CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS

for

JASHAN CEREMONIES

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PREFACE

SEVERAL members of the Zarathushti community, as well as some members of the North American Mobed Council have expressed the view that greater participation of the laity while witnessing communal prayers such as the Jashan ritual would be desirable.

This was a good thought that has been expressed in good words, and has awaited the good action to be put into practice. In the meanwhile some persuasive individuals have taken the bull by the horns, and started practicing the congregational participation during the Jashan ritual, in their own congregations with highly encouraging response from the community.

In 2002, during the XII North American Zoroastrian Congress in Chicago, a session was arranged as a part of the program, to have a demo of a Jashan, with congregational participation in the prayers by community members present. An evaluation sheet distributed during that session, revealed essentially unanimously, a favorable response, to incorporate such congregational prayers at their respective Anjumans or Associations.

There is no question that such participation by the laity, would add markedly to the spiritual component of the ceremonial observance, and provide a welcome educational experience to many in the community. More importantly, it would significantly cut down the excitement and fervor of the stray activities, as well as the idle apathy during the spiritual performance, and focus the mind of those present on the meaning and experience of the ceremonial observance.

In selecting the prayers, we have kept in mind the sentiments and the harmony of the Zarathushti community. We have deliberately selected verses of prayers with their

interpretations, that would appeal to the sentiments of Zarathushti community and that will promote harmony and oneness in the community.

We sincerely hope this book fills the much-needed void of unity through the spiritual union among the community. The review of the manuscript by Ervads Soli Dastur, Cawas Desai and Nozer Kotwal is gratefully acknowledged. The assistance of Mr. Virasp Mehta for arrangement of the manuscript in a printable format is also deeply appreciated. Finally we are thankful to NAMC for its generous financial support for the publication.

Ervad Jehan Bagli Ervad Brigadier Behram M. Panthaki

INTRODUCTION AND UNDERSTANDING OF CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS

Zarathushti religious rituals, starting with the simplest act of P dy b-Kushti, to the most complex liturgy of Yasna, are attempts to commune with the supreme divinity, Ahura Mazda. The most fundamental aspect of any Zarathushtrian ritual is the establishment of connectedness, between the physical and the spiritual existence, to complete or to make perfect the communion with the Divine through worship. Establishment of this oneness with the divinity, starts with the attainment of harmony between the physical and the spiritual self innate within each human being, directing one towards the wholeness or the completeness of one's self to the state of being of *Haurva at.*.

Ahura Mazda is that intangible spirit (*Sh yast l Sh yast*, **15.2**), that is the absolute **purity**; that is the absolute **truth**, absolute in **unconditional love**, **compassion**, **goodness and benevolence**. Human beings are the creatures of His creation, the Lesser Ones who come from the More, the miniscule spark of that Infinite Glow. Consequently, it is obligatory upon us to make every effort to attain the highest level of ritualistic purity of mind and body for a spiritual encounter with that Infinite Wisdom.

We must recognize at the very outset that Spirituality is a reality. It is not an abstraction or an imaginary ideal. It is not something that is attainable only by the select few. Each one of us has the divine immanence which, when acknowledged, activated and synchronized with the physical personality, brings forth the spirituality within the realm of physical reality to experience the phenomenon consciously.

Initially a devotee, whether a performing priest or a member of the laity, customarily performs the physical cleansing

through ablution. Cleansing and preparing a space for the service, symbolically generates an environment of sacredness. sacredness of the environment pervades through the location, where the ceremony is held and that constitutes the sacred space. For example the sacred space where the inner liturgical ceremonies are performed is known as P vi (from the root p v meaning clean or pure). In a jashan ritual this sacred space is limited by the boundary of the white 'ch dar' (cloth) on which the clergies sit.

For a jashan ceremony, a fire is kindled especially for the devotional purpose, which further helps trigger sentiments of sacredness among those present. The human mind (Vohu Manah) conveys a sense of reverence and veneration that expresses the The flames, coupled with the holy sanctity for the flames. incantations bring into focus the very embodiment of the Creator – Ahura Mazda. We thus sense the vision of the Supreme Divinity, in the midst of the sacred space, the very presence of God.

