A SPECIAL PRAYER ON "JAMSHEDI NAVROZE"

(21st March - Jamshedi Navroz is the most important day for a Zarthosti. A day of Equinox - equal day and night. A day when sun enters the first sign of Zodiac-Aries. A day which brings in the spring - Birthday of the mother Earth. The advantage of the beneficial rays of the sun should be taken on this by reciting the Khurshed - Meher Niyaesh as shown by Mr. Pardiwala. — ED)

The Jamshedi Navroze day is celebrated by Mazdayasni Zarthostis in a very special way. It does not fall on any of the Zoroastrian Roj - Mah calendar which we follow for our other religious ceremonies. Every year it falls on 21st of March.

On this particular day Khurshed Yazad shines with its full glitter and glory and spreads its sunshine (roshni) on this Geti (earth) abundantly. On this auspicious day the following prayer is recommended in praise of Khurshed Yazad and to get his bountiful blessings.

In Havan Geh: 3 Khorshed Neyayesh,

1 Meher Neyayesh and
1 Vispa Humata

The above order makes one set of prayer. Likewise one should pray 3 such sets in the same order. This will end up in reciting 9 Khorshed Neyayesh, 3 Meher Neyayesh and 3 Vispa Humata prayers in Havan Gah.

In Rapithwan Gah: 3 Khorshed Neyayesh,

1 Meher Neyayesh

Two sets of prayers in Rapithwan Gah, maintaining the same order. That means in Rapithwan Gah one will recite 6 times Khorshed Neyayesh and 2 times Meher Neyayesh. It is important to note that in Rapithwan Gah the Vispa Humata prayer is NOT to be recited.

Note: When Havan Gah is recited from Hormazd roj of mah Avan till the last Gatha (Vahishtoisht) instead of Rapithwan Gah, (Second Havan Gah) one should follow the prayer set given above for Havan Gah.

In Uzirin Gah: 3 Khorshed Neyayesh, 1 Meher Neyayesh.

Only one set as prescribed above in Havan Gah is to be recited in this Gah. Thus in Uzirin Gah one would recite 3 Khorshed Neyayesh and 1 Meher Neyayesh. No Vispa Humata prayer in Uzirin Gah.

It is possible that due to certain limitations or constraint one may not be able to do one's normal prayers as given earlier. In such events the following numbers of Ahunavar (Yatha Ahu Vairyo) prayers are recommended. However it must be noted that this should happen in exceptional cases and not by way of routine.

Normal prayers			No. of Yatha in lieu			
			of normal prayers			
	Five Gahs			65	Yatha	
					for each	Gah
	Khorshed	Neyayesh		103	Yatha	
	Meher	Neyayesh		65	Yatha	
	Mah Bokhtar	Neyayesh		65	Yatha	
	Ava	Neyayesh		65	Yatha	
	Atash	Neyayesh		65	Yatha	
	Ardibehest	Yasht		65	Ya tha	
	Sarosh Yash	t Hadokht (si	mall)	75	Yatha	
	Sarosh Yash	t Vadi (big)		103	Yatha	

In addition to the above table, the Ahunavar prayer is also prescribed for different situations in life. There are innumerable instances given in Avesta where the Ahunavar prayer is recommended, however following are the few situations through which today's Zarthosti passes when he can recite one Ahunavar.

One Yatha before going to see a stranger. One Yatha before crossing a river or putting your legs in a lake, sea, river etc. Two Yatha before giving blessings to someone. Five Yatha before starting a new work. Five Yatha before leaving the house and again while entering the house. Five Yatha before lighting a lamp. Five Yatha if one feels lost on the road and does not find proper direction or is in any trouble. Twenty-one Yatha if one comes across a funeral procession on the road.

- T. Pardiwalla

This set of prayers in the three different Gahs is to be recited only once in a year. It is highly recommended to a true Zorastrian to do so and get the benefit out of it.

T. Pardiwalla