaba  
Atash Adarian



San  
Jose  
Atash  
Dadgah



**Thank you all for your Participation, patience and time!  
Thank you all who helped me to collect information for this talk!  
And the last but not the least,  
My Dear Wife Jo Ann,  
For 45 years of supporting me in all my crazy endeavors!**

**And do not forget our  
Cyber Hamaa Zor Greeting!**