

Today's Agenda:

Zoroastrian Religion Scriptures

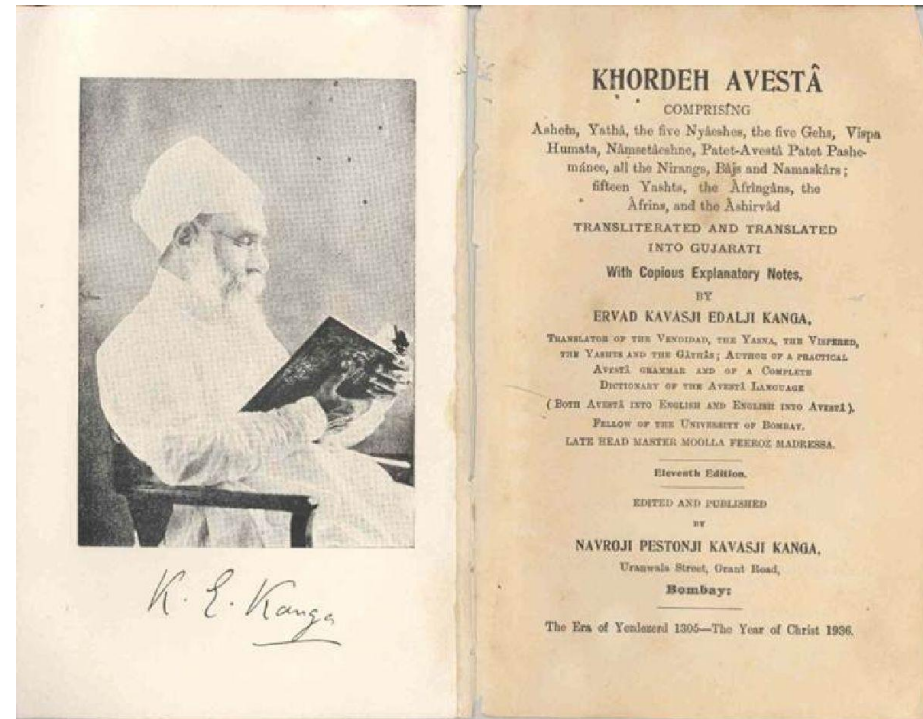
- History, Time Line and Content
- Relevance in Today's Environment

Scriptures History

Scriptures Time Line



The Gate of the Nations, Persepolis.



Ervad Kawasji Edulji Kanga, the well known Scholar,

Zoroastrian Religion Scriptures

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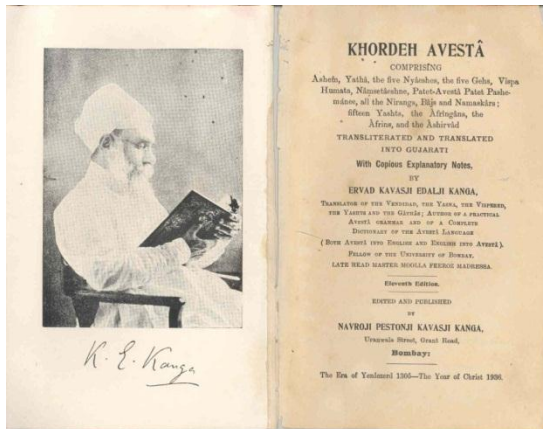
Shehensahi
Ardebehesht Mah
Hormuzd Roj
1381 YZ

Scriptures History

We will cover in this first part a very quick review of the Scriptures History side by side with:

Scriptures Time Line

Scriptures names and their Time Line – when these Scriptures might have been written



Zoroastrian Religion Scriptures

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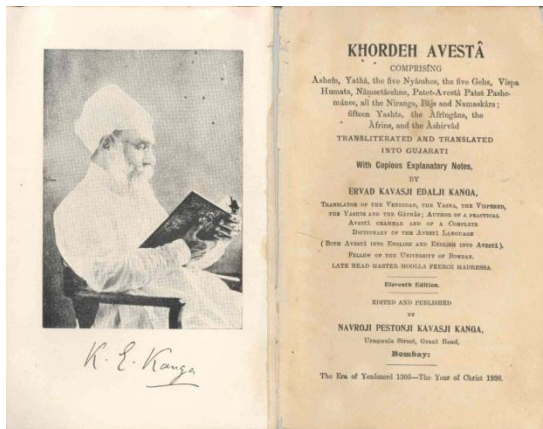
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Scriptures Content

We will only be able to cover a short explanation of their content and usage in current times.

Relevance in Today's Environment

How relevant are these scriptures in our daily lives in form of Daily and Special Occasions Prayers.



Zoroastrian Religion Scriptures

- History, Time Line and Content

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Scriptures History

Five Zoroastrian Dynasties

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2. Kyānian (~4000 BCE)
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5. Sāsānian (226-641 CE)

From Antiquity to 641 CE

The Last King, Yazdagard III (632-641 CE)

-Defeated by the Arabs in 641 at the Battle of Nihāvand.

-Zoroastrians in Iran after 641 CE

-Zoroastrians in India to present times

-Zoroastrian Diaspora outside India, Iran

Scriptures Time Line

1. Ahunavar – Yathā Ahu Vairyo
2. Ashem Vohu
3. Yenghe Hātām
4. 5 Gāthās
5. Ā airyemā ishyo
6. Yasna Haptanghāiti
7. Yasna – 72 chapters (5 Gāthās)
8. Visperad
9. Vendidād
10. Yashts
11. Niyāeshes
12. Khordeh Avestā
13. Āfrins, Āfringans, Āshirwād, etc.
14. Monajats, etc.

Zoroastrian Religion Scriptures

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Scriptures Time Line

A comprehensive summary of our Scriptures Time Line is given by Pallan Ichaporia and we will use it for a quick review of the History, Time Line and Content.

Zoroastrian Scriptures: the Gathas, Young Avesta and Pahlavi Literature

By Pallan R. Ichaporia, Guest Editor

A historical review of the corpus of Zoroastrian religious texts along with perspectives on the religious dogmas, doctrines, creeds, convictions, rituals and theology contained therein.