Combination of the sacred space and the devotional fire, together with the presence of all the other elements of creation, thus sets the stage to generate a Spiritual Universe, in which those present can witness a state of the highest order of ritual purity. This permits one to break out of one's physical shell, to reflect the Divinely ordained self, which in turn can harmonize with Omnipresent Creator. The idea here is to harmonize the Spirit of Fire within each one of us, with the Sacred Fire – that physical incarnation of Mazda – in our midst.

The purpose of the prayers in this booklet goes far beyond bringing the meaning of parts of the jashan prayers. Its objective is to make the congregation a part of the very ritual they are a witness to, to permit the assembly to fully comprehend the significance of the enactments, and to have them experience the communion with the Divine. In doing so we hope to pervade and enlarge the sacred space around the sanctified Fire beyond the limits of the white 'chādar' occupied by the performing priests, to fill the entire room that embodies the assembly.

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The book includes selected verses of the prayers chosen for congregational participation. These prayers reflect the spiritual notions of performing priests. Prayers include Din-no-Kalamo, parts of tash Ney yesh, Dib che, fring ns, frins and Tandorosti. The selections are recommended as guidelines. The final choice and the extent of congregational participation is the prerogative of the officiating priests. The officiating priests may introduce any modification they see fit to suit their specific needs.

The prayers start with the liturgy of Peym n-e-Deen or Din-no-Kalamo, the prayer of affirmation, in which the devotee asserts the identity of the faith with the true knowledge, which was revealed to Zarathushtra by Ahura Mazda. This is followed by, the Hymn of Divine Enlightenment familiarly known as the tash Ney yesh. This liturgy is generally the preamble for the Jashan ceremony.

During the recital of tash Ney yesh, the priests hold *paiwand* (connection) with the Divine Incarnation – the sacred Fire – before them, on three occasions. During these portions of the prayer, the members of the assembly are requested **to rise**, **join hands** with the person next to them, to establish their oneness with the Creator and to join in the recitation of the prayers.

This is followed by a section of the Dib che - the initial announcement - that affirms the invoking of all human souls belonging to the Zarathushtrian faith, from the beginning of the mortal life (*Gayomaretan*) to the last savior (*Saoshyant*). This is followed by selections from three Āfringān prayers. During each of these recitals one notices the enactment of the all important flower ceremony. This is the most crucial part of the jashan ceremony.

The critical part of this enactment is carried out during the **Humatanām prayers**. This is **the climactic moment of the DO NOT MAKE COPIES WITHOUT CONSENT FROM THE AUTHOR**

Āfringān ceremony. It is during this prayer that the circuit between the physical and the spiritual domain is completed. The Zaotar symbolizes a representation of the spiritual domain with the Rāspi signifying the physical, and the fire of Ahura Mazda as the bridge, a connecting link between them. The enactment at this point by the performing priests, through paiwand with the sacred fire, establishes the link between the two (spiritual and the physical) existences. This is the point that demonstrates the sojourn of the souls to and from the spiritual domain.

The sentiments of harmonization of the physical with the Divine, surfaces at this juncture, the conscious experience of the spiritual reality. This is the revelation of the experience of harmony between the spiritual and the physical, an expression of the perfect state of being – the wholeness of *Haurvat t*. It radiates righteousness, unconditional love, and the radiant happiness of the highest order. Due to the crucial nature of this prayer, the **Humatan m prayer** is recited three times in the liturgy of each fring n, and also at the end of jashan ritual.

The jashan is terminated with the invocation and praise to the divinity through the prayers of frins (blessings) towards the end. The frin liturgies are concluded with the recital of *dahm n ke pa in myazd frajrasid hend* – a short paragraph that expresses the hope that, "May the world improve due to the arrival of the pious ones". It is desirable for the congregation to join, in this hope of amelioration.

The ceremony is ended by the congregational recital of Tandorosti – the blessings for good health, wealth, and prosperity for the community in particular and humanity in general.

