

## **Poems on Zoroastrianism**

**By**

**Farida Bamji**

### **What a Difference Asho Zarathushtra Made!**

Asho Zarathushtra Upon a mountain high Would have discourse With His Beloved Mazda Who armed Him With Powerful Words Asha & Ahuna Vairya  
Asho Zarathushtra Was endowed with a Good Mind On it, His Good Thoughts doth feed He translated these efficacious words By making them His Deeds He had a magnetic personality He strove tirelessly & continually Through His Choice Of Thoughts Words & Deeds To serve Ahura Mazda Through Humanity Which became His Life Long Destiny

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### **Purity of Vohu Mano!**

I prefer the Purity of the Mind Rather than the Purity of the Race Face the wrath of humans Than fall from Ahura Mazda's Grace Around the world Ancient Civilizations Which we continue to find Stand as direct testimony To the Purity of the Mind Mind is like a network Thoughts crisscrossing Every second to & fro Activate the Good Thoughts Let the bad ones go If Purity of Mind Got wasted on Hateful thoughts Negative emotions We would have Never discovered Ancient Civilizations!

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### **Life is Love don't trade for hate!**

Our world is like a Beautiful garden Dotted with beds of Different Religions Hindu Muslim Bahias Jews Sikhs as well As Zoroastrians In the same garden Co-habiting side by side Emitting freshly scented aromas Of Loving Giving Carrying Sharing Peacefully we can abide Our world is like An enchanted forest We can make it What we want it to be Wouldn't life be worth living Together in Perfect Harmony?

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### **Origins of the Gathas of Asho Zarathustra**

On the banks of The River Daitya One sunny morn Was Asho Zarathushtra  
On Him it didn't dawn His relationship with Ahura Mazda was about to be  
born Like a bolt from the blue A brilliant Light Out of no where appeared Not  
knowing the apparition He very much feared Engulfed by a blinding Halo  
What a spectacular sight' So much so, it blinded His sight "Who art Thou"?  
Queried Asho Zarathushtra "I am the messenger Sent to lead you To Ahura  
Mazda" In Ahura Mazda's presence Asho Zarathushtra stood Totally in awe  
Transfixed to boot Ahura Mazda's voice Booming loud & clear "Be calm,  
Asho Zarathushtra Do not fear, I am Ahura Mazda Your Creator" The land  
teeming like termites Karpans & Idolaters Pillagers & Ravagers Death &  
Destruction Earth Soul crying out In utter frustration For Divine Interference  
To stop suffering chaos And excruciating pain "I have chosen Thee Asho  
Zarathushtra To clear the way Defeat Evil Making Truth And Righteousness  
The order of the day"

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Each & every day Atop a mountain high Against the back drop Of a clear  
blue sky The white fluffy clouds Silently floating by As the sun appears a-  
peeking The gentle wind His hair softly caressing I can almost hear Asho  
Zarathushtra chanting: *ahyâ yâsâ nemanghâ ustânazastô rafedhrahya  
manyêush mazdâ pourvîm speñtahyâ ashâ víspêñg shyaothanâ vanghêush  
xratûm mananghô yâ xshnevîshâ gêushcâ urvânem* (Yasna 28) "With hands  
aloft to Thee I supplicate with submissiveness For the joy of the Bountiful  
Spirit O Lord of Wisdom Thou 1st & foremost For all actions to be done  
Through Asha (Divine Immutable Law) As well as for the Wisdom of Thy  
Divine Intelligence and cheer unto the soul" Questions were put forth  
Answers were given Ahura Mazda had a plan For Asho Zarathushtra's Divine  
Mission After years of contemplation Along with many conversations He  
came to realize VOHU MANO was a Powerful Tool To think & reason As it  
would spread Righteousness & Goodness To all creations

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*yânîm manô yânîm vacô yânîm shyaothnem ashaonô zarathushtrahe, ferâ  
ameshâ speñtâ gâthâ gêurvân! nemô vê gâthâ ashaonîsh* (Yasna 28)

Inspired Thoughts, Inspired Words, Inspired Deeds And the deeds of Holy  
Zarathushtra May the Amesha Spenta Accept The Gathas "I bow in  
reverence to you O Gathas that teach The Path of Asha Translations from :

The Philosophical Interpretations of The Gathas of Holy Zarathushtra

by Framroz Rustomjee

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### **Creativeawareness Group**

To form this group  
Was a unique idea  
To educate others  
“As to who we  
really are”  
This group that  
Did initiate  
Had just one single  
Goal in mind  
To spread the  
Unique Message  
That Zoroastrianism  
Is for All Humankind!  
Please keep up  
This Noble Deed  
His Spiritual Message  
Everyone does heed  
On Every Word  
We do feed

Ultimately to the Path  
Of Asha it will lead!  
To serve Zoroastrianism  
Founding members are keen  
Humble & dedicated  
They are & always have been  
Heres' to Creativeawareness  
A toast to you!  
Would like to say A Big Thank You  
Wouldn't have come  
This far without you!  
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### **Power of Prayers**

"Morning has broken"  
It's a New Day!  
Prayers when recited  
Keeps the ugliness at bay!  
Food is for the body  
Prayers for the Soul  
One without the other  
Can't make a person whole  
"No Fire or Coal so hotly glows  
As the secret love of which  
No one knows"  
When the Prayers begin to flow,

I am reminded to trudge  
The Path of Straight & Narrow  
When I pray  
My heart begins to sing  
As they are like  
"The Wind Beneath my wings"  
"Lean on me"  
That's what Prayers  
Seem to say:  
"We'll take all  
Tears, Sadness & blues out  
Of your way  
Whatever I have done & said  
I do my best  
'Cause I know the Power  
Of Prayers takes care of the rest.  
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### **Expectations**

If one expects The Sun by day At night Twinkle Twinkling Stars! Along with  
the Moon at night The least He expects Of us is to Treat each other Right  
Has one ever Realized that We are mere mortals Our bodies Will reduce to  
dust Our Soul well, will Enter which Portal? What lies beyond Nobody  
knows? A Soul can't Sense Touch Feel or See Then why kick up  
Unnecessary Fuss of Dividing this Microscopic Community? Dependent we  
are On each other Regardless of our needs Colour Caste or Creed Are we or  
are we not? May be it's time To revisit the Basic Tenets that Asho  
Zarathushtra taught!

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## **Satyagraha**

Did Mahatma Gandhi find The movement “Satyagraha”?

If one delved a little deeper Could it have been Our beloved Asho Zarathushtra. The word “Satya” is Truth Implying Love & firmness “Agraha” means Force Keep up one’s struggle Devoid of consequence If one believes in A “Noble Cause” They both were visionaries Achieved their goals Through different means Mahatma used fasting Non-Violence & Sit-Ins Asho Zarathushtra On the strength of His Mazda Attained His through Perseverance As well Passive Resistance Unbearable pain they Physically suffered To the nth degree Their Soul & Spirit Unflinchingly undefeated To pursue the Path “Of setting humanity free” Independence leads to Freedom Which comes with a Very costly price Somewhere somehow Human lives gets sacrificed The Freedom Flame Was lit for us So, are lives we can enhance It’s only fair to keep it alive By giving humanity “Peace A Chance”

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## **A Dream**

As my head hit the pillow  
Wheeee!!! away I did go  
To a far away place  
Where there was “Eternal Glow”  
There was music & reveling  
‘People’ were laughing & singing  
So much gaiety all round  
Having so much fun  
I had lost count Alas! Soon it was time  
To be “homeward bound”  
As ‘You’ & I strolled  
Through the Garden of Life

My hand in “Yours”  
So, tightly secure  
No harm will come  
Of that I was sure.  
Before we knew it  
We were at the “Parting Gate”  
I quietly implored:  
“Please, please wait  
There’s something I wish  
To say surely I do  
Before we part Hereafter in the end  
No matter what my fate  
All I am Guilty of is  
Loving You”  
‘People’ -- Spiritual Beings  
‘You’ -- Ahura Mazda  
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### **Mehrgan**

Deep sea divers that Unravel Natures’ mystery From the depths of The deep  
blue sea Beautiful planktons Coral reefs, colourful Slippery snaky eels  
Sharks, Otters, manatees Same way I feel About Zoroastrianism

As slowly steadily All these rich traditions Cultures are being Revealed to  
me! In the month Of Meher Whence it all began Rich tradition of Mehrgan:  
Such an event was Zohak a tyrant An incarnate of the devil With help of this  
deity Heroes Feridoon & Kaveh Sealed Zohak’s fate By destroying the devil  
Victory of Good over Evil Meher signifies the Glorious Sun Always up at The  
crack of dawn Giver of Light Warmth As well as Heat Without which we  
Would freeze to death Without the Golden Eye The day wouldn’t be

complete! Meher takes relationships Very very seriously In dealings with one another If one fails to Keep ones' word Surely from Meher one Will surely "hear" Whether they be Yazatas Or for that matter Amesha Spentas They are actually Divine Qualities Of our beloved Ahura Mazda. Even if the world were dark & cold Where we have to grope our way With smiles on our faces And Happiness in our hearts We can wipe the misery away!