FEZANA JOURNAL —WINTER 1998

Zoroastrian Scriptures: the Gathas, Young Avesta and Pahlavi Literature



Dr. Pallan R. Ichaporia, CEO and President of Pharmaceutical Marketing Networks, Inc., has a B.A. in Avesta/Pahlavi from Bombay University, did post-graduate work in Iranian Studies at Columbia University and has a doctorate in Business Administration from Oklahoma. He is a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, Member of the American Oriental Society and the American Academy

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International conferences and delivered 3 lectures on Yashtis as the Government of India Research Scholar at the K. R. Cama Oriental Institute, which will be published in their Journal. He has authored *The Gathas of Asha Zeranushtra* and co-authored with Prof. Helmut Humbach, *The Heritage of Zeranushtra, A New Translation of His Gathas in 1994*

Younger Avesta, Text, Translation and Commentary, in 1998. He is Founder

and Research Society, Chairman of the 2nd North American Gatha Conference and President of the First International Avesta Conference. He is also a Visiting Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, and is currently working on a joint work with Prof. Helmut Humbach on a Concordance of the Gathas and with Prof. A. Panaino and Prof. W. Madama on editing and translating the Pahlavi text of the Gathas.

The views expressed in these articles are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of FEZANA or those of the Guest Editor. Per its Editorial Policy, FEZANA Journal does not endorse or espouse any specific perspective.

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Zoroastrian Religion Scriptures

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Scriptures Time Line

A WORD copy of this article is sent to you separately with this Presentation and it is worth reading for further study.

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Scriptures History

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1. *Peshdādian (~9000 BCE)*

❖ **Gayomard, the first man**

❖ **Hoshang – discovery of fire**

❖ **Jashan-e-Sadeh Holiday celebrated still today**

❖ **Jamshid, the illustrious king**

❖ **Decline of Jamshid by his boast to be God himself**

❖ **The terror reign of Zahaak**

❖ **Faridun, the liberator**

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2. **Kyānian (~4000 BCE)**
 - ❖ Kay Kobaad – the founder
 - ❖ Kay Kaus – his son
 - ❖ Kay Khushroo – grandson, the pious
 - ❖ Kay Lohraaspa – his son
 - ❖ Kay Vishtaaspa – his son
 - ❖ Advent of Zarathushtra in his court
 - ❖ Acceptance of Z Religion by him and his family
 - ❖ spread of Z Religion by his son, Asfandyaar

Zoroastrian Religion Scriptures

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6. Yasna Haptanghāiti

The Old Avestan texts probably dating back to Zarathushtra himself include the above sections of the **Yasna** liturgy, notably the four most sacred formulas of **Yathā Ahu Vairyo (or Ahunavar), Ashem Vohu, Yenghe Hātām and Ā airyemā ishyo**, and the **five Gāthās**. These are the only extant portions of the Avesta composed entirely in the *Old Avestan Language*.

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Scriptures History

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3. **Pre-Hakhāmanian (before 559 BCE)**
 - ❖ Median Empire (608 BCE – 559 BCE)
 - ❖ Cyrus The Great, defeated the last emperor, Astyages

Scriptures Time Line

Perhaps the composition of the older sections of the Greater Yashts or Hymns dedicated to the Yazatas took place during Pre-Hakhāmanian times. They are in the Young Avestan language:

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Scriptures History

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Scriptures Time Line

They are in the Young Avestan

Language:

Avan Yasht- Dedicated to the waters

Mah Yasht- Dedicated to the moon

Tir Yasht - Dedicated to Tishtrya or the Sirius star

Gosh Yasht - Dedicated to Dravasp yazata of strong horses

Meher Yasht - Dedicated to Mithra - yazata of friendship, contracts

Rashne Yasht - Dedicated to Rashnu Razishta -yazata of truth/justice

Fravardin Yasht - Dedicated to the fravashis.

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Scriptures Time Line

They are in the Young Avestan

Language:

Behram Yasht - Dedicated to yazata of victory

Ram Yasht - Dedicated to Ramn Khastra, yazata of the atmosphere

Din Yasht - Dedicated to the yazata of religion with knowledge (chista)

Astad Yasht - Dedicated to the land

Zamyad Yasht - Dedicated to the earth

Haom Yasht (in Yasna 9 and 10) - Dedicated to Haom Yazata

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Scriptures History

Five Zoroastrian Dynasties

3. **Hakhāmanian (559 – 331 BCE)**

- ❖ **Cyrus The Great, the founder**
- ❖ **Darius I, the Great**
- ❖ **Xerxes I, II**
- ❖ **Artaxerxes I, II, III**
- ❖ **Darius II, III**
- ❖ **Alexander defeated Darius III in 331 BCE to end the dynasty**

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Scriptures Time Line

Dates are debatable and uncertain, but perhaps redaction of the **Greater Yashts** took place during the last half of the 5th century BCE, along with the composition of other smaller Yashts, like:

Ahura Mazda Yasht (Yasht 1)

Ardibehest Yasht (Yasht 3)

Vanant Yasht (Yasht 20)

Hadokht Nask (Part 1,2,3) (Yasht 21 and 22)

And possibly other Yashts.

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Scriptures Time Line

Pahlavi books allude to the fact that the **Avesta** of the **Hakhāmanian** era had 815 chapters and was divided into 21 parts, but no trace of it has been found. Three major books of **Avesta** were scattered after the end of the **Hakhāmanian** Dynasty.

Alexander brought an end to the Hakhāmanian dynasty and it is generally believed that the Avesta was destroyed and scattered "by the Greeks who translated into their own language the scientific passages of which they could make use".

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4. **Pre-Pārthian (331 - 250 BCE)**
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Scriptures History

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4. **Pre-Pārthian (331 - 250 BCE)**

- ❖ **Selucid Empire**
- ❖ **Greek rule in Iran**

Scriptures Time Line

Complete chaos in the Zoroastrian Religion scriptures, its Fire Temples and Priests (most of them destroyed/killed), literature fragments scattered all over.

Zoroastrian Religion Scriptures

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Scriptures History

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4. **Pārthian (250 BCE-226 CE)**

- ❖ **Arsaces, the founder**
- ❖ **constant battles with Greeks upto 1st Century BCE and Romans there after**
- ❖ **stopped Roman advance in Asia**
- ❖ **very lax about Zoroastrian religion and were in idol worship, with Buddhism influence from east and Christian from west.**
- ❖ **Vologases I (51 – 77 CE) was the only emperor who collected scattered scriptures.**

Zoroastrian Religion Scriptures

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Scriptures Time Line

A first restoration of the Avesta was made by the Parthian King Valkhash I (51-77 CE) who had the scattered Avesta collected, including both written fragments and those compositions that had been transmitted orally.

Most probably the first to be collected and restored was:

The Yasna (Pahlavi: Ijeshne)
including the ***Gathas*** and ***Haptanghaiti***,
and the ***Yashts***.

