

NAVJOTE

Navjote means a 'new joti' - Nav means new and Joti means initiate. Hence Navjote is the ceremony of the new initiate into the religion.

So it is very important that you be a good one.

By paying more attention to learning your prayers and the correct procedures of the ceremony. Celebrations are fine after the Navjote. You could wear the most expensive outfit, have grand celebrations, music, food, lights - all after the Navjote; but utmost care has to be taken about the ceremony itself - the place and time it is performed and who performs it, the sudreh and kushti, which are the spiritual equipment of the child and the recitation of the prayers along with the corresponding actions of investing the sudreh and kushti.

We must first understand what it means "to initiate a child into the Religion". This is not merely an act or ceremony to include the child into the Zoroastrian faith and thus increase the count of the community members by one. Navjote is primarily and manifestly a Kriya. Kriya means a motion, movement or an action that generates divine forces, which in turn cause certain effects in nature. The Navjote, connects a child born of Zarathushtrian parents to the divine power station of Paegambar Zarathushtra and sets in motion spiritual forces and energies within the personality of the child.

That means we are all connected to Lord Zarathushtra's power station, since the day our Navjotes were done.

In order to understand this divine power station and how can we get connected to it consider an electric bulb. When the switch connected to the bulb by means of wires is turned on, the electric current flows from the switch to the bulb and the bulb lights. The electric current is generated in a power house

or a power station. It then flows from the power station to our house, passing through sub-station along the way. This analogy can be applied to the Navjote Kriya.

A Navjotee is like the electric bulb. In him/her, is an invisible non-physical body in which are located energy centers. The invisible non-physical body is called *Køhrp* and the energy centers are called *Chakhras*. The *Køhrp* is the electric bulb and the *Chakhras* are the wires there-in. Navjote is the process by which these wires within you, are lighted forever. Where does the current that lights up the bulb flow from?

One of the divine missions of Lord Zarathushtra was to help, activate and energize the good forces of creation in the non-physical worlds known as *Nisti*. In one of the regions of the non-physical world, the *Nisti*, he established a power station. We shall call it Z-Power Station (Z for Zarathushtra). The function of the Z-Power Station is to absorb divine light or currents and then transmit them in the non-physical world, in which our Earth also exists. The currents produced by the Z-Power Station are different from the physical electric currents - they are divine light. **The Z-Power Station itself is the Religion, the Daena of Lord Zarathushtra.**

Thus Navjote is a *kriya* or a process which connects and attunes a child with Lord Zarathushtra's Power Station or the Zarathushtrian Religion, so that he or she may, throughout life, continually receive and absorb his divine currents, energies and blessings.

So Navjote is turning on the switch that allows the divine currents to light the wires of the bulb in a Navjotee.

We have mentioned that the ordinary physical electric currents flow from the power station to our house via sub-stations. But what is the sub-station for the divine currents flowing from the Z-Power Station?

Well it is our fire-temples - Atesh Behrams or Agiaries are the direct recipients of the divine currents from the Z-Power Station. Thus if a Navjote is done inside an *Agiary* or an *Atesh Behram*, the divine currents will be absorbed easily into the child and light the unseen 'wires'.

So much for the place, now for the best time the Navjote must be performed. The Navjote must be performed in an *Atesh Behram* or *Agiary* in the early morning hours, during the period of *Hoshbaam*.

The period of *Hoshbaam* starts 72 minutes before sunrise and lasts until sunrise, which is the beginning of the *Havan Geh*. *Geh* ordinarily means a time period within a 24 hour day. A day is divided into 5 time periods or *Gehs*.

The 72 minutes of *Hoshbaam* are divided into two periods of 36 minutes each. The Navjote should be done in the 36 minutes... Because, it is during *Hoshbaam* that the Atesh Padshah receives the maximum Z-currents and also because **it is the time when the good forces of Ahura Mazda have maximum impact on that part of the earth.** Thus, *Hoshbaam* means the **dawn of divine consciousness** and it is the time when the channels of divine

light are spread in all their glory. In other words, Ahura Mazda's *Yazatas* form an assembly, and the forces of darkness are in wane.

So it just doesn't make sense in having the vital kriya done in a public hall or compound and in the evening. The atmosphere is not at all conducive for the absorption of Z-currents. A public place cannot be an assembly of *Yazatas*. When we, as parents, are carrying out our spiritual duty to connect our child to Lord Zarathushtra for life, it is not an occasion where worldly pomp and splendor are more important than the kriya itself. We are planting the seeds of faith in the innocent soil of the child; we are preparing the child for an incessant fight with the evil forces, within and without throughout life. What right then, do we have to reduce such a divinely noble kriya to a downright farce? Are we not playing with the faith and fate of our own dear child?

First, Navjote should be performed in an *Atesh Behram* or an *Agiary* and second, it should be performed in the early hours of *Hoshbaam*.

Thus one becomes a good Nav-joti.

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