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### **Pasargadae**

"O man, whoever thou art, from where so ever thou cometh, for I know you shall come, I am Cyrus, who founded the empire of the Persians. Grudge me not, therefore, this little earth that covers my body"[www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com))

Cyrus II of Persia *King of Persia; King of Media* Unto us in Pasargadae! To a Noble family A prince was born Destined to occupy the Achaemenian Throne His mother inculcated Within him to rule With Kingly dignity By applying lessons Of Tolerance Respect Love Patience Equality & Loyalty. Apadana was his Royal "house" Wherein his princely duties He humbly went about Where princes as Paupers use to meet Including on Nooroze day Mingling with everyone Even throwing sumptuous feasts! Fearlessly, daringly Conquered lands Whether are near or far He dreamt to build A Mighty Persian Empire! In the name of Ahura Mazda

His kingly pride

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In the battle field Did kind of get In the way By declaring: "I am Cyrus the Great" Unfortunately that brought about His brisk & tragic end One Fateful day!

He built himself A magnificent Palace Befitting a king In the end the royal body Was buried neither In bejeweled robes nor Buried with priceless belongings Not even a marble tomb Instead the kingly body Had a simple clump of Earth As his covering! Centuries ago There was NO Charter of



Human Rights But yet he ruled his Empire “By hearing attentively With his ears and Pondering with A Good Mind

Cyrus' tomb lies in the ruins of Pasargadae, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site (2006).

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### **Zoroastrianism!**

Our Religion ain't A snakes and ladders game Where by winning, one Achieves name or fame It's a religion with A distinct message Practice it if one Wants to clear the “passage” On one hand His Teachings We like to spread On the other Discrimination Racism We are constantly fed Please kindly make Up your intelligent mind If this message is Or isn't for All Human kind? If in the waters One saw someone drown Would one call for help Or let that Individual go down? One doesn't care as that individual Is not a Zoroastrian But from a different Religion? Zoroastrianism isn't A two edged sword It's consist of A distinct Word The Word being: Equality which is the Name of the game If with Ahura Mazda One wants to achieve Fame!

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### **Glorious Past that was Persia**

If I had a Time Machine I surely would Go back in time To see what it Was like to Live & breathe The Religion Which is for All Human Kind!

### **Achaemenid Empire**

What an honour To retrace the steps Once where on Dusty unpaved roads Asho Zarathushtra tread In the alleys & byways Each day the

Pristine Religion

He tried to spread

Folks back then Lead a life so simple Their humdrum life Hardly made a ripple Tho' their wants Were simple their Needs were few One thing they Never forgot Give Ahura Mazda His Dues

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The lights have dimmed Glorious Past has faded Great kings Cyrus & Darius  
Too have come & gone But Zoroastrianism has Not been forgotten and  
Never will be As the faithful have And will carry on

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### **In Sympathy to the Souls in the Mumbai Blasts**

As innocent lay dead In the twisted mangled wreckage They had no clue  
that they Were breathing their last Seated all dressed In the 1st class  
carriage They were going to be torn to bits In the horrific Bombay blasts!  
Our prayer are with you In you hour of need Our sincere condolences As  
well deepest sympathies It's said that any Evil does not pay 'Cause Ahura  
Mazda Will have His Last Say! With deepest Sympathy

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### **"To strive, to seek, to find & not to yield"**

Life is like a polluting eddy With creepy crawlers a-swirling Violently a-  
tugging Us in all directions It's better to stay the course No matter what the  
eddys' intentions Life is like a treasure hunt Ain't for silver or gold The never  
ending quest For His Divine Teachings Will surely last forever. In life we're  
forever seeking Questions to our purpose in life? Against all temptations  
We're perpetually striving To the dictates of others Never ever yielding With  
an iron will A resolute mind I am absolutely positive One will survive!!

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### **"Poor Ole Soul"**

As the owners' life Slowly but surely ebb away The poor Soul bidding time  
Seems to say: "Woe is me" Nervously awaiting Judgment day Shaking &  
trembling With each passing day Morbid thoughts seem To be swirling:  
"Who'll accompany me Will it be Amesha Spenta Or Deavas lead the way"  
The day dawns bright & clear Soul trembling with shear fear Doesn't know  
whether to Laugh or to cry Deep in thought "Will be set free Or Will I be  
fried?" Since all Souls are EQUAL before the Law Devoid of colour caste or

creed The basis of the Final Judgment Rests solely on Good Thoughts Good  
Words Good Deeds

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### **Parsees are allowing themselves to Die!**

"In numbers beneath contempt In Contribution beyond compare"

The "Flames of Change" seem to Be Fanning Everywhere! Why create Rules  
Where there are none? 'Cause the Divine Message Is for each & everyone  
What good would it do To deny entry To somebody new? We are in midst Of  
trouble times All around us the bells Of death destruction do chime  
Zoroastrianism can give Faith, Hope to the despondent As well as the living  
Bring about Happiness Infuse life, new meaning Rather in darkness One  
keeps eternally groping

Helps one turn away From the acts of Violence Delivers us on The Path of  
Righteousness

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### **Muktad**

As the fire temples Are alive with chanting Of our sacred Gathas The sweet  
aroma Of sandalwood Fills the air To our dearly departed **Fravashis** we  
bare We hope they are there To comfort & guide us In the event of difficulty  
There to protect us May the sweet souls Of the dearly departed Rest in  
eternal peace Free from misery & disease They have gone to a better place  
Under the care of Ahura Mazdas' Grace!

The remains of Adur Gushnasp,  
one of the Fire-Temples of ancient Persia

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### **Fury in the Gathas**

Nature too has Her mood swings Which no human Can ever control Once she is In a black mood She's definitely On a roll None can ever defy Nature Whether one be Weak or strong whatever suits her fancy One must play along One can't hold Nature on a leash Or for matter tame It's only when she Deals a heavy blow Believers non-believers Start taking Ahura Mazdas' name!

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### **Tail Wagging the dog!**

He doesn't keep A guest book To track trips to Atash Behrams As well as Agiaries Definitely He will Judge us According to our Thoughts Words Deeds A sorting machine He doesn't own No cubicles to sort souls By their different sects But all souls will be treated Equally By the type of life they lead He doesn't believe in Apartheid As everyone is Equal before the Law Whether one be Prince or Pauper Virtuous or flawed.

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### **All Speed Forward!**

One can travel At a high speed Or at a very low speed It all boils down to Good Thoughts Good Words Good Deeds. Whether one traveled The Good Path Or the Bad It's too late For there's No turning back There are No Reservations Or can't call ahead The soul has to accept The Divine Judgement By Meher Sarosh & Rashna Which has already been made One doesn't pay by Cash or credit cards Which are platinum Silver or gold But by the Good thoughts Good Words Good Deeds In ones' Gareban One holds!

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### **Is There a God?**

On a hot summer day As I dreamingly lay Wasting my precious Life away When I eyed The Khordeh Avesta Where in the Prayer Corner Quietly it lay Took a teeny tiny peek As I was extremely curious To see for myself What

knowledge I was about to seek It was an Herculean task To pronounce &  
practice Each word & each line I was not about to give up As I was  
stubbornly determined Not give up an opportunity Of a life time As I prayed  
Each & everyday My faith in my prayers did grow That's when I realized The  
beautiful, everlasting Friendship I would sow! From the Sarosh Baj To the  
Gahs & the Yashtas Finally it was the Pristine Gathas How refreshing &  
joyful To pray the very words Uttered by Asho Zarathushtra As the going got  
tough Tough got tougher I decided never to part To practice the prayers  
Learnt from the heart 'Cause I knew there & then Wherever I go They'll  
always be on board I know for sure There Is a God!