DIN-NO-KALAMO PEYM NE DEEN

Direct congregation to join in

Razishtay o chistay o

Mazdadh tay o ashaony o

Daenay o vanghuy o M zdayasnõish

Din beh r st va dorost ke khod e

Bar khalk ferast deh in hast

Ke Zartosht vordeh hast

Din din-e Zartosht Din-e Ahura Mazda D deh Zartosht Spitaman

Ashaone Ashem vohu 1

The most holy and truthful knowledge
Created by Ahura Mazda
is the righteous good mazd -worshipping religion.
This is the religion
the good, just and perfect religion,
which Ahura Mazda has sent for the people of this world,
And has been brought by prophet Zarathushtra.
This is the religion of Zarathushtra,
The religion of Ahura Mazda,
The creator (Ahura Mazda) gave to Zarathushtra.

TASH NEY YESH

<u>travakshi 1</u> - Make paiwand by joining hands with persons next to you and join in recital

Khshnaothra Ahurahe Mazd o! Nemase-te, tarsh Mazd o ahurahe hudh o mazishta yazata.

Ashem vohu...1

Pa n me yazdan Ahuramazda Khod e awazuni, gorje khoreh awaz y d. tash D dg h dar far ,

Glory unto Ahura Mazda
Homage unto the Light divine of Ahura Mazda
Supremely created, Majestic Yazata
Ashem vohu...1
In the name of the Lord, may the Power and
Radiance of benevolent Ahura Mazda increase.
To the Glorious Fire, the Fire of D d-g h.

Az hamā gunāh patet pashêmānum,
az haravastîn dushmata duzhûkhta duzhvarshta
mem pa gêtî manîd oem gôft oem kard
oem jast oem bun bûd ested
az ān gunāh manashnî gavashnî kunashnî
tanî ravānî gêtî minôānî ôkhe avākhsh
pashêmān pa se gavashnî pa patet hôm.

(Break Paiwand)

I turn back from all my errors,
I repent for every evil thought, word, and deed
which I may have thought, uttered, or committed
Or may have originated from me.
From all these errors of thought, word and deed
pertaining to my body of the physical or
to my soul of the spiritual domain,
I conscientiously express repentance with triple pledge.

<u>travakshi 2</u> - Make paiwand by joining hands with persons next to you and join in recital

Ashem vohu...3

At toi tarem Ahur aojonghvantem ash usemahi. asishtem emavantem stoi-rapentem chithr -avanghem.

At Mazd daibishyante zast -isht ish deresht aenanghem.

Ashem vohu...1

(Break Paiwand)

Lord, we yearn for thy fire which is mighty through Righteousness, is swiftest, forceful and of clear help to the devout follower. But to the deceitful; Wise one, it has the power in its hands to arrest him.

<u>travakshi 3</u> - Make paiwand by joining hands with persons next to you and join in recital

Khshnaothra Ahurahe Mazd o!

Nemase-te tarsh Mazd o.

Ahurahe hudh o mazishta yazata.

Ashem yohu...1

(Break Paiwand)

Glory unto Ahura Mazda! Homage unto the Light divine of Ahura Mazda. Supremely created, Majestic Yazata. Ashem vohu-1

At the end of Ashem vohu prayer, individuals perform the ritual handshake with the person next to them

Ham zor ham asho bed.

May we be united, in righteousness!

DIB CHE

Direct congregation to join in

Nirang pirozgar b d
khoreh beh din-e m zdayasnān rav b d,
andar hafte keshvar
N m cheshtî h tar andar k m b d,
hast shaherastān andar (name of the town)
shaherastān.

Pori firozi sh di o r mashni ravãn, khoreh khojasteh avazun b d avazuntar b d, khoreh khojasteh b d.

May this prayer be successful!

May the glory of the Mazdayasni religion remain spread in the seven regions.

May the residents of the town, (name of town) have victory, happiness and joy:

May the glory increase!

May it increase more!

May their glory be blessed!

