FEZANA (Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America) sponsored this video on Kushti Making created by Frohar Films, Mumbai under the able direction of Ervad Cyrus Dastoor. Arnavaz Sethna and Yasmin Pavri of Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH) requested Ervad Soli P. Dastur to help them create this video and this is the result of much hard work by them as well as a number of helpers in Mumbai and Udwada.

Many interested humdins wanted to have a copy of this video and so FEZANA has placed this video in two segments on YouTube so that anyone can view this beautiful video.

Kushti Making is an intricate art of the Parsis/Iranis and we hope that with this video we will preserve this wonderful Art for posterity!
FEZANA sponsored this Film

Frohar Foundation has given permission to FEZANA to use this film as we please for broad distribution!
FEZANA initially placed this video in two segments on YouTube. Yazdi Tantra then placed them on his excellent website so that both these segments can be viewed at one place. You can access it at:

http://zoroastrians.net/2012/04/30/kushti-making-video-frohar-films/

The following slides are snap shots from this video to explain step by step the Art of Kushti Making!

With the help of this presentation and the video, we hope many of our Z Religious Teachers can explain this wonderful art to their Religious Class Children!
Kushti – The Sacred Cincture

✔ Kushti - the Sacred Thread

Its Structure and symbolism

- The Avesta word for the sacred thread is "aiwyaonghana," lit. to gird round the body. Kushti is its Pahlavi rendering.
- Pahlavi kust [...] meaning "direction or side." Thus, the word Kushti may mean "that which points out the proper direction or path."
- Sudreh (the sacred shirt) indicates the advantageous path, and Kushti (the sacred thread) indicates the proper direction to proceed on that path.
- kosht also means "limit or boundary," so Kushti may mean "that which keeps us, or reminds us to keep ourselves, within proper limits or bounds."
- Whatever derivation we take, the Kushti symbolizes and indicates a direction in the path of righteousness.
Kushti - the Sacred Cincture

FEZANA Sponsored Frohar Films Video

- Arnavaz Sethna & Yasmin Pavri, Z Religious Teachers in Houston, wanted to demonstrate the Kushti making process to their classes and requested the help of Ervad Soli Dastur.
- Ervad Soli Dastur volunteered to do so with the help of his nephew, Ervad Cyrus Dastoor, Frohar Films, Mumbai, to make such a video.
- The following slides of Kushti making is from this video.
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Kushti – The Sacred Cincture

 ✓ Kushti - the Sacred Thread

 Its Structure and symbolism

➢ The Kushti is made up of lamb's wool.
➢ The wool is at first combed and then spun into fine thread on a hand-spindle called châtri.
➢ Two such long threads are prepared on two spindles or châtris, and are then twisted into one.
Kushti – The Sacred Cincture

✓ Kushti - the Sacred Thread

Its Structure and symbolism

➢ This thread is then woven into the Kushti on a hand-loom called jantar, the ends of which are movable, so that it can be adjusted to the length required.

➢ The twisted thread is passed round the loom 72 times; so, the Kushti consists of 72 threads, divided into six strands, each of twelve threads.
Kushti – The Sacred Cincture

✓ Kushti - the Sacred Thread

Its Structure and symbolism

- A continuous thread is made to pass, in the process of weaving, through each of the six strands.
- When the weaving is almost finished, and when about a foot of the threads remain to be woven, the whole thread is removed from the loom.
Kushti - the Sacred Thread

Its Structure and symbolism

- It is then handed to a priest to be cut and consecrated. It is the privilege of the women of the priestly class to weave and prepare a sacred thread, and it is the privilege of a priest to cut and consecrate it.
Kushti - the Sacred Thread

Its Structure and symbolism

- The women who prepare the Kushti, generally get it cut and consecrated by the male priest members of their own families. When they have no such members and have therefore to get it consecrated by other priests, they have to pay a small fee for it.
- After this consecration, the Kushti is returned by the priest to the owner, who now completes its weaving.
- First, by means of a needle, she turns the Kushti, which is hollow, inside out.
Kushti – The Sacred Cincture

✓ Kushti - the Sacred Thread

Its Structure and symbolism

- Then she braids by hand the two ends of the Kushti into a “Lar” at each end.
- Then the remaining part of the Kushti at each end is braided into 3 “Laris” (Tassels) of 24 strands each.
Kushti – The Sacred Cincture

Kushti - the Sacred Thread

Its Structure and symbolism

- The Kushti making is complete and it is washed in soap and water.
- It is then bleached under a clay pot with embers and sulfur.
- It is washed again.
- It is then wound very tight around a Saraiyu (a smooth wooden round pole wrapped with a Sudreh) and dried to flatten it out.
Kushti – The Sacred Cincture

✓ Kushti - the Sacred Thread

Its Structure and symbolism

- It is then tightly wound around itself in a neat circle.
- It is then pressed between two wooden blocks to flatten it out in a neat circular form.
- It is now ready to be given to a customer who pays the lady for it.
- This ends the saga of Kushti weaving from lambs wool to a customer.
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