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### **Welcome into the Fold!**

Tossing around on The open sea In a state of confusion Looking thro' your  
binoculars Far way on a distant shore You espied a door Above it was  
inscribed Welcome to the Zoroastrian Religion You entered through The  
rusty creaky door You were awestruck At what you saw The Divine  
Teachings You've never read Or heard before May the Bells of Freedom Toll  
With open arms we embrace you May you His Teachings uphold 'Cause the  
Path to Righteousness Is paved with Gold!'

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### **Contemporary Zoroastrianism**

Why relive the past When the future is at stake We have the issues As well  
the answers Shoving them under the rug Is sure a fatal mistake  
Stubbornness to change Leads to revolt Puts reasoning on hold Unless one  
wants Zoroastrianism to fold? It seems Zoroastrianism Is like Oligarchy  
Ruled only by a few Spreading the Divine Message Rests solely with you

### **The Behistun Inscription**

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### **"A Touch of Persia"**

From the land of Asho Zarathushtra To the Great Persian kings Where  
Shahnameh was penned It's Glories we still do sing On the night of Dec  
30th The X111th Congress that evening "A Touch of Persia" To us did bring!  
The costumes beautifully Draped & bejeweled Music was heady & inspiring  
Reminded me of stories From the Arabian Nights Related by Sherazade To  
her valiant king

**Dancing is historically entwined with many cultures  
around the world. Here, 17th century Persian  
women dance in a ceremony in Iran.**

Last but not the least Mouth watering dishes Aroma filled the air With Rich  
flavour Enriched with spices The table was arrayed With food galore I often  
wonder what Life must have been In the days of yore?

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Tho' the evening has faded The memory lingers on Of a once proud nation  
Where are ancestors were born Unfortunately tho' it's a little Late in life, the  
awakening of My proud Ancestry, Culture As well as heritage Has just  
begun

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### **In Memory of Chak Chak & the Beautiful (Pir Banu)**

Venue: Yazd, Pir E SABZ "It came upon A Midnight clear" Beautiful Nik Banu  
Fled with fear Terrified & horrified In a state of stupefaction Fled the palace  
The marauding hordes Not satisfied With the Royal loot Followed her In hot  
pursuit She knew for sure The end was near She decided her Life to end The  
Ground opened In it she did descend To save herself not Only from  
Persecution But to die A Proud Zoroastrian Beauty of Beauties Beyond  
compare My beautiful one Eyes so luminous, Tempting lips Like sparkling  
wine Innocent gentle Like a little dove Seeing you Hearts would soar To  
Heaven above! Skin so soft As morning dew Voice so melodious Like a  
Nightingale Thy hair like rays Of the golden sun Thy thoughts like A Linnet

Surpassing beauty Majestically you freest Challenging the Winds of  
temptation Blowing across your face There be none Of beauties' daughter

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With a magic like thee Your laughter like Pealing bells Thy presence was a  
Source of Joy to me!

Chak Chak in Iran

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### **The Ideal Aryan Womanhood!**

What's an Ideal Womanhood? Hmmm! I really wonder? Living in Ivory  
Towers Treated like Queens Or carried around by Bronzed muscle men In  
Palanquins? All we ask is Dignity & Respect Sprinkling of Love As well  
understanding That's what we expect Woman ain't a mound of clay To be  
shaped & moulded Fashioned in anyway Women too are human beings  
With blood sweat tears As well Real Feelings Woman may be an Aryan  
Asian Dravidian Yellow Black or White After all she is an art Of Ahura  
Mazda's delicate Sculpture Ain't it true that women are the World's Biggest  
Wonder?

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### **Gabar Mahalle**

As I put this Pen to paper A certain term "Gabar" Comes to mind Why  
should certain people To others be unkind Our ancestors were simple folk  
Who took great care of Nature No matter how great or small They knew full  
well In return Ahura Mazda Would in turn their Needs He would cater Alas!  
the tide turned They were shunted & isolated To add insult to injury They  
were abused & humiliated What crimes have they committed? Or for that  
matter what sins? The only sin I can think of Is being born in "Zarathoshty  
Din" Why look down upon others Or judge people according to Their skin  
Religion Occupation or Race In Zoroastrianism it distinctly states  
Discrimination has no place

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**A Prince of Peace!**

Amongst us was born a "Prince"

His name Zarathushtra Spitama

He roamed tirelessly to spread

THE WORDS 'HUMATA HUKHTA HARVARASHTA'.

"Hear the best with your ears

And ponder with a GOOD MIND"

From the Path of Asha never try to veer

Open up your mind and never fear.

Everyone is EQUAL before the Law

Be one Zarathushtri, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh

Ours is an UNIVERSAL RELIGION

There's NO NEED OR PLACE FOR PREJUDICE.

Cause one wears a 'Kushti & Sudreh'

Does NOT one ZARATHUSHTI MAKE

Behave like a Noble Zoroastrian

Unless in DRUJ one wants to BAKE.

Let us OPEN OUR MINDS & HEARTS

Let's heal the wounds & PLAY OUR PART

WAKE UP FOLKS! we have a Future to chart

To guide our youngsters on the Right Path.

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**Advancing Communities & Empowering Generations**



Ask not what your religious teachings

Can do for you

But how through them

A difference can be made

To make this place

A better place.

United we stand

Divided we fall'

Ours is an Universal Religion

Meant for one & all

Hear the best with your ears

And ponder with a Good Mind

Let there be Respect, Tolerance

And Equality for mankind

Wake up, folks!!

Let's open our hearts

Let's heal the wounds

And play our part

So, that our community

May advance

Empower Generations

On the Right Path.

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**EQUALITY FOR ALL!**

The Parsee race has its ego

They think they know it all  
Please try to swallow your pride  
As it's said: Pride Goes before fall  
Treat everyone Equally  
No matter who they be  
Regardless of skin, colour, Religion  
occupation or Race  
Before one falls from Ahura Mazda's Grace  
He must be really sad  
To see His teachings  
Twisted, Turned inside out & being  
misunderstood  
So, let us Practice what He stood for  
Fight for what is good  
He judges you not  
By the wealth, degrees or the occupation  
one holds  
But by the GOOD THOUGHTS, GOOD WORDS, GOOD DEEDS  
IN YOUR GAREBAN ONE HOLDS.  
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### **A Prayer**

Precious Lord, linger near  
Help me to be brave and never fear,  
Bear troubles with courage and faith  
With You by my side, I really feel safe,

My life in Thy hands safely I place  
Whether sunshine or rainy days,  
Life's an ocean in which one's lost  
It's also a battle to be faced & fought,  
Life's path an upward run  
Brave sustain, cowards run,  
Life's also a game of dice,  
Full of goodness and full of vice.  
Lord! I am in this desert a lost sheep,  
Take me into Thy fold and safely keep.  
Lead me not astray, keep me in sight,  
Guide me on this path with Thy powerful light  
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**Achaemenian Empire** \*Humatanam Hukhtanam Hurvreshtanam Yadacha  
Anyadacha Varejyamanamcha Vavrezananamachaâ\* Good Thoughts Good  
Words Good Deeds Here & elsewhere Are performed & Have been  
performed I dedicate this part Of the Afringhan Prayers To our great  
Achaemenian Kings Cyrus Xerxes & Darius. These Kingly kings knew That  
the vast Empire Was bestowed upon them Through the grace of Ahura  
Mazda They kept in mind The three fold Path Of Humata Hukhta  
Harvarashta. They ruled their Empire With an iron fist In a velvet glove They  
let their Subjects live in peace Instead of a push & a shove They showed  
compassion As well as humility Cause when they met Their Creator Ahura  
Mazda They didn't want to be Charged As Guilty They were Just & Noble  
rulers Though their fame was spread far & wide Yet they were simple down  
to earth souls Without Ego or Pride

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I am truly proud to be A part of this Glorious history I think the following line aptly applies To these Great & Benevolent Kings.

“Mazdayasno Ahmi Mazdayasno Zarathushtris” I am a Mazda Worshipper,  
A Mazda Worshipping Zarathushtri

Ancient bracelet, Achaemenid period, 500BC, Iran.

The world, 500 BCE, showing the Achaemenid Empire's place in its larger geopolitical context.