Direct congregation to join in

Hastãn budãn bedãn,

z dãn az dãn,

dehi, uzdehi

dahme nar n rik

avarn e purn e,

har ke avar in zamin

peri behdini, gud rãn shud hast
ham fravash ashoãn, yo kardeh
az gayomard and soshyos,

aedar y d b d.

The Fravashis of the living, of those departed, of those yet to be born, of those born, of those yet unborn, of this region, of other region, of the pious men and women, infants, and adolescents All who died upon this earth in the good religion, along with the fravashis from Gayomard to Soshyant are invoked here.

FRINGÃN-E-D D R HORMAZD

As Zaotar ends Dib che with words 'Khesh pirojgar b d'

R spi and congregation responds

Khesh pirojgar b d

May it be victorious!

Congregation recites with the priests

Yath ahu vairyo...10, Ashem vohu...3

At the words 'Yath ahu vairyo zaot fr me mrute'

R spi and congregation responds

Yath ahu vairyo yo zaot fr me mrute.

Zaotar should lead me to the right choice of existence.

FRINGÃN-E-D D R HORMAZD OR FRINGÃN-E-ARD FRAVASH

Direct congregation to join in

at yo n hish fr yaz ite
Gaomata zasta vastravata
Asha-n sa nemanghha
Ahm i frinenti
Khshnut o ainit o atbisht o
Ughr o ashaonãm fravashayo.

The person who worships those Fravashis
With pure hands and respect.
And through the prayer
which takes one to righteousness.
The Fravashis of the righteous people pleased
and un-offended bless that person.

At the end of the kard of fringan congregation joins in recital of Ashem vohu

Ashem vohu...3

AHURAHE MAZD O RAEVATO KHARENANGHATO

Direct congregation to join in

Ahurahe Mazd o Raevato Kharenanghato frin mi khshathrayan danghupaiti upar i am i, upar i verethr i, upar i khshathr i, khshathremcha Paiti-astimcha, daregho-khshathrem khshathrahe, daregho-jitim usht nahe, drvat tem tanubyo.

Ahura Mazda, the brilliant and the glorious.

We bless the kingdom and the ruler of the country to be with greater courage, greater strength of gaining victory, higher sovereign power, long duration of reign, long vitality of life and soundness of body.

HUMATANÃM HUKHTANÃM HVARSHTANÃM

Direct congregation to join in

Humatanām hukhtanām hvarshtanām yadachā anyadachā verezyamnanāmchā vāverezananāmchā mahi aibi-jaretāro naenaestāro, yathanā vohunām mahi.

(Recite Twice)

Good thoughts, good words and good deeds
here and elsewhere,
of those who are performing them
and those who have performed them,
we are glorifiers and meditators.
And by doing so we shall redeem ourselves

congregation joins in the recital of Yath ahu vairyo...1, Ashem vohu...1

At the end of Yasnemcha prayer, individuals perform the ritual handshake with the person next to them

Ham zor ham asho bed.

May we be united, in righteousness!

FRINGÃN-E-DAHMÃN (T o ahmi nm ne)

As Zaotar ends Dib che with the words 'Khesh pirojgar b d'

R spi and congregation responds

Khesh pirojgar b d

May it be victorious!

Congregation recites with the priests

Yath ahu vairyo...2, Ashem vohu...3

At the words 'Yath ahu vairyo zaot fr me mrute'

R spi and congregation responds

Yath ahu vairyo yo zaot fr me mrute.

Zaotar should lead me to the right choice of existence.

Direct congregation to join in

Vainit ahmi nm ne,
sraosho asrushtim,
khshtish an khshtim,
r itish ar itim,
rmaitish taro-maitim,
arshukhdho v khsh
mithaokhtem
v chim, asha-drujem.

In this house

May obedience prevail upon disobedience!

May peace prevail over discord!

May generosity prevail upon miserliness!

May reverence prevail upon pride!

May truthfulness prevail over falsehood!

