

"Afrin ! Asho Zarthosht !"

Adil Rangoonwalla's Book On "The Miracles and Glory" Of Asho Zarathushtra.

A Sprinkle of Devotion On the Parched Soil of Faithlessness.

It is very unfortunate that most of the Parsis, though seemingly devoted to their Paigamber Asho Zarathushtra, have no idea about His lofty Yazatic stature in Ahuramazda's creation. The whole of the existing Avesta vibrate with the truth that He was not an evolving human being, but was Ahura's Ray of Lights, who was on the earth in a most subtle human form. Apart from several references to that effect in our existing Scriptures viz. Yazashney, (which includes the Gatha), Vendidad, Vispered and Khordeh Avesta, one full Avesta Nask was devoted to the Miracles of Asho Zarathushtra. It was known as the **Spend Nask** and corresponded to the 13th word of "Yatha Ahoo Vairyo" prayer viz. "Anghaheush". Based on this Nask, several accounts were written, one of which is Book VII of a marathon Pahalvi Book called Dinkard. It is known as the Pahalvi Zarathushtra Nameh.

We Parsis have become too lethargic to explore such glaring materials available to us about our own Paigamber.

My young friend, Adil Firoze Rangoonwalla has published, an English Book of 90 pages: "**Afrin ! Paigambar Zarthosht!**" which is manifestly based on the aforesaid scriptural materials. **Every Parsi family should have this book, as a first step towards knowing about the Paigambar.** It is a fragrant essence of "the Miracles and the Light" of Asho Zarathushtra - "Afdih va Gada" in the Pahalvi writers' words.

Events which happened as prelude to His miraculous birth, events at the time of his birth, the miracles of His childhood, His sojourn with Bahman Ameshashpand, the commencement of His Mission, His meeting Shah Kai-Vishtaspa, the fulfillment of His task, "His return to the spiritual world", and above all His Yazatic stature, are all narrated in simple language throbbing with devotion. All along scriptural references are set out. Almost every page has a foot note of reference or explanation.

It is possible that some ego-inflated highbrows may find some faults in some narration somewhere. Some may find the treatment too mystical; some, too non-mystical. Religion is a many splendored thing. Views and interpretations may differ. But so long as a researcher and author is prepared to follow the truth wherever it leads him to, his attempt is bound to be commendable. Unfortunately, our small community has many people and many self generated cults who simply refuse to face the truth, if it goes against their preconceived notions or disturb their illusory and pompous equilibrium. But not Adil. Throughout his book he has faithfully adhered to whatever truths he has come across during his painstaking studies and researches; and that is and will be the secret of this book's success.

Above all Adil does transmit to the reader his feeling of burning devotion towards Asho Zarthosht. That is the real test of any art, as Tolstoy and Tagore pointed out. Look at Adil's title "**Afrin ! Paigambar Zarthosht!**" He does not say, it is the Life or Biography or even the Miracles of the Paigambar, as Pahalvi writers say. He conveys with a bang that if this is your Paigambar, say "**AFRIN**" ! **PRAISE BE TO HIM !!** As Adil ends his book by the words "**Indeed rejoice**".... **Ushta No Zato Athrava You Spitamo Zarathushtro...** That He is born!

One thing I would like to emphasise specially. There is a chapter (pages 52 to 66) under the title "**The Yazata of the Renowned Name**", which is a treasure house of scriptural references proclaiming the Truth that Asho Zarathushtra was a Yazata in human form. In fact, the said title of the chapter is a version of Avesta lines in Yazashney Ha 3-21 and 7-21: "Aokhto Namno Yazatahe" (page 57). At the end of the chapter there is a sub-title "The Yazata Issue In a Nutshell" (The word 'Truth' would have been more appropriate than "Issue"). Here Adil has summed up the truth by setting out a free translation from "a Gujarati book dedicated to the prophet." **That book is no other than the noted and renowned savant, Khurshedji Cama - K.R. Cama's Gujarati book "Paigamber Asho Zarathushtra na Janmarano Aheval."** Of course, Adil has named the book in the footnote, but it would have been more fruitful to mention that even K. R. Cama had emphasised, on unimpeachable Avesta testimony, that Asho Zarathushtra was a Yazata in human form. This is necessary to silence those, who having depicted the Yazatic Paigamber as an ordinary prisoner with a "langot" in an insulting film, now refuse to adopt the truth that He is a Yazat.

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The inquiries about the book may please be made with the author himself at M-4. Dalal Estate, Lamington Road, Mumbai 400 008.

Such devotion for the Paigambar Saheb flowing from the heart of 30 years young Adil is a ray of hope for the distressed eyes of not so young,

- K. N. Dastoor

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