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### **ALPHA**

Once upon a time A land far away Called Persia A Jewel of the East A  
Saoshyant was born Asho Zarathushtra Spitama Whom I call A Prince of  
Peace Growing up Amongst the Karapans Their teachings He began to shun  
Left home To meditate That's when His Conversation with Ahura Mazda  
began "Who art Thou" enquired Asho Zarathushtra "I AM AHURA MAZDA  
LORD OF WISDOM": "I have envisioned the Universe Thro' Vohu Mano  
Implanted with Daena Breathed in Spenta Mainyu Set on course Thro' The  
Path of Asha" Armed with Divine Knowledge He merrily went His way As  
soon as He tried To spread The Message Thumbtacks were strewn His way  
He cried in frustration: "To what land shall I flee" "Cause the people are  
Forsaking me"

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From Village to village From town to Town Untiringly, undauntingly planting  
His seed Never giving up Hope Deep in Thought Lo! He landed in Kavi  
Vistaspa's Court The Royal Court Looked upon Zarathushtra With Skeptism  
& disdain Conspired against Him Threw Him in jail Ahura Mazda had a  
Divine Plan Making the Royal Court Believers as fast as He can By making  
his Royal Horse Really ill That was His way of making them Bow to His will  
The Good Religion Spread far & wide Finally! it had taken roots From  
Kayanians to Sassassians It was Zoroastrianism to boot! From Heavenly  
Abode He came To Heavenly Abode He was happy to return Once His work  
on Earth was done Happy to be "Home Sweet Home"

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**OMEGA (Ω)** As the sun set on Our Glorious Past Over hills & o'er dales They came The marauding hordes With their armies vast Putting our Fellow Zoroastrians To the sword Alas! the land of Asho Zarathushtra. From where we originated After the Arab invasion We were nearly decimated. Our forefathers Fearing persecution Terrified & Horrified In a state of stupefaction Never seen any thing Like this before Fled their homeland A few landed On Indian shores Requesting admission From a Hindu king Who was "Non-Zoroastrian" We did as we Were told Keeping well Inside our Zoroastrian fold Mixing not with The rest Tried to live And do Our very best Our Roots were hacked 'Cause we couldn't Go back Our Customs And Traditions We sorely lacked

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Hindus had a Caste System Divided into Four stratas As for us There was No such message In the Divine teachings Of Asho Zarathushtra We adopted Hindu customs As well as their Traditions Whilst shedding The rich tradition And the Divine Message Of our beloved Religion Zoroastrianism Alexander's invasion Wrought rack & Ruin He left behind him Persia Burning! Everything he touched He torched Igniting into flames Alas! Misery! Our sacred literature Had No escape!!! Centuries have passed Have we made progress? I fear I think not I must confess His teachings Have been tailored According to One's needs Instead of Empowering Generations Advancing Communities Through Good Thoughts Good Words Good Deeds.

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All I know that Ours is A Universal Religion Meant for people Great or small As well as It's Equality Liberty Justice For all. May we wake up from A sleep so deep As we got miles To go before We sleep

Asho Zarathustra was a simple Soul A Devoted Caring Soul was He He had no wants nor any needs All He wanted with speed Spread the message Of Good Thoughts Good Words, Good Deeds He lived His life In the service of

The Creator Asking Him: "How can we make World better"? At the same time Thanking Him For Giving us His creations On a silver Platter. His Divine Message Is so simple Yet so Profound It has started To create ripples Amongst the community And Beyond.

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**A Cloud** As I was praying By the window Facing East What do I see? Gee Whiz! A beautiful Woolly Fluffy White Cloud floating by Against the backdrop Of a clear blue Sky Life is so fragile Just like a cloud When it breaks up "Where did it go" We wonder aloud. Oh! Fluffy little Cloud Why art thou so lovely! Merrily sailing by Without any cares In the world O! Won't you Fluffy one Your secret unfurl! Just as the cloud Wends it's way Slowly, steadily Fading away So, we will too One day Please make sure That Zoroastrianism Is here to stay.

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### **Bam**

It's January 1st 2004 How can we this tragedy ignore? If I could kiss the sun dried cheeks Of each survivor individually Erase the memory of this Horrific tragedy Relieve them of the Suffering & pain Assure them that This horrific tragedy Would never happen again Who am I to defy Nature? ` Cause it's in the hands Of our Creator It's heart wrenching To see the death And destruction Of innocent people Ancient civilization O! Why this infliction On the people of Bam? Where everything was serene So calm! As the River of Tears Continues to flow Fearful of what the Future holds Words fail to express Our deepest sympathies

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And sincere condolences May their sweet souls Rest in eternal peace In our heart this memory Will always hold May Ahura Mazda Help to heal this Irreparable Loss May the coming years Bring Glad tidings And Good Cheer May they always Be filled with Rainbows Sunshine As well Blue Skies Instead of sadness & tears

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## **Cross Roads**

When we are At x-roads The Choices We have to make Whether they be Good or Bad That's the risk We have to take. Though we have A Conscience Which purely acts As a Divine Guide It's entirely up to us If we wish to heed The Divine Voice inside. There are "No Have To's Nor any Don'ts" We are free as a butterfly To do whatever we want But, when the Great Summons comes And the sunset gleams There will be Rewards As well as Consequences. Being given the Power of Reasoning We can sieve the Good from the Bad When Meher Sarosh & Rashne Pass their Divine Judgement There will be No Plea Bargaining Will depend on the type of life one led.

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**Faith** Ever since humans evolved They were awe struck How around them Things revolved How the night Turned into day Bringing in the Sun Light At Eventide Stars so bright! It must be the Power of A Mysterious Might! "Strange Occurrences" They Knelt before Began to mumble Out of fear To the Divine Power They called Gods Realizing not, they Had found a "Soul-Mate" An inner Feeling Called FAITH. Without Faith Life ain't worth living When everything goes wrong One has waited too long! One feels frustrated & really blue Faith alone will see one through Faith is really A magical wand Upon which one Constantly relies on Closing one's eyes Saying a little Prayer Soon all one's worries Tends to disappear.

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**Father's Day Poem** Father's too are Gentle souls Tho' they have A sterner streak They'll not repeat Anything Twice Only once They will speak One such person Was Porouchashpa Whose heart overflowed With Love Ruled his roost With a iron fist In a velvet glove Provided Asho Zarathushtra With tender loving care If ever in trouble Asho Zarathushtra To his dad His heart would bare If Porouchashpa As well Asho Zarathushtra Were alive today I opine aloud Would Asho Zarathushtra Send a card on Father's day! I wonder what would He say "Thanks Dad for being there For all the things you've done I Love You so very much"

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## **FREEDOM**

"Imagine there's no Heaven Or no Hell below us" To Good would we be driven As Suicide Bombers, Wars & Murders Still rain upon us? "Born Free as Free as the wind blows" It's entrenched in the constitution Life Liberty Equality And Justice for all. Aryans Asian Dravidians Yellow Black or White Can co-exist in Peace And Harmony By "Giving Peace a Chance" Disrespect I do not mean Nor do I mean to slander I think we should heed His teachings To make this world A lot better There should not be Any Watch Towers Or Road Blocks Along the way Nor Guard Dogs To Guard the Gates 'Cause "Reward only comes To those who only stand & wait"

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## **Happy Birthday Asho Zarathushtra!**

Asho Zarathushtra's Birthday Will surely come & go Though His Divine Teachings Will like the peaceful waters flow Irrigating lands as it meanders along Making sure that the Flora & Fauna Will be rich in growth. His needs were simple His wants were few Uppermost in His mind Was a single thought: "Ahura Mazda how may I be of service to you"? His Divine Teachings Are a gateway to the stars They can be followed anywhere No matter where you are We wish you A Very Happy Birthday From the bottom Of our hearts The rich legacy you've Left behind A promise From which we'll never part.

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**Mother's Day** Mothers need no Magic wands Nor Peacock thrones Or royal ermine furs As well costly jewelry Instead works her Fingers to the bone Fiercely protecting What is hers A loving devoted family. As a little boy Asho Zarathushtra Was a happy playful soul He knew if need be He could run into His loving mothers' arms Who would wipe away His tears fears & keep Him calm Mothers are a special breed Regardless of colour caste or creed By instilling in her kids To trudge The Path of Good Thoughts Good Words Good Deeds. Roses chocolate boxes Beautiful Mothers' day cards Are not enough to let her know In ones' heart To keep oneself snugly warm Need



no afghan, poncho or sweater But best of all is the Kisses, Hugs Blessings  
from one's devoted Selfless caring mother Happy Mothers' Day!

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### **Mother's Day (2)**

I like to dedicate This Mother's day To our Sweet Stately Lady Dugdova Who  
brought forth Into this world A Great Mantharan Asho Zarathushtra!