At the end of the kard of fringan congregation joins in recital of Ashem vohu...3

AHURAHE MAZD O RAEVATO KHARENANGHATO

Direct congregation to join in

frin mi vavanv o vanat-peshene buye,
vispem aurvathem tbishyantem,
vispem aghem tbishyantem,
arathwyo-mananghem,
arathwyo-vachanghem,
arathwyo-shyaothnem.

I pray that our King may be victorious over all those who are revengeful enemies.
and malicious persons, and who entertain evil thoughts, utter evil words, and do evil deeds.

HUMATANÃM HUKHTANÃM HVARSHTANÃM

Direct congregation to join in

Humatanām hukhtanām hvarshtanām yadachā anyadachā verezyamnanāmchā vāverezananāmchā mahi aibi-jaretāro naenaestāro, yathanā vohunām mahi (Recite Twice)

Good thoughts, good words and good deeds
here and elsewhere,
of those who are performing them,
and those who have performed them,
we are glorifiers and meditators.
And by doing so we shall redeem ourselves.

congregation joins in the recital of Yath ahu vairyo...1, Ashem vohu...1

At the end of Yasnemcha prayer, individuals perform the ritual handshake with the person next to them

Ham zor ham asho bed.

May we be united, in righteousness!

FRINGÃN-E-SAROSH

As Zaotar ends Dib che with the words 'Khesh pirojgar b d'

R spi and congregation responds

Khesh pirojgar b d

May it be victorious!

Congregation recites with the priests

Yath ahu vairyo...5, Ashem vohu...3

At the words 'Yath ahu vairyo zaot fr me mrute'

R spi and congregation responds

Yath ahu vairyo yo zaot fr me mrute.

Zaotar should lead me to the right choice of existence.

SRAOSHEM ASHÎM

Direct congregation to join in At the beginning of each of the three kard s.

Sraoshem ashîm
huraodhem
verethr janem
fr dat-gaêthem
ashavanem ashahe ratûm
yazamaide.

We worship the beautiful, victorious, bringing prosperity to the world, Holy Sarosh (yazata), the righteous, the Lord of righteousness.

YENGHÊ H TÃM

Direct congregation to join in At the end of each of the three kard s

Yenghê h tấm
at yesnê paitî vanghô,
mazd o ahurô
vaêth ash t hach ,
y onghãmch
tãnsch t osch yazamaide.

We praise those men and women from amongst the living, whose actions are good, and whose goodness is judged by righteous Ahura Mazda.

After the third recital of Yenghe H tam

Ashem vohu...3

AHURAHE MAZD O RAEVATO KHARENANGHATO

Direct congregation to join in

Vavane buye
rathwya manangha,
rathwya vachangha,
rathwya shyaothna.
Nijane buye vispe dushmainyu
vispe daevayasna;
zaze buye vangh ucha mizde,

vangh ucha sravahi,

urunaecha dareghe havanghe.

I pray that our king may be victorious through his good thoughts, good words and good deeds.

May he smite all the enemies, all the evil-doers!

May he be gifted with all these boons in return for his good life!

May that bring all glory to him and may all that enhance the piety of his soul.

HUMATANĀM HUKHTANĀM HVARSHTANĀM

Direct congregation to join in

Humatanām hukhtanām hvarshtanām yadachā anyadachā verezyamnanāmchā vāverezananāmchā mahi aibi-jaretāro naenaestāro, yathanā vohunām mahi (Recite Twice)

Good thoughts, good words and good deeds
here and elsewhere,
of those who are performing them,
and those who have performed them.
we are glorifiers and meditators.
And by doing so we shall redeem ourselves.

Congregation joins in the recital of Yath ahu vairyo...1, Ashem vohu...1

At the end of Yasnemcha prayer, individuals perform the ritual handshake with the person next to them

Ham zor ham asho bed.

May we be united, in righteousness!

FRIN-E-ARD FRAVASH

Direct congregation to join in

Bunde m n-e Ahuramazda

va Amesh spandan,

aigh g h zarin rawan or baher,

chun undar avast

garo-nmãnem,

maethanem Ahurahe mazd o, maethanem Ameshanãm spentanãm, maethanem anyaeshãm ashaonãm beras d.

