

## **Individuals View of Uniqueness of Zarathushtra Vision and its impact on mankind**

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“Whatever words and deeds are noblest, best,  
Teach me, O Mazda make my life express,  
Through love of Fellow-man, through search for Truth,  
The yearnings and the prayers of my heart  
Renew, Ahura, through the strength to Serve,  
My Life, and make it as Thou wishest – TRUE”

(Yasna 34.15)

Airyana- vaejo, Iran is the cradle of Zoroastrianism. Here the coming of the Divine Revelation kindled the torch of civilization for the guidance of mankind. It will take long and hard work to grasp the vision and fully understand the fundamental spiritual, philosophical and ethical teachings of the Gathas- the Holy Hymns of Asho Zarathushtra. We will have to cultivate higher Spiritual consciousness to understand and experience the profound spiritual wisdom in the Gathas. Among the prophets of the world, the spiritual status of Holy Zarathushtra is unique. He was not an ordinary mortal, he was a Yazata in human form. He was a universal teacher whose mission was to give spiritual illumination to mankind. The very word Zarathushtra means “illumination”. More than six thousand years ago Holy Zarathushtra revolutionized the religious life of the Iranians and brought forth a profound vision, which hitherto represented the evolutionary phase of religion. With the transformation and evolution of our own spiritual consciousness, the true spirit of the Gathas will become clearer. Holy Zarathushtra received God’s Revelation through his inner self.

The religion of Zarathushtra is not merely an ethical code as many of us think. It is the Science of all Sciences ( Frahngan fragha), the essence of that divine and spiritual knowledge. It is a way of life, a prescribed Path for a soul born in the Zoroastrian Religion. The Advent of Holy Zarathushtra

was the Cosmic Manifestation of the Divine Plan for a new cycle of the spiritual and ethical evolution of mankind. Long before Asho Zarathushtra was born into this world, his coming had been predicted. According to Pahlavi literature the Spirit of the Earth, 3000 years before the revelation of the religion, witnessed a vision in Heaven of the “fravashi” of the Prophet Zarathushtra. In Yasna Ha 29 there is the description of a great vision in which Zarathushtra beholds Geush Urva, the soul of Creation appealing to a Ratu, Spiritual leader. At the end of this vision he himself is entrusted with the great mission of giving Enlightenment to humanity.

Zoroastrianism brought a great revolution in all aspects of man’s life in a large part of the entire world of his time which marked the end of old nomadic order in ancient society and the beginning of a new civilization based on Reason and Enlightenment. Our Prophet Holy Zarathushtra gave to the world a new and unique concept of religion by coining a new word DAENA-Inner Self, to define its conceptual base. To him religion was not the mere worship of a deity but a process of introspection, looking within, knowing one’s own self, a mystical experience of a relationship with the Divine Spirit within and surrounding us. Zarathushtra asked us to use our Enlightened Mind ( sucha Mananghah) our God given potentiality, to search within to find our own spiritual path based on truth.

During these remote dark ages of Persia, Zarathushtra stood upon the lofty heights of Mt Demavand communing with Ahura Mazda and then proclaiming his belief in the Cosmic struggle between Spenta Mainyu and Anghra Mainyu, as the basis of the new faith he preached. This struggle between life’s two attitudes of Good and Evil, positive and negative, is inborn in man’s thinking and will perhaps remain so until the end of the world. The Gathic view of Creation, with its emphasis on free will is closely linked with Zarathushtra’s explanation of the Origin of Evil, a subject he deals with fully in his very first sermon in Yasna Ha 30. The greatest gift Ahura Mazda has bestowed upon mankind is the Free Will – Wisdom of Choice/ Selection. The Gathic Freedom of Choice is man’s MORAL choice between the two paths of Good and Evil, Right and wrong. “MAN”, said Rousseau, Father of the French Revolution, “was born free, but everywhere he is in chains.” The Holy prophet Zarathushtra came as an Emancipator to free human beings from their various bondages. Of these bondages or chains, perhaps the strongest is superstition. Our Holy Prophet reminds us that freedom and responsibility go together and the right path can only be followed by right thinking.

One of the powers given to us is being able to “hear” the voice of God ( Sraosha) guiding us through that “inner ear” connected to our basic consciousness. Attune this “ear” through meditation and prayers and you can draw so near to God that his Guidance will come through clearly. Sraosha, the Inner Institution, the Inspired Illuminator of Holy Zarathushtra himself resides within the precincts of our own inner-selves. Zarathushtra created the spiritual concept of Sraosha- Intuitive Divine Consciousness. He yearns for the vision of Ahura Mazda, which he longs to attain by Sraosha- the Path of Intuition, and urges all believers to do the same.

Asho Zarathushtra the greatest spiritual reformer and founder of our Religion proclaimed a Divine message, which had never been heard before (agushta vachao senghamahi). Through attaining this inner spiritual vision, he was able to know the workings of the Immutable Divine Law of the Truth, and experience the eternal divine presence of the one Ever-loving and All Knowing, Supreme Ahura Mazda. He was the first prophet to promulgate and teach pure Monotheism in the world through a belief in the concept of the Supreme Godhead – Ahura Mazda.

The Gathas, his Divine Songs, the oldest of the existing Avestan literature, are the precious spiritual heritage of Zoroastrians which the Athravans have kept alive through oral recitals and written discourses. The main purpose of the Holy Gathas is to awaken in man’s higher Consciousness the need to relate God with Man and the Universe for the purpose of perfect harmony. In his Holy Hymns, Zarathushtra yearns to inspire a living faith in a living God in the hearts of mankind.

Asho Zarathushtra in his Divine songs teaches about the evolution and the possible regeneration of the world and the human race through the collective enlightened consciousness of individuals. Today, humanity needs three things, - a spiritual interpretation of the Universe, spiritual emancipation of the individual and basic principles of a universal import directing the evolution of human society on a spiritual basis.

The Modern world has strayed far from these high ideals which has made ethical advancement impossible. I urge the Zarathushtis of today to evaluate their position and reconstruct their social life in the light of ultimate principles revealed in the Gathas, in order to create spiritual brotherhood which is the ultimate aim of Zoroastrianism. For the ethical advancement of man, I think the remedy lies in following one’s own religion. It is the duty of every born Zoroastrian, man, woman or child to read the Gathas and our holy scriptures and understand the original principles correctly. These have

to be read, not only with the eyes, but with the best light that our intellect can supply, and even more, with the truest and purest light that our heart and conscience can provide.

Today it is our duty to pay a sincere tribute to the ever living voice of Asho Zarathushtra, the Iranian Prophet by following the precepts as proclaimed in the Ahunavaiti Gatha:

“As long as I have will and wield the power,  
I will teach mankind to love and strive for truth.”