Thanking Her Is not enough For such an Invaluable gift It's mainly due to  
Her Thro' Her Son Humanity benefits Gentle Caring Loving Wise "A Jewel in  
the Crown" Asho Zarathushtra must be Truly proud Such an Astute Lady To  
have around!

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### **Fire Temple**

The body is the Temple Afarghanyu is the heart Fire contained within it  
Begins to smolder Then it sparks Oh! Holy Fire! Thou art so Powerful And so  
strong! Destroys any evil That seems to come along So keep us focused  
Lead us not astray With Thy Powerful Light Please show us The WAY  
Nemsete Atarsh Mazdao Ahura Udao Mazist Yazd With these words I to  
Thee bow And begged to be heard: "I shall pass this way but once Any good  
therefore I can do Let me do it now For I shall not pass this way again"! Let  
the Fire light our lives! Hamazor Hamaa Asho Baad!

The Yazd Atash Behram, Iran

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### **Pride**

Pride blended with humility Brings about Peace & Tranquility Pride alone  
ain't beneficial To the human soul. As the saying goes I am filled With  
utmost Pride To be a Zoroastrian Which I cannot hide. To all the Zoroastrian  
Groups As well as the Various Zoroastrian Sites A Very Big Thank you. Most  
of us came to know More about Zoroastrianism Which we never knew.

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### **Just a Thought!**

Oh! What a beautiful Earth Thou has created For all Earthlings to enjoy

Let's leave behind Love, laughter Happiness Peace And Joy!

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**Looking at Issues, Searching for Answers** The X111th Congress Held in December It was heartwarming I will forever remember To see so many Wide-eyed young Zoroastrians Eager to learn Willing to impart Their knowledge of Zoroastrianism The Monotheistic Religion Youths were chairing Lots of sessions Peppered with various topics Which were informative As well as interesting Questions were posed As the participants were curious Answers were very honestly forthcoming To all those who worked Silently tirelessly behind the scenes A Very Big Thanks is due ` Cause the X111th Congress Couldn't have been successful Without you. To the youth I'd like to say The burden on you Heavily doeth weighs Even if the thumb tacks Are thrown your way Take up the cudgel Overcome the hurdles ` Cause we are Born to serve By spreading the Divine Message Of the One above. May the Eternal Flame Always burn bright!

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### **Massacre at Beslan**

As the massacre At Beslan unfolded Horrified I watched Laying on the floor The dead & the wounded The surviving victims Will forever be haunted Your sorrows are our sorrows Our Hearts to truly bleeds Our Prayers are with you In your hour of need May The Divine Be there to comfort you Wrap His arms around you As well your dearly departed Loved ones be there to protect you

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### **Moving Humanity Forward (Zarathushtra's Vision)**

Fellow Zoroastrians Please do not be A puppet Obeying everything You are told, Gifted with a Vohu Mano 'Cuz you're "The master of your fate And the Captain of your Soul". He preached Humbleness Simplicity Love Respect Tolerance Equality And Unity If we want to Forward Humanity As well as achieve Faresho-Kereti. In Vohu Khashtra Gatha Stanza 22 It's the Prayer Yenghe Hatam If followed to a tee Would benefit Humanity too! This Prayer Is the Epitome As it disposes Nuggets of Wisdom

Of our Religion As well as the Essence of Zoroastrianism My voice may be A lonely voice I ought to speak out 'Cause I have no Choice For in the end

Ahura Mazda Will take care Of my poor old soul.

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### **Norooz Phirooze**

It's that time Of year again 21st of March When Nature from It's slumber wakes Bursting forth from The winter harsh It's time to make New friendships Strengthen the ones That are old FRIENDS will always Come & go Old is always gold! Let's join together in Unity As well be one with Asha Scatter the seeds of Hope Love & Truth As spread by Asho Zarathushtra In every pocket of the world Wars are being fought WE see it on TV As well we read The Havoc being caused Too many lives are being lost Way too much blood is being shed Let's begin the New year With a simple Prayer:

Hamaazor Hamaa Asho Baad!

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### **Norooz Phirooz (2)**

As the sun sets On the old Rising with the new Gone are the sniffles Sneezes & the flu As we welcome Norouz Phirooze! The mighty rooster strutting His multicoloured feathers With his head held high "Cock-a-doodle-do" A Happy Norouz Phirooze to you"! The hens in the barn yard Go "Cluck cluck cluck The winter is over what luck" Whereas ducks gracefully Swimming in the pond Going "Quack quack quack Thanks Ahura Mazda Spring is back"! Whether it be birds A different tunes a singing Or colourful butterflies From tree to tree flitting Once again it's time For Renewal &

Rejuvenation A victory for Ahura Mazda's Creation Greenery being everywhere Finally Mother Nature Won't be empty & bare Last but not the least I'd like to add: "Pa ganje Dadar Ahura Mazda Rayomand Khoremand Beresad" May the prayers Prayed by the worshipper Collect in Ahura Mazda's treasury From which they are dispensed To ALL OF HUMANITY.

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The quotation is taken from the Afrin of Gahambar. Afrin means blessings. The worshipper invokes through this Afrin that the spiritual strength of this ceremony may reach all humankind!

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### **Please Don't Let Zoroastrianism Die!**

Ahura Mazda gave us A Beautiful Religion Why are we hell Bent on the Path of destruction? At that thought I do choke With a heavy heart A lump in my throat With tears in my eyes ALL I ask: Please DON'T LET MY RELIGION Zoroastrianism Die! Asho Zarathushtra Sacrificed His Precious Life For the Sake of Humanity Undauntingly tirelessly Spreading the Divine Message of Universality With no proper clothing Or even descent shoes On His Face doors were shut At times even booed Does that mean anything to "you"? Give up the EGO As well as Pride Lead the community To greater heights Put on your Thinking Caps Please Do What is Right Don't let the Years pass us by 'Cause I DON'T WANT MY RELIGION Zoroastrianism to Die! From His Divine Message We have lots to gain Let not His Death BE IN VAIN!

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### **Rich Tapestry of Zoroastrianism**

Our Religion is like The Brazilian Rain Forest. Rich in Fauna & Flora Created by Lord of Wisdom Ahura Mazda The deeper one goes The richer the trove One finds of Flora & Fauna Of different kind Zoroastrianism too Has a buried treasure If only one knows Where to look Surf the net or Research on a book Once one understands The Pristine Teachings By Jove! for life One's hooked!

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**FAROHARS** A “Divine Signal” emits Within each one of us Fortunately it has a “voice” Reminding us while on Earth We seem to have a “Choice” These are Guardian Angels We call Farohar They only act as Guide They happen to be Our Conscience When by the Rules We don’t abide They are like oars Of a row boat They always keep Us in sight As soon as we Pray for Help!! They are immediately By our side. From Heavenly Abode they come To Heavenly A bode they return ‘Cause when their work on Earth is done Happy to be back Home Sweet Home.

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### **Religion of Choice**

When we are At x-roads The Choices We have to make Whether they be Good or Bad That's the risk We have to take. Though we have A Conscience Which purely acts As a Divine Guide It's entirely up to us If we wish to heed The Divine Voice inside. There are "No Have To's Nor any Don'ts" We are free as a butterfly To do whatever we want But, when the Great Summons comes And the sunset gleams There will be Rewards As well as Consequences. Being given the Power of Reasoning We can sieve the Good from the Bad When Meher Sarosh & Rashne Pass their Divine Judgement There will be No Plea Bargaining Will depend on the type of life one led.

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### **Restoration, Not Destruction**

When Asho Zarathushtra Would trudge up the mountain To hold a discourse With His Mazda He was not afraid To pose questions Such as: How When Why or where? To His Creator Here we are dealing With Human Beings Who like to wield Power But let me remind you If you need to question Needn't Flinch or cower Why do we say or do With the thought as to "What will people say"? Once again just a reminder One's going to be alone On Judgement Day!