Rawãn-e anaoshah rawãn
pa garothmãn, pa mãn-i-Ahuramazda
va Amesh spandãn,
pa mãn-i-aware-i-fravash rawãn.

May the soul get its share in the golden place of the entire house of Ahura Mazda. And the eternal Amesha Spenta in the manner as said in Avesta.

May the soul reach the House of Songs, the residence of Ahura Mazda, the residence of the eternal Amesha Spenta, the residence of other righteous people in general!

CONCLUSION: JASHAN CEREMONY

Direct congregation to join in

Dahmān ke pa in myazd fr j-rasid hend.

Ez in myazd baher madan baher gereftan,
har g mi r haz r va dwisad gām vahisht
roshan garothmāni be-padir d.

Pa fr j- madan kerfe be-awaz y d,
pa aw z shudan gun h oy bun beshw d,
va geti nek b d! va mino veh b d,
sar-frajām ashahi be-awaz y d.

Ravān garosmāni b d
Ravān garosmāni b d
Asho bed der-zi, atha jamy t yatha frin mi!

May the righteous, who met in this assembly, be rewarded with goodness! May their righteousness increase manifold. May their sins dissipate. May this world be happy for them! May the next world be good for them! May their righteousness increase immensely! May their souls see the bliss of Heaven! May God grant further righteousness and long life to them Amen!

May it be so as I pray!

HUMATANĀM HUKHTANĀM HVARSHTANĀM

Humatanām hukhtanām hvarshtanām yadachā anyadachā verezyamnanāmchā vāverezananāmchā mahi aibi-jaretāro naenaestāro, yathanā vohunām mahi.

Good thoughts, good words and good deeds
here and elsewhere,
of those who are performing them,
and those who have performed them,
we are glorifiers and meditators.
And by doing so we shall redeem ourselves.

TANDOROSTI (PAZEND)

Direct congregation to join in

Ba n me Yazad-e bakhsh yandehe Bakhsh yashgare meherb n.

Yath ahu vairyo...2

Tan-dorosti der-zivashni w yad;

khoreh anghad ashahid r;

yazdane minoan, yazdane getian,

haft Amesh shpandan,

myazda roshan hame beres d.

In do yãn b d, in kho hãn b d,

hame andar kasanr,

Zarathushti din sh d b d,

aedun b d

In the name of God, the benevolent, the giver and the bestower. Yath ahu vairyo...2

May there be health and long life.

May the divine glory pervade through Righteousness.

May the celestial and terrestrial Yazata, with the seven Amesha Spent's come to this radiant offering.

May this wish and hope be fulfilled!

May the religion of Zarathusht
bring happiness to all mankind!

May it be so!

y b ri Khod ,

Khod vande lamr ,

hame Anjuman-r ,

b farzandān, haz r s l der bed r,

sh d bed r, tandorost bed r,

aedun bed r, bar sare arz niyān,

s lh e besy r va karanh e bishum r,

b ki va p yandeh d r;

haz rān haz r frin b d,

O God, the Creator, may you grant unto Righteous Ruler, the members of the Anjuman and their progeny longest of long life, health, and happiness for thousands of years.

May they so live, caring for the needy!

May you keep them abiding for a long period of many years.

May there be thousands of blessings upon them.

s l khojasteh b d;
roz farrokh b d, m h mub rak b d.
Chand s l, chand roz,
chand m h, besy r s l arz nid r,
yazashne va ny yeshne, va r di va zor barashne.
Ashahid r awar-e ham k ro kerfeh ,
tan-dorosti b d, neki b d, khub b d,
aedun b d, aeduntaraz b d.
Pa Yazdan va Amesh shpandan k m-e b d.
Ashem yohu...1

May their years, days and months be happy, peaceful, joyful and auspicious.

May their years, days and months for many years be devoted to offer of worship, communion, charity, and ceremonial offerings.

May they be righteous and just in all their deeds.

May there be good health, purity, virtue and excellence.

May it be so and be so in greater measure in consonance with the will of Yazatas and Amesh Spent.

Ashem vohu...1