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Scriptures Time Line

The *Vendidād* is more a canonical than a ritual text and seems to be recent, and may have belonged to a particular liturgical school.

The existence of a written **Pārthian Avesta** was the center of dispute in the early twentieth century. The Pahlavi book **Dinkard** postulated the existence of a **Pārthian** archetype, but linguistic evidence shows that it could not have had any practical influence.

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5. Sāsānian (226-641 CE)

- ❖ **Ardeshir Papakan (226-241 CE)**, defeated the last Parthian King Ardavan and founded the **Sasanian Dynasty**
- ❖ **Shapur I**, only king who defeated and captured the Roman Emperor Valerian
- ❖ **Shapur II**, ruled for 70 long years
- ❖ **Noshirwan-e-Adel**, the greatest Emperor, empire at its zenith
- ❖ **Kushroo Perviz**, the empire stretched from Mediteranean to Punjab
- ❖ **Yazdagard III**, the last king

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Scriptures Time Line

- **Ardeshir Papakan (226-241 CE)**, founder of the **Sasanian Dynasty**, continued the collection and restoration of the scattered Avesta under **Tansar**.
- The writing and canonization of the texts was under **Shapur II (240-272 CE)** by his Prime Minister and High Priest **Aturpat Marespandan**.
- Some writings continued into the fourth century CE.

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Scriptures Time Line

The collection included:

21 Nasks (books) divided into 3 major Subject Groups of 7 books each:

- I. The **Gāsānig** (Gathic nasks)
- II. The **Hādag-mānsarig** (Av. Hādha Mānthra: sacred ritual prayers)
- III. The **Dātig** (books on law)

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21 Nasks divided into 3 major books of 7 chapters each:

1. **The Gasanig** (7 Gathic nasks)
 1. **Stot Yasn** Discovered just 28 years ago (1980's), it has survived completely as Ys. 14 - 16, 22 - 27, 28 - 54 (which includes the complete *Gathas*) and Ys. 56.
 2. **Sutkar** Few fragments have survived.
 3. **Varshmansar** Lost. Ch. 2 & 3 were *Commentaries on the Gathas*

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21 Nasks divided into 3 major books of 7 chapters each:

1. **The Gasanig** (7 Gathic nasks)
4. **Bag** Survived as *Yasna 19 - 21*. Originally there were 22 chapters.
5. **Vastag** Lost.
6. **Hadokht** Only *Yasna 58*, *Yasht 11* (known as **Sraosh Yasht Hadokht**), **Afrin -e Zartost** and **Haptanghaiti** para. 1.2 are left.
7. **Spand** This was the biography of Zarathushtra. A few fragments are left

Zoroastrian Religion Scriptures

- History, Time Line and Content

- Relevance in Today's Environment

Scriptures History

Five Zoroastrian Dynasties

1. Peshdānian (~9000 BCE)
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5. **Sāsānian (226-641 CE)**

From Antiquity to 641 CE

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-Zoroastrians in India to present times

Scriptures Time Line

II. **The Hadag-mansarig** (Av. Hadha Manthra: sacred ritual prayers)

1. **Damdad** On cosmogony. A few fragments are left.
2. **Naxtar** Lost.
3. **Pajag** Described the connection of liturgy with the division of days and years. Parts have survived as the Geh and Siroza.
4. **Rathvishtaiti** A few fragments are left.

Zoroastrian Religion Scriptures

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Scriptures Time Line

- II. **The Hadag-mansarig** (Av. Hadha Manthra: sacred ritual prayers)
5. **Barish** On religious ethics. A few fragments are left.
6. **Kashkaysraw** On how to annul an incorrectly performed ritual. A few fragments are left.
7. **Vistasp Yasht** Survived as the later part of Afrin-e Zartost and Vistaspa Yasht

Zoroastrian Religion Scriptures

- History, Time Line and Content

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Scriptures History

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Scriptures Time Line

III.The Datig (books on law)

1. **Nikatum** Law book.
A few fragments are left.
2. **Duz-sar-nizad**
Law book. A few fragments are left.
3. **Husparam** Law book.
Only **Nirangestan** and **Herbedestan** are left.
4. **Sakatum** Law book. A few fragments are left.

Zoroastrian Religion Scriptures

- History, Time Line and Content

- Relevance in Today's Environment

Scriptures History

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Scriptures Time Line

III.The Datig (books on law)

5. **Videvdat** This law book, also known as **Vendidad**, has survived completely.
6. **Chihrdad** Mythical history of Iran. A few fragments are left.
7. **Bagan Yasht** Survived as Ys. 9 (**Haom Yasht**), Ys. 10 - 11, Ys. 57 (**Sarosh Yasht Vadi**) and **Yashts 5 -19.**

Zoroastrian Religion Scriptures

- History, Time Line and Content

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Scriptures Time Line

Besides the collections in the **21**

Nasks,

Aturpat Marespandan also collected and put down in writing the following texts:

- ❖ All the **Yashts** (greater and smaller)
- ❖ **Afrins** and **Afringans** used in the Jashans, baj and Farokshi ceremonies.
- ❖ **Visperad (vispeh-ratu)**. Prayer for all the 'ratus' (leaders) used mostly during Gahambar.

Zoroastrian Religion Scriptures

- History, Time Line and Content

- Relevance in Today's Environment

Scriptures History

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Scriptures Time Line

Niyaeshes:

- ❖ **Khorshed Niyaeshe** - Litany to the sun
- ❖ **Meher Niyaeshe** - Litany to Mithra (yazata of friendship, contracts)
- ❖ **Mah Bokhtar Niyaeshe** - Litany to the moon
- ❖ **Ardvi Sura Niyaeshe** - Litany to yazata of water
- ❖ **Atash Niyaeshe** - Litany to fire

Zoroastrian Religion Scriptures

- History, Time Line and Content

- Relevance in Today's Environment

Scriptures History

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Scriptures Time Line

Yasna of 72 'Has' (chapters) includes:

- ❖ The **Old Avestan Gathic** texts
- ❖ Ha 9 **Haom Yasht**
- ❖ Ha 12 **Confession of Faith**
- ❖ Ha 57 **Sraosh Yasht (Vadi)**
- ❖ Ha 60 **Daham Afriti** with a part of **Hoshbam** prayer (para. 12)
- ❖ Ha 62 **Atash Niyaeshe**
- ❖ Ha 65 **Ardvi Sura Niyaeshe**