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## **Are Traditions for Tradition's Sake**

Traditions are like Heirlooms Handed down From Generation to another  
If followed according To His Teachings Would take our Religion A lot further  
Traditions not grounded in righteousness And not promoting Is like a human  
Without a Heart So, why don't we Stick to Traditions Emanating from Him  
Without altering Or Tearing them apart. Don't Tailor your Religion according  
To your needs All I know about Tradition Follow the Path of Asha  
Accompany it with Humata Hukta Harvarshta Have Respect & Tolerance  
For all fellow beings As well as all Religions Use your Judgement (VOHU  
MANO) By giving your hands to many But your heart to one  
Ye "White Wall of Silence" Who hold the key To all our Traditions Get rid of  
Racism, Discrimination & Bigotry Instead Preach Tolerance, Respect Love,  
Unity & Equality We can swim or We can sink It's entirely

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Up to you Please Try to Spread The Truth' For that I can Only Trust a Few We  
are on the very Verge of Extinction Our Religion & Tradition et al Do Ye even  
care??? If at all we sink

It's just not fair 'Cause the Excruciating pain Will be unable to bear He was  
a righteous and peaceful warrior That's why He moved humanity Cause He  
wouldn't bend He didn't hesitate to Speak His mind From The path of Asha  
He never veered He cared less about His life From His enemies He never  
feared. With Radiant Happiness,

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## **Why Relive the Past?**

Why relive the past When the future is at stake We have the issues As well  
the answers Shoving them under The rug Is sure a fatal mistake  
Stubbornness to change Leads to revolt Puts reasoning on hold Unless one  
wants Zoroastrianism to fold? It seems Zoroastrianism Is like Oligarchy  
Ruled only by a few Spreading the Divine Message Rests solely with you I  
had, queried Whether Zoroastrianism Is or isn't for All Humanity? Haven't  
received an answer yet That can only mean one thing By bidding time By  
playing Russian Roulette

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**Switcheroo!**

Tho' Asho Zarathushtra  
Was the Chosen One  
Nothing was handed  
Down on a silver platter  
His Faith was tried  
And tested for  
Ahura Mazda the Supreme Creator  
When trouble is brewing  
We turn to praying  
Our hearts racing palpitating  
Anxiously hoping awaiting  
If Ahura Mazda will be answering.  
We beg, we plead  
Virtually on bended knees  
That we really truly are  
In dire need  
Reminding Him  
We follow His lead  
Even then He just won't heed  
Really He wants to  
Try and test If we are really hanging on  
By having Faith  
Into the very religion

One is born  
Switching allegiance  
Isn't a Choice  
Follow the Conscience  
One's inner Voice:  
Other religions are a  
Lure as well as a bait  
In one's pristine Prayers  
Please do have ultimate Faith.  
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**Women in the Gathas** "Since Ahura Mazda Could not be present  
Everywhere so He made Mothers" Search High & low There couldn't no  
other If God intended To populate the world Solely with men He wouldn't  
have created Wo-men Men are not Superior Nor Women Inferior He created  
them both To Equalize power And Righteousness to flower "We venerate  
Righteous woman Who is good In thoughts Words & Deeds" Who they may  
be? Dugdova, Freny Porouchisti Havovi. "Wise God, whoever Man or  
woman, Shall give me What you know To be best in life" Referring to both  
Husband & Wife Our Religion Zoroastrianism Ain't an Old Zoroastrian Boys  
Club Neither for Zoroastrians exclusively

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Peeling back the layers As regards translation It clearly states It's for All  
Humanity. Women of the Gathic era Along with their men folk Worked hard  
to spread The message of Asho Zarathushtra Instead of Advancing  
Communities Empowering Generations Our Religion is headed towards  
The Path of Extinction Women are not cattle Nor are they men's chattel  
They possess a different Kind of mettle Nor are they frail They are tough as  
nails Should be treated With Respect & Dignity As they are endowed With  
Wisdom Patience & Nobility



Painting of Iranian female musicians from Hasht-Behesht Palace ("Palace of the 8 heavens"), Isfahan, Iran, dated 1669

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**Judgement** "To err is human

To forgive divine"

Where O where

Have I heard that quote

Surely but steadily

Society will rock your boat

Society will sit

In judgement every

Single day

Regardless of what you do

Or for that matter what you say

Asho Zarathushtra was

One such person

He was on a Divine Mission

For His foes He cared a jot

As he loved Ahura Mazda a lot

Please do what

You think is best

As it's your life anyway

Remove the thought What will people say

In the end one will be at rest

'Cause you'll be able to shout

As well as say:

I Did It My Way!!!

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### **Ghambars**

In the days of yore  
There were no turkeys  
Nor were there any trimmings  
By igniting a bon fire  
Chanting the Holy Gathas  
In their own special way  
Celebrated Thanks Giving  
Whether it be Spring  
Summer Autumn Winter  
Nature lays out something new  
The onus is definitely on us  
By performing Ghambars  
Just to say Thank You.

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### **A Question of Belief**

What if we had  
No system of belief  
Nor religion too  
Can't begin to imagine  
What would become  
Of me & you?  
System of beliefs

Is like a rudder  
To keep the ship  
On course  
There is nothing in  
Zoroastrianism which  
Is compelled or forced  
It's good to take advice  
And listen to what  
People have to say  
In the end you're  
The only lonely Soul  
To face the music one day!  
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### **Sudreh Kusti**

Kushti prayers learnt At my mamaji's knee  
Didn't know it would be  
Extremely efficacious for me  
To last me till eternity  
I obediently learnt  
What I was taught  
Without giving a second thought  
As to what the prayers mean  
'Cause to become a Zoroastrian  
I was very very keen!!!  
Just like the Royals

Have their coronation  
I too had mine  
By wearing the symbols  
Of my religion  
I was truly crowned A proud Zoroastrian  
In a nutshell I was told  
To practice Good Thoughts  
Good Words Good Deeds  
Please make sure you heed  
If you want to join  
Ahura Mazda's fold!  
The rituals of tying As well untying my kusti  
What did it all mean?  
It's only when I  
Learnt the symbolism  
That's when it all became  
Clear to me!!  
Sudreh ain't no  
Ordinary shirt  
Simply made of cotton  
But a garment acting  
As a link  
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Between Past Present As well the future  
With a gareban  
Attached to it

To collect your reward points  
Of Good Thoughts Good Words Good Deeds!

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**World Zoroastrian Council**

The formation of WZC  
Is like exploring new lands  
Where all humans  
With Good Thoughts Good Words Good Deeds to band

We have only  
One life to lead  
Why not practice  
By turning them  
Into Good Deeds  
By instilling Faith  
As well as hope  
For those in need.  
It must have been  
Like a forest  
For the way  
To be cleared  
So that the Divine Message  
Was very distinctively heard.  
Thank you all for the work  
You all have done  
For leading the way

As to how one can  
Become A True Zoroastrian!  
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### **Gathas**

One day I opened  
The window to take  
In some fresh air  
And to my amazement  
The Divine Teachings  
Were being laid bare  
I delved deeper  
And I did find  
The Richest Treasure  
Available to all Humankind  
Zoroastrianism is affordable  
Universal as well as Free  
For those who are seeking Answers to questions  
Just like you & me

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### **Turn Back the Clock**

If I could turn Back the clock To many years ago  
I would have learnt the truth At which I didn't know We did what We were  
told to do Without "How, When, Where & Why" I wish I had questioned  
Rather than face the "lie" I don't think It's too late To turn the Clock around  
'Cause reading all the Literature which seems to abound Life seems to be

short So, spread what we were taught The Pristine Message of Asho  
Zarathushtra For which so valiantly He fought We have an opportunity The  
X111 Zoroastrian Congress Make an effort to set the stage Instead of  
alienation, Acceptance

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### **On Mazda making it Home!**

On Ahura Mazda making it Home!  
When our work on Earth is done  
Evil being defeated, Truth has won  
That's when HE will be coming Home!  
He is omnipotent, Omniscient  
Everywhere & Anywhere He  
Happens to be  
He will only make it Home!  
When Humans get rid of Insanity  
And achieve "Farashokeriti"

### **Parsees at Crossroads**

Regarding my fellow Parsees,  
They have indeed been  
At the forefront of everything  
Yet there may be  
Teensy weensy flaw  
Landing on the  
Western shores of India  
Asking for admission

It was kindness of a stranger

A Hindu King

A king who was NON-ZOROASTRIAN

What would have happened?

Had he not let us stay?

There would have been

NO Atash Behram, Agiaries,

Wadiaz, Godrej, Tatas

Or even Air India today!

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**A Gift of Thought to all Neo-Zarthoshties!**

Let the Bells of Freedom toll!

With open arms

We welcome you all

Into the Zoroastrian fold

May you, His Teachings do Uphold

'Cause the Road to Righteousness and through it

personal empowerment

Is paved with gold

May Vohuman inspire your mind

Lead you on

Shower you the Choicest Blessings of Mazda

As you all walk along

Lead you not astray

Keep you in sight



Guide you all on the righteous Path

With His Powerful Light!

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### **A Vision**

Ahura Mazda, "in the battle That runs thro' life I ask for a field that is fair" To  
follow the Dream With the Vision in mind Spreading Sacred Word To all  
Human Kind "Play The Game" The way it is played Play it fair & square May  
be at a Zoroastrian conference We can start somewhere

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### **“Juddins”**

It's been said

“Never judge a

Book by its pretty cover”

Then why do with

Demmeaning names

On people we do shower?

If we can get access

To any kind knowledge

Why can they do too?

“Knowledge is Universal”

Not for a select few?

They are under privileged Are needy as well poor

It does not give

One the right

To shove them

Out the door  
All I just have to say  
For those who  
Behave in a low lying way  
When the Great Call comes  
The sunset gleams  
Please make sure one has  
Panel of” lawyers”  
To plead one’s case  
That day!  
His Law will always hold sway!

### **Blind leading the Blind**

As the owners’ life  
Seem to ebb away  
The helpless soul  
Bidding time  
Seems to say  
In a lamenting wail:  
“Woe is me”  
Nervously awaiting  
Judgement Day!  
“Hear with your ears  
Ponder with a Good Mind”  
To the teachings of others  
Please do not be like the

“Blind following the blind”  
The people, one listens to  
As well as their message  
They will not be there  
At the Divine Court  
To plead your case!  
Don't let others shove  
Things down one's throat  
Even tho' we have a Choice  
One will be solely responsible  
For rocking ones' boat

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**“The Law is The Law”!**  
To victimize the innocent  
For “them it's  
A delightful play  
Someday when the  
Tables get turned  
We'll see who will  
Have the Last Say!  
This torture cannot and  
Will not go on for long  
'Cause there is a “Law”  
Which ultimately catches up?  
With the rich, pauper

Needy as well as the “Flawed”  
When Evil acts are committed  
They are entrenched in the mind  
The good noble acts  
Are forever forgotten  
Usually left far behind.

### **More Poems**

**by**

**Farida Bamji**

### **Crusades against Ignorance**

One must have heard this slogan:

“Two heads are better than one”

If one uses the latest technology

The “heads” could be that of

Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Sikh

Including that of a Zoroastrian.

Ignorance leads to

Negative actions of

Racism Separation

As well as Discrimination

Which goes against the

Principle: of How to be a

Good Zoroastrian.

To make this  
World a better place  
Safe as well secure  
We should try  
To unlock the “door”  
That has remained closed before.  
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### **Ode to Asho Zarathushtra from His Children**

Our Dad  
Though You are  
The Chosen One  
You never let Ego  
Get to Your head  
Nor do You  
Suffer from any Superiority Complex  
You are very humble yet serene  
Gentle & kind  
Never once loosing your temper  
Or being mean  
You approach Life  
With Reason & calm  
'Cause You realize that  
One achieves more  
Good than harm!  
Bestowing upon us

A very valuable gift  
A Universal Message  
Of Good Thoughts  
Good Words  
Good Deeds  
For human kind!  
We thank you so much  
For all you've done  
Please accept this card  
From Your loving Children  
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### **Mother's Day**

Tonight while the lights  
Are turned down low  
Our thoughts waft  
To a very special person  
Who have passed on  
Or left behind  
Many years ago.  
The bonds of love  
Will forever be strong  
Even if we didn't have  
Mother's day  
We will always have  
Her in our hearts

Remember her in  
Our prayers every single day  
Her love is like  
A Sweet Scented Rose  
Soothing & comforting  
If any trouble arose  
Making sure that the  
Woes & worries  
Are vaporized  
From now unto eternity  
As the sun begins to rise  
Wiping away the flow  
Of incessant tears  
Isn't true that  
Mother's are like a  
Cup that always Cheers!  
Happy Mother's Day!  
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### **Happy New Year**

As we prepare  
To ring in  
The year 2009  
We wait with  
Abated breath  
May it be a

Year overflowing  
With Love Happiness  
Within the entire  
Zoroastrian Community  
As well wishing  
One & all  
A Very Happy New Year!!!  
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### **Zoroastrianism Separation Discrimination**

Our community ought  
To be shaken & stirred  
Awaken from their  
Deep slumber  
So that they  
Can hear  
We are dwindling  
In numbers  
Our end is near!  
Conferences & meetings  
Does nobody good  
As the issues still stand  
Where they've stood  
We haven't budged  
Not even an inch  
How long will it



Take to be in sync?  
Knowingly  
As well as willingly  
Playing Russian roulette  
Keeping the community  
Divided what does one get?  
One knows very well  
What the Pristine  
Message should be  
The Freedom of Choice  
Universality as well Equality.  
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**Vohu Mano**

Vohu Mano  
Is a very rare  
Special Commodity  
Bestowed by the Divine  
To all of Humanity!  
It's like a starting gate  
From which serene  
Good Thoughts flow  
Thoughts leads to  
Good Words  
Which in turn  
Leads to Deeds

Gives us an idea  
As to the type  
Of life  
One should lead  
“Wrong turns”  
Does nobody good  
‘Cause it brings about  
One’s fall  
Especially when we’ve  
Done something terribly wrong  
Have no guts to admit  
There’s a teeny voice  
Which we call  
“Conscience makes  
Cowards of us all”.

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### **The Path of Righteousness**

This Path ain’t  
Paved with gold  
But uneven  
Jagged cobblestones  
It twists & turns  
As it wends its way  
By keeping the  
Ugliness at bay

If one wishes to  
Reach that  
Path someday!  
Inroads to a  
Man's heart is  
Cooking him a feast  
Way to Ahura Mazda's heart  
Is by abiding by the Tenets  
Of Good Thoughts Good Words  
As well Good Deeds  
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### **Vanishing Breed...**

We know that Vultures  
Are a dying breed  
So too are the Zoroastrians  
Even tho' the winds of change  
Are blowing in all directions  
Believing they are  
Descendants of  
A Pure Aryan Race  
How ridiculous?  
How totally base?  
A request to get  
One's Family tree retraced  
Our ancestors left

The shores of Iran  
When Iran was being invaded  
To distant shores they were headed  
Must have met "other Zoroastrians"  
At whose house these "Fleeing Zoroastrians"  
Must have got invited.  
To spread the Divine Message  
Is an honour & a Privilege  
Au Contraire!  
What do we experience?  
Dishonour & Sacrilege!  
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### **Fire!**

The body is the Temple  
Afarghanyu is the heart  
Fire contained within it  
Begins to smoulder  
Then it starts to spark  
Oh! Holy Fire!  
Thou art so Powerful  
And so strong  
Destroys the any evil  
That seems to come along  
So keep us focused  
Lead us not astray

With Thy Powerful Light  
Please show us the way!!  
“Nemsete Atarsh Mazdao  
Ahura Udao mazist Yazd”  
With these words  
I to Thee bow  
And begged to be heard  
“I shall pass this way but once  
Any good therefore I can do  
Let me do it now  
For I shall not pass this way again”  
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**Remembrance Day! 2008**

As the bells peal from  
Every corner of the globe  
Reminding us that  
Sun did rise and  
You gave us Hope  
The bells of Freedom  
Did sound loud and clear  
You sacrificed your life  
With hesitation & fear!  
Freedom came at  
A costly price  
After so many of you

Lost your lives  
May your memories  
In our hearts be alive  
Your utmost sacrifice  
Dedication & determination  
Will never be forgotten  
Though you (Heroes) have  
Departed to an Ideal Place  
The memories will  
Always linger on!  
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### **The Freedom to Choose & Moral Responsibility**

Proudly proclaiming  
We are followers  
Of Asho Zarathushtra  
Then why are we denying"  
Others to follow  
The Golden Rule:  
Humata Hukta Harvarshta.  
Zoroastrianism has no Rules  
Whether they be  
Don't or Do's  
'Cause one has Right:  
The freedom to choose  
Why tighten the noose?

If one has the right to choose?

Cut them loose

Set them Free

Aren't they

For all Humanity?

Zoroastrians have No Watch Towers

Nor Road Blocks along the way

Nor Rothweillers to guard the gate

Awaken Refresh

Restore Rejuvenate

The Message of our Faith

So, we can sow

Seeds of Happiness

Hatred we can abate

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### **Nature**

Morn pins its' curtain of silky blue

Birds of hue fill the skies: "How do you do"?