Zoroastrian Religion Scriptures

- History, Time Line and Content

- Relevance in Today's Environment

Scriptures History

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Scriptures Time Line

Khordēh Avesta (or 'Little Avesta') - essential daily prayers for the laity:

- ❖ **Kushti** prayers
- ❖ **101 Names of Ahura Mazda**
- ❖ **Five Gehs**
- ❖ **Sraosh Baj**
- ❖ **Niyaeshes**
- ❖ **Smaller Yashts with Nirangs**
- ❖ **Doa Nam Sitayeshne**
- ❖ **Tandarosti**
- ❖ **Patet Pashemani**
- ❖ **Persian Monajats**
- ❖ **Pazand prayers**, including:
- ❖ **Ashirwad** (wedding ceremony)

Zoroastrian Religion Scriptures

- History, Time Line and Content
- Relevance in Today's Environment

Scriptures History

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Scriptures History

Five Zoroastrian Dynasties

5. **Post-Sāsānian (641 – 9th century CE)**

❖ **After the fall of the Sāsānian Empire by the Arabs, much of the scripture were destroyed.**

❖ **Many learned Dastoor, however, kept writing about the religion in Pahlavi and Pāzand languages.**

❖ **Many left Iran for India where they prospered materially but quite illiterate about the religion.**

❖ **Dialogs were established between the two groups from 15th century.**

Zoroastrian Religion Scriptures

- History, Time Line and Content

- Relevance in Today's Environment

Scriptures History

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Scriptures Time Line

After the fall of the Sāsānid Dynasty in 651 CE, numerous religious texts were written by various authors in the Pahlavi and Pāzand languages.

PAHLAVI TEXTS written in the ninth century CE:

- ❖ **Namakiha of Manushcihr** - Epistle of Manushcihr, written in 881 CE.
- ❖ **Datastan i denik** - Religious opinions, by Manushcihr in 881 CE.
- ❖ **Vichitakiha of Zatspram** - Selections of Zatspram, brother of Manushcihr.

Zoroastrian Religion Scriptures

- History, Time Line and Content

- Relevance in Today's Environment

Scriptures History

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Scriptures Time Line

Two Most Important encyclopedic collections of PAHLAVI TEXTS written in the ninth century CE:

Bundahishn - The book of primal creations – gives the concise view of the Zoroastrianism's creation myth.

Dinkerd - Acts of religion, writings started by Aturpat i Farrakhvzatan in 820 CE and completed by Aturpat i Ametan in 890 CE. A compendium of the Zoroastrian beliefs and customs.

A most valuable source of information on the religion.

Zoroastrian Religion Scriptures

- History, Time Line and Content

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Scriptures History

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Scriptures Time Line

These were supplemented by numerous other texts:

- ❖ **Pahlavi texts** - Several texts.
- ❖ **Rivayet accompanying Datastan i denik** - Traditions accompanying Datastan i denik.
- ❖ **Frahang i Pahlavik** and **Frahang i oim** - The Pahlavi collections.
- ❖ **Datastan i menok i khrta** - Opinions of the spirit of wisdom.
- ❖ **Karnami i Artakhsha i Papakan** - Accomplishments of Ardeshir Papakan.

Zoroastrian Religion Scriptures

- History, Time Line and Content

- Relevance in Today's Environment

Scriptures History

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Scriptures Time Line

❖ **Pandnamak i Aturpat**

Maraspandan - Book of advice from Aturpat Marespandan.

❖ **Artay Viraz Namak** - Book of the truthful Viraz.

❖ **Gazastak Ablish** - Accounts of disputes between the heretic Ablish and Atar Frenbag, son of Farrokhzat, in the court of Caliph Mamun, 813-833 CE.

❖ **Shhriha i eran** - Cities of Iran

Zoroastrian Religion Scriptures

- History, Time Line and Content

- Relevance in Today's Environment

Scriptures History

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Scriptures Time Line

- ❖ **Matikan i hazar datastan** - Book of Thousand Laws, written during the time of Khusrow II. Compiled by Farokhmard, son of Vehran, the great jurist.
- ❖ **Shkand-gumanik vizar** - Doubt-dispelling explanations.

Zoroastrian Religion Scriptures

- History, Time Line and Content

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Scriptures History

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Scriptures Time Line

Pāzand TEXTS include several long and short thanksgiving, supplicatory, benedictory, confessional and penitentiary prayers composed in **Sāsānian** times by Dastoor, mostly by **Aturpat Marespandan**.

These ***Pāzand*** prayers are also placed at the beginning and end of the niyaeshes, yashts, afringans, afrins and sitayeshes.

Zoroastrian Religion Scriptures

- History, Time Line and Content
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Scriptures History

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-Recent Writings (Rivayets) - Post 9th century CE

-Zoroastrians in India to present times

Scriptures Time Line

SANSKRIT TRANSLATIONS by Nériosang Dhaval of the Khordeh Avesta and other texts; circa 1166 CE.

❖ **PERSIAN MONAJATS** were written by Parsi Dastoors in Persian language and included at the end of the Khordeh Avesta (18th - 19th centuries).

Zoroastrian Religion Scriptures

- History, Time Line and Content
- Relevance in Today's Environment

Scriptures History

-Recent Writings (Rivayets) - Post 9th century CE

Scriptures Time Line - The Rivayets

The Parsis had come to India to preserve the purity of their religion. In the 15th century they became conscious of the fact that they were losing their religious knowledge. They decided to send messengers to Iran to see how much the observance of their religion differed from that of the Zoroastrians of Iran. They also wanted to try and resolve some of the religious controversies brewing in India by getting advice from the Zoroastrian priests in Iran.

Over a period of almost 300 years, from 1478 to 1773, twenty-six messengers took questions to Iran and brought back answers from the Zoroastrian priests in Iran. This discourse between the 26 messengers from India and the Zoroastrian priests in Iran, are known as the Rivayats.

Zoroastrian Religion Scriptures

- History, Time Line and Content
- Relevance in Today's Environment

Scriptures History

-Recent Writings (Rivayets) - Post 9th century CE

Scriptures Time Line - The Rivayets

'Rivayet' is a Persian word ('rava'=lawful, 'raftan'=to go) meaning "that which is current".

Additionally, manuscripts of Avesta and Pahlavi texts as well as information about the state of the two communities were exchanged.

Many of the Rivayat questions originated in Navsari and were answered by Iranian priests of Kerman, Isfahan, Sharifabad, Turkabad, and Yazd.

Nariman Hoshang brought back to India the first Rivayat in 1478. The travel expenses for Nariman Hoshang were paid by Changa Asha a famous leader of the Navsari Parsis who lived from 1450 to 1512.

Zoroastrian Religion Scriptures

- History, Time Line and Content
- Relevance in Today's Environment

Scriptures History

-Recent Writings (Rivayets) - Post 9th century CE

Scriptures Time Line - The Rivayets

Compiled Classified Rivayets are those that were classified by subject, e.g. Darab Hormuzdyar's Rivayets (1678-79).

Compiled Collective Rivayets are collections of all Rivayets in one volume, e.g. Collective Rivayets of Barzo Kamdin.

Individual Rivayets bear the names of the individuals who went to Iran with religious questions and brought back answers to the Parsis. They are also known as 'maktubs'. They are the works of the Dasturs of Iran.

Zoroastrian Religion Scriptures

- History, Time Line and Content

- Relevance in Today's Environment

Scriptures History

-Recent Writings (Rivayets) - Post 9th century CE

Scriptures Time Line

The last four rivayets are:

- ❖ Rivayet of Jamasp Asa (1721)
- ❖ Rivayet addressed to Mobed Kaus and Dastur Sohrab of Surat (1743)
- ❖ Rivayet addressed to Manekji Sett (1747)
- ❖ "Ithoter Rivayets". A series of 78 questions sent by the Kadmis of Surat to the Zoroastrians of Yazd and Kerman (1773).

Importance of Rivayets

- ❖ Rivayets give us a very good insights about the prevailing opinions of learned Iranian Dastooors about all sorts of questions raised by Parsis in India.
- ❖ Many of their opinions are counter to the current views of many Parsis.

Zoroastrian Religion Scriptures

- History, Time Line and Content

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-Zoroastrian Diaspora outside India, Iran

Scriptures Time Line

1. Ahunavar – Yathā Ahu Vairyo
2. Ashem Vohu
3. Yenghe Hātām
4. 5 Gāthās
5. Ā airyemā ishyo
6. Yasna Haptanghāiti
7. Yasna – 72 chapters (5 Gāthās)
8. Visperad
9. Vendidād
10. Yashts
11. Niyāeshes
12. Khordeh Avestā
13. Āfrins, Āfringans, Āshirwād, etc.
14. Monajats, etc.

Zoroastrian Religion Scriptures

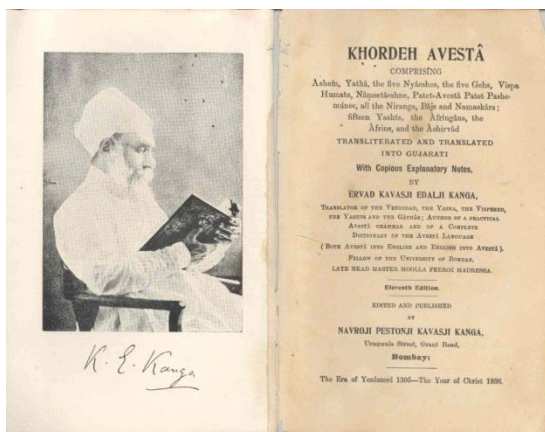
- History, Time Line and Content

- Relevance in Today's Environment

Shehenshahi
Ardebehesht Mah
Hormuzd Roj
1381 YZ

Scriptures Content

We will only be able to cover a short explanation of their content and usage in current times.



Relevance in Today's Environment

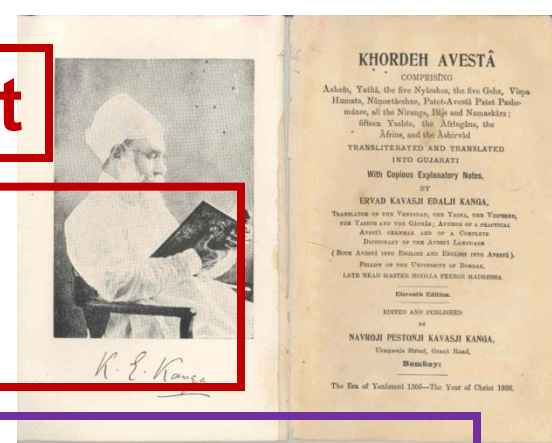
In our Daily Lives:

- ✓ **Rituals and Ceremonies**
- ✓ **Community Special Occasions Prayers**
- ✓ **Individual Prayers**

Relevance in Today's Environment

In our Daily Lives:

✓ Places of Worship



India/Pakistan

Atash Behram(s)/Agiyaris

- Walking Distance or close by
- Open all day with devotees coming/going
- Daily Rituals/ceremonies
- Center of Religious Activities for families

NA Diaspora

Dar-e-Mahers (may be)

- Miles away
- Open only on weekends/special functions
- No Daily Ceremonies
- Center for Special Community Celebrations

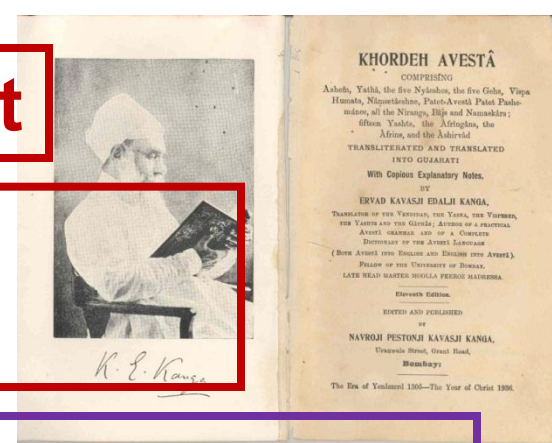
For MOST Families

- Small nook in home is our Agiyari with a Deevo, Zarathushtra, Family Photos, Khordeh Avesta, etc.