Golden Chandelier turns things to gold

Lo! Nature to us such things unfold

Laughing waves waltz together

Trees keep fanning their soft green feathers

Field & meadows like paintings in a book

I open the book to take a look

Sturdy mountains are aglow with fire

As God Apollo strings his lyre  
Winds keep skipping here & there  
Sweetly plays with a woman's hair  
Nightingale sings in full throated ease  
To take life with real peace  
Magnificent Venus in her silvery chariot  
All things become silent & quiet  
Heavens open, fills the earth with a glittering  
Light  
Hark! Angelic host proclaim" Good Night"

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### **A Universal Religion**

Finally the veil  
Has been lifted  
Rays of sunshine  
Are streaking through  
It wouldn't have  
Been possible  
Without a concerted effort  
By all of you  
To have a spine  
Not flinch or cower  
Regardless of those in power  
In spite of thumb  
Tacks thrown your way



Nor like a pendulum  
Did you sway  
You all made sure  
The Divine Message reached  
That Asho Zarathushtra preached  
Is available to ALL OF Humankind!

I just wish to express  
My appreciation  
As well sincere gratitude  
For giving hope to  
As well instilling The Faith  
That's meant for me & you!

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### **Zoroastrians Face Success Survival**

Someone said that “Zoroastrianism  
Is an ethnic Religion” and we  
Believe that Religion is decided at birth”  
To me it sounds more Klannish  
I think they should get his facts straight  
Ours is an Universal Religion  
Meant for one and all  
Be one from any ethnic  
Or national backgrounds  
There's No Need or Place  
For Prejudice

Treat every one Equally  
No matter who you be  
Regardless of Skin Color  
Religion or Race  
Before one falls  
From Ahura Mazda's Grace  
He dictated No DON'T'S  
Nor that matter any DOS  
"The Choice is yours" He said  
"Follow the Path of Good or Bad  
The Final Verdict is in your hands"  
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### **A Religion Lost**

Racism Discrimination Bigotry  
Babas Gurus Virgin Mary  
Sai Baba Meher Baba et al  
Aren't Parsees are a pathetic lot!!!  
For our Zoroastrian Community  
To Advance  
Generations to empower  
We need a strong willed leader  
Who in the face of adversity  
Will not flinch or cower.  
To some I say:  
"Why the ban"

Why behave like  
The Shiv Sena or  
Klu klux clan  
May I remind you  
That we are living  
On borrowed land  
I do implore  
Ye white wall of Silence  
Your valuable knowledge  
To us do impart  
It's up to the laity  
To shift the grain  
From the shaft  
As well as ye will  
Put the Zoroastrian Community  
On the Right Path.  
May the Powerful Light  
Of Ahura Mazda  
Lead each & everyone of us  
On the Path of  
Humata Hukta Harvarsha!  
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**Parsis at Crossroads**

Regarding my fellow Parsis  
They have indeed been

At the forefront of everything  
Yet there is a teeny weeny flaw  
Landing on the Western Shores of India  
Asking for admission  
It was the kindness of a stranger  
A Hindu King  
A King who was Non-Zoroastrian  
What would have happened  
Had he not let us stay?  
There would have been  
No Atash Behrams Agiaries  
Wadias Godrej or Tatas  
Or Air India today!  
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### **Circus**

“All the world’s a stage”  
We are merely performers  
Playing out our parts  
Not as animal tamers  
Or as flame throwers  
But by following  
The Right Path  
As Supreme Beings  
Occupying ring side seats  
Watching the “acts” get done

The lights get dimmed  
“As the Great Call comes  
And the sunset gleams  
He will lead our souls  
To the land of dreams”  
It all takes place  
Under a big tent  
Where most of  
Our waking life is spent  
Live it wisely  
Dispense it well  
Hope we never have to repent  
The world is larger  
Than one’s heart  
As performers we merely  
Act out our parts  
Wiping away Misery  
Sadness as well tears  
Spreading Joy happiness  
Laughter & Cheer  
‘Cause plenty abounds  
That’s what makes the  
World go round’.

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**If Only We Could....**

“If we could teach  
The world to sing  
In perfect harmony”  
Buy the world  
Peace Happiness  
And Prosperity  
Let’s look both ways  
Before crossing the street  
Stop look listen  
If the criteria  
Of Humata Hukta Havarshata  
Do we meet?  
We are like a  
Garden of  
Assorted flowers  
Of varied hues  
We can all live as one  
By not stepping  
Into other people’s shoes  
Or not other people’s toes  
By making more friends  
Instead of foes.

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## **EQUALITY**

(Asho Zarathushtra’s Vision)

“Hear with your ears  
Ponder with a Good Mind” (Yasna 30:2)

From the Path of Asha

Never veer

Open your mind

And never fear

Everyone is Equal

Before the Law

Be one is Hindu

Muslim Sikh Zoroastrian

Our is an Universal Religion

There is no need or place

For Prejudice

‘Cause one wears

A Sudreh Kushti

Does not a Zoroastrian make

Behave like a True Zoroastrian

Unless in Druj

One wants to bake.

Treat every one EQUALLY

No matter who you be

Regardless of skin colour

Occupation or Race

Before one falls from

Ahura Mazda’s Grace

He judges you not

By the amount of Wealth  
Or Degrees one holds  
But by the Good Thoughts  
Good Words Good Deeds  
In the Gareban one holds!  
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### **Divine Whisper**

Ancient Glorious Civilizations  
Have indeed come and gone  
Humanity has since on  
The Path of Enlightenment  
Has slowly chugged along  
Hark! dark clouds  
Pregnant & rumbling  
With oppression  
And suspicion  
Are hovering once again  
As they were before  
Asho Zarathusthra was born.  
Wars bloodshed misdeeds  
Even in this 21st century  
Has become the  
Order of the day  
How long is it going  
To stay that way?



I can almost hear  
The Soul of the Cow  
Cry out in pain:  
"For whom Thou didst create me,  
And who fashioned me?  
Feuds and Fury, and insolence of might  
Have oppressed me;  
None have I to protect me save Thee;  
Command for me then the blessings of a  
Settled, peaceful life"  
To achieve Freedom  
One always pays a hefty price  
As nothing in this world is free  
For the sake of Love of Freedom  
Neda a sweet innocent girl  
Made the ultimate sacrifice  
By paying not with a credit card  
But with her life  
May this innocent loss of life  
Inspire us to steadfastly  
Uphold the teachings of the Great  
Manthran Asho Zarathushtra  
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**Mother's Day!**

Her heart is like

A fluffy cloud  
Her eyes like  
Twinkling stars  
Keeps watch over you  
No matter where you are!

Mother's is a  
Child's best friend  
Whom she/he  
Grows to love & trust  
A mother is an  
Uncut diamond  
A pure crystal  
A diamond in  
The rough!

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### **Father's Day!**

Father's work too  
Is never done  
As he works  
His fingers to  
The bone  
What kind of  
Gift does he expect?  
Love understanding  
As well as respect!

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**Nooroze Phiroze**

As Nature proudly unveils  
Her prized Spring collection  
Of beautiful flora  
Exotic fauna  
That comprises of her  
Most treasured priceless creation  
Far away  
In the barn yards  
New born lambs  
Softly bleat  
Ducks go quack  
Pigs go oink  
Hens while flapping  
Their wings  
Crackle & scream  
In their own  
Sweet way  
Welcoming the  
Season of Spring!  
Trees coming alive with  
Their baby green leaves  
Swaying in the breeze  
Birds building their nests

In different shapes & sizes  
Anticipating the arrival  
Of their nestlings  
Ecstatic to have them  
While it is Spring  
One can ramble on  
Oh! How I wish I could  
Till then let me  
Wish you all  
Norouz Phirooze!

### **Umbilical Chord**

Once the umbilical Cord is snipped  
The baby is free from  
It's mother's womb  
It's free to explore the world  
As when growing up  
Is endowed with the  
Power of Reasoning  
Accompanied with a Conscience  
Along with thoughts words deeds

Humanity is still tethered to  
The Umbilical cord  
Throughout one's life time  
Until one's soul reaches

The "After life"  
Where the soul goes  
On trial shivering shaking  
Whispering:  
"Will I free or fried"

Life is very fragile like  
China ware especially  
Very uncertain  
No matter which  
Religion one belongs to  
There are no exceptions

One never knows when  
One gets "the call "  
One only realizes  
When the salty tear drops  
Start to fall

So, while whatever time we have left  
Here on Earth let's lower the  
temperature of hatred Bigotry

Let's correct the madness  
By eradicating ugliness  
That's plaguing humanity

Cause we walk this path

Just once, whatever

Good we can do

Let's fix it now cause

We'll never walk

This path again

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