Relevance in Today's Environment

In our Daily Lives:

✓ Rituals and Ceremonies



India/Pakistan

- ✓ Mostly in Atash Behrams/Agiyaris
- ✓ Yazashne – infrequent
- ✓ Baj – quite frequently
- ✓ Afargan/Farokhshi – almost daily
- ✓ Satum – almost daily
- ✓ Jashans - frequently
- ✓ Vendidad – infrequent
- ✓ Visperad – Gahambar, Navar

NA Diaspora

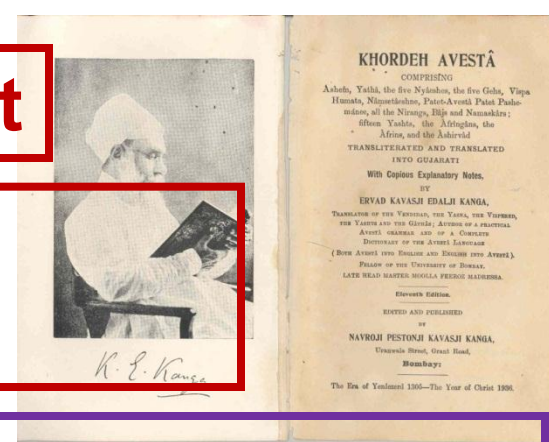
Dar-e-Mahers (may be)

- Yazashne – never
- Baj – seldom
- Afargan/Farokhshi – frequently
- Satum – frequently
- Jashans – frequently (mostly at homes)
- Vendidad – never
- Visperad – never

Relevance in Today's Environment

In our Daily Lives:

✓ Rituals and Ceremonies



India/Pakistan

- ✓ Mostly in Atash Behrams, Agiyaris/Baugis
- ✓ Navjotes
- ✓ Weddings
- ✓ Navars/Martabs
- ✓ Death Ceremonies - Doongerwadis

NA Diaspora

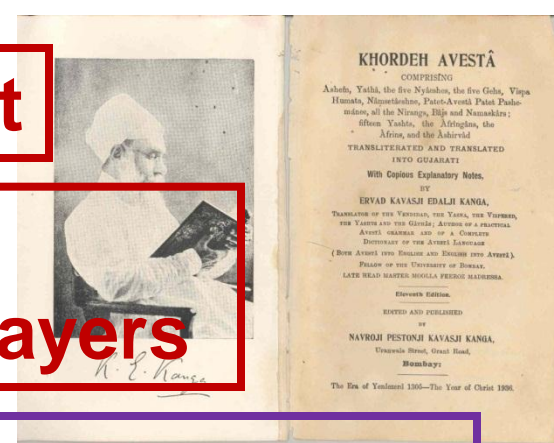
- Dar-e-Mahers (may be)
- Navjotes/Weddings (mostly in Hotels, Halls)
 - Navars/Martabs – never
 - Death Ceremonies – Funeral Homes

- ❑ Most of the rituals (Yazashne, Visperad, Vendidad, Navars, Martabs) can only be performed in consecrated Atash Behrams/Agiyaris
- ❑ NA Diaspora so far have NO consecrated places.

Relevance in Today's Environment

In our Daily Lives:

✓ Community Special Occasions Prayers



India/Pakistan

Atash Behrams, Agiyaris, Baugs

- Parabs Jashans (same Day and Month occasions)
- Hum Bandagis – weekly in some Atash Behrams/Agiyaris
- Other ceremonies

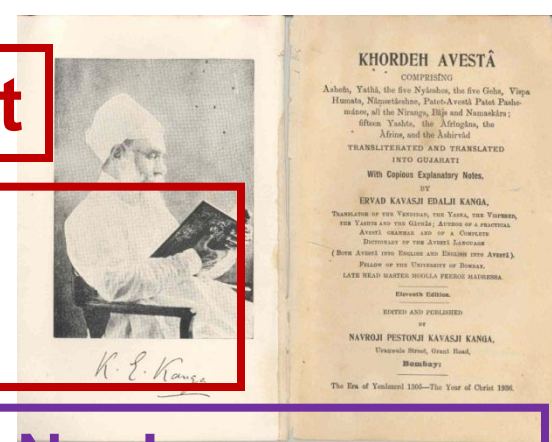
NA Diaspora

Dar-e-Mahers (may be)

- Parabs Jashans (same Day and Month occasions)
- Hum Bandagis – during special occasions
- Other ceremonies

Relevance in Today's Environment

In our NA Diaspora Daily Lives: ✓ Individual Prayers



Dar-e-Mahers (may be) or the Home Prayer Nook

- Daily lighting the Deevo, Parab Days and/or special calendar days

- Individual Prayers

1. Kushti prayers
2. 101 Names of Ahura Mazda
3. Sraosh Baj
4. Appropriate Geh
5. Niyashes
6. Smaller Yashts with Nirangs
7. Patet Pashemani
8. Atash Niyash
9. Doa Nam Setayeshne
10. Tandarosti
11. Persian Monajats

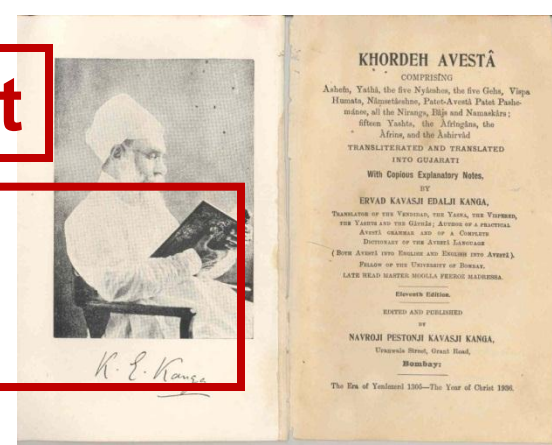
Prayers Sequence

- 1,2,3,4 any time to start the prayers
- Khorshed, Meher Niyash in sunlight hours (Haavan, Rapitwan, Uziran) with Vispa Humata, Char Deesaano Namaskaar in first 3 Gehs
- (Optional): Hormuzd, Ardebehesht Yashts in 1st 3 Gehs, Sarosh Yasht Vadi in Aiwisruthrem, Sarosh Yasht Hadokht in Ushahin
- Atash Niyayesh near a flame
- Doa Nam Setaayashne
- Tandarosti

Any prayers you feel like praying any time!

Relevance in Today's Environment

In our NA Diaspora Daily Lives: ✓ Individual Prayers



Dar-e-Mahers (may be) or the Home Prayer Nook

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- Individual Prayers
 - ❖ Kushti prayers
 - ❖ 101 Names of Ahura Mazda
 - ❖ Sraosh Baj
 - ❖ Appropriate Geh
 - ❖ Niyashes
 - ❖ Smaller Yashts with Nirangs
 - ❖ Patet Pashemani
 - ❖ Atash Niyash
 - ❖ Doa Nam Sitayeshne
 - ❖ Tandarosti
 - ❖ Persian Monajats

Questions?

- **I do not know what I am praying?**
 - ✓ Word by word meaning of all prayers in:
 - ✓ http://www.avesta.org/kanga/ka_englis_h_opf_files/slideshow.htm
- **When should I pray?**
 - ✓ Whenever you feel like it. It is between you and Dadar Ahura Mazda.
- **Are there any prayers I can pray in English?**
 - ✓ See the next slide.

Relevance in Today's Environment

In our NA Diaspora Daily Lives:

✓ Individual Prayers

➤ 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.

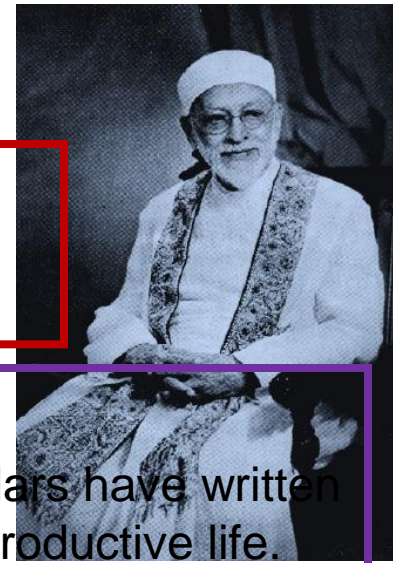
The full text of the book is available for free online at <http://www.zarathushtra.com/z/article/dhalla/index.htm>.

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](#)

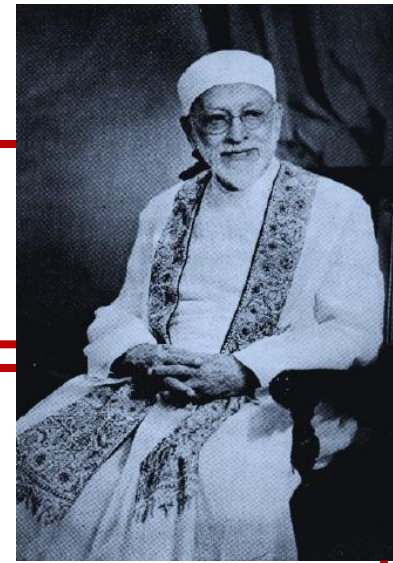


Relevance in Today's Environment

In our NA Diaspora Daily Lives:

✓ Individual Prayers

Dasturji explains why he wrote this book in his Autobiography, website: www.avesta.org/dhalla/saga.htm
You have received this chapter in a WORD File:
[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.

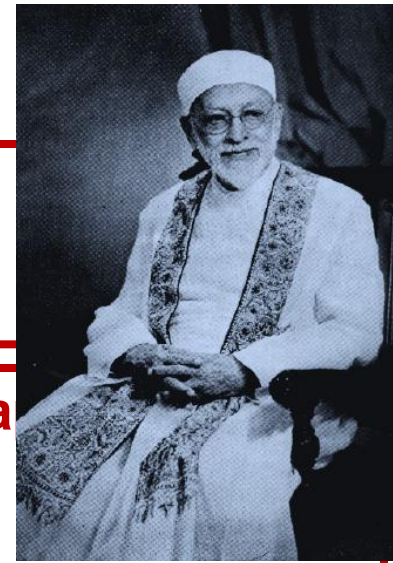
The Rehnumai Mazdayasnan Society had taken the lead to initiate such a reform when the learned Ervad Sheriarji Bharucha was delivering his sermons. At first the assembly would rise and recite in unison a verse or two from the Avesta and thereafter sing the substance of that verse in Gujarati, accompanied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

Relevance in Today's Environment

In our NA Diaspora Daily Lives:

✓ Individual Prayers

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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.

Relevance in Today's Environment

In our NA Diaspora Daily Lives:

✓ Individual Prayers

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➤ Are there any prayers I can pray in English?

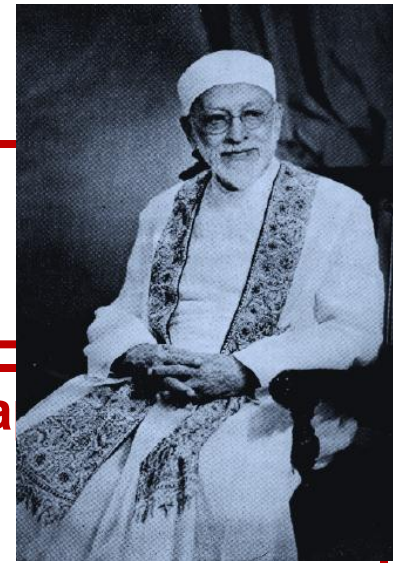
He needs [641] prayers, devotional: songs and benedictions that can bring radiance into the darkness of his life and hope to his despairing heart, assuage his wounds, wipe away his tears and drown his sorrows. He yearns for songs that can soothe and stir the innermost recesses of his being, that can 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.

Relevance in Today's Environment

In our NA Diaspora Daily Lives:

✓ Individual Prayers

Dasturji explains why he wrote this book in his Autobiography
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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,'

Relevance in Today's Environment

In our NA Diaspora Daily Lives:

✓ Individual Prayers

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[Dhalla Homage Unto Ahura Mazda Background.doc](#)



➤ 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.

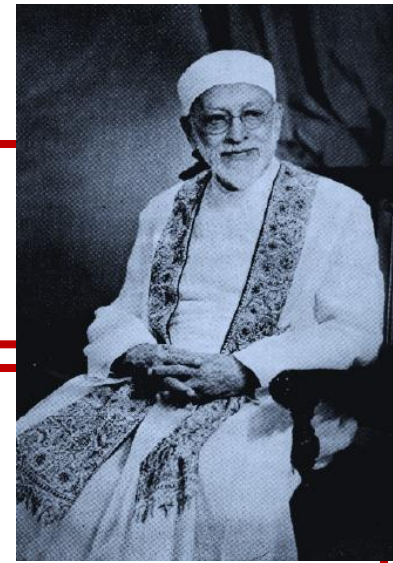
Relevance in Today's Environment

In our NA Diaspora Daily Lives:

✓ Individual Prayers

An extract from: **Homage Unto Ahura Mazda**
Part I(a) Prayer #12 (last page of WORD file)

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



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

I offer thee my life, Ahura Mazda

With homage and adoration, praise and glorification, I lay my offerings at thy feet, and dedicate my all to thee, Ahura Mazda.

What I bring unto thee and call mine is in truth thine own, for all I own is of thy rich bounty, O thou Lord of bountiful gifts. The offerings and oblations that I offer unto thee are of thy own giving, O giver of all. Thou givest them freely to me and I approach thee humbly with a handful from thy abundance as a token of my gratefulness to thee. All I have I owe thee and all I bring to thee is then thine. Yet large-heartedly thou dost delight to acknowledge it as mine. I am ever thy debtor, O benevolent Lord.

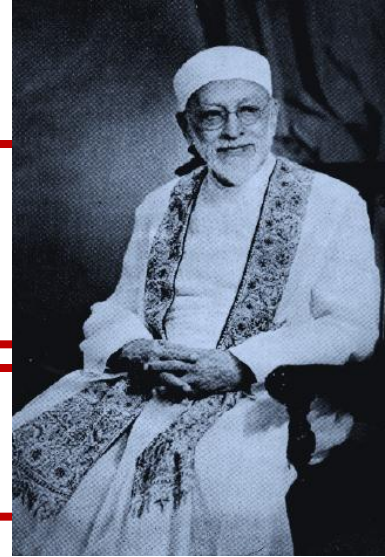
Relevance in Today's Environment

In our NA Diaspora Daily Lives:

✓ Individual Prayers

An extract from: **Homage Unto Ahura Mazda**

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



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

I offer thee my life, Ahura Mazda

Thou dost not look for rich repasts and costly libations, preaches Zarathushtra. The innocent heart of the pious poor and the contrite heart of the sinner, he teaches, is the best offering that wins thy favour. Thou dost come sooner to the poor who lays his good thoughts, good words, and good deeds in tribute at thy altar, than to the rich who labours to greet thee with costly rituals and elaborate sacrifices. I will sacrifice truth and righteousness to thee, O righteous God.

I will give myself, body and soul, to thee. I will give thee my heart in grateful thanksgiving for thy unfailing kindness to me. I will give thee what is nearest and dearest to me, my life, even as holy Zarathushtra gave the life of his own body as an offering unto thee, Ahura Mazda.

Zoroastrian Religion Scriptures

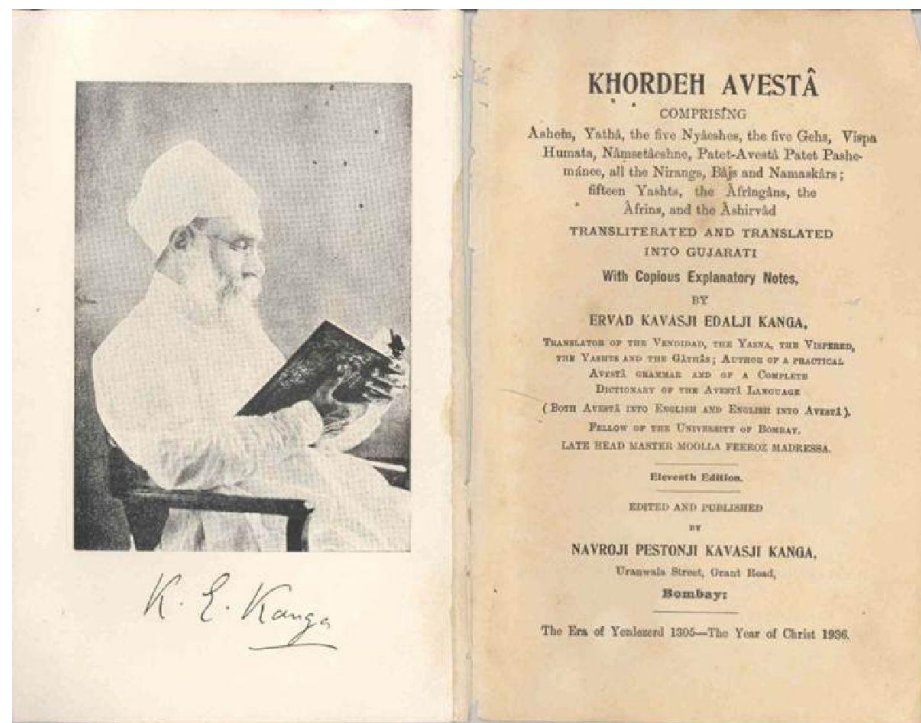
- History, Time Line and Content
- Relevance in Today's Environment

Scriptures History

Scriptures Time Line



The Gate of the Nations, Persepolis.



Ervad Kawasji Edulji Kanga, the well known Scholar.

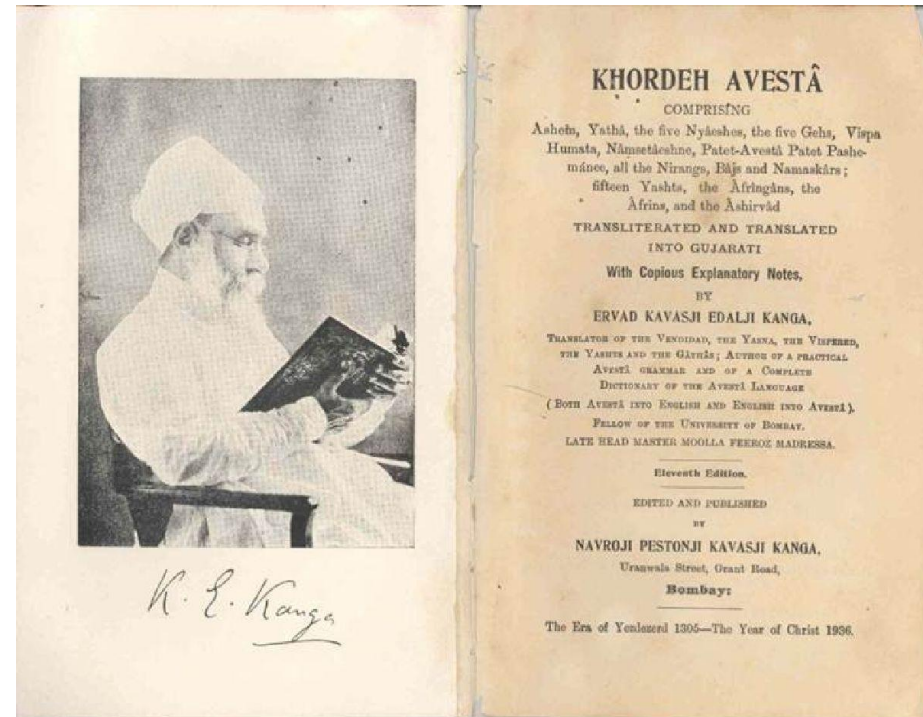
Thank you for being so patient.
Hope it has helped you to understand
And appreciate the History of our Religion
And its scriptures.

Scriptures History

Scriptures Time Line



The Gate of the Nations, Persepolis.



Ervad Kawasji Edulji Kanga, the well known Scholar.