



FEZANA Age-Appropriate Lesson Plan

Subject Category (circle one): Religion/Ceremony **History** Prayer Gathas
Comparative Religion **Shahnameh**

Age Group (circle one): PreK-K **Grades 1-3** Grades 4-5 Grades 6-8 Grades 9-12

Lesson # (if applicable): 2

Subject of the Lesson: King Jamshid

Background Knowledge for the Teacher:

King Jamshid, the son of King Tahmuras, became the next king. King Jamshid ruled for 700 years. He was one of the wisest kings and did a lot of hard work. He introduced science, medicine, arts and crafts to his people.

For the first 50 years of his kingdom, King Jamshid devoted himself to the making of weapons of war. He wanted to lead his armies to victory, so he learned how to forge metal and make weapons and armor: helmets, lances, chainmail, missile-proof vests, swords, and horse armor.

For the next 50 years, he focused on creating clothing. He saw that animal skins were not good to wear, so he learned to weave linen, silk, and cotton. He taught his people how to spin and weave their own clothes, so that they could look beautiful for days of festivals. When the weaving was completed, they learned how to wash the materials and how to sew.

After that was complete, he spent the next 50 years creating four different classes of tasks for mankind:

1. Clergymen known as Katuzi: those charged with rite of worship. They devoted themselves to worship. The temples were built in the mountains
2. Lionheart warriors known as Neysari: they devoted their lives to protect the land, people and secured the throne
3. Farmers known as Nasudi: those who helped to cultivate the earth
4. The fourth class was named Ahnukhwashi: those who industriously spent themselves in all crafts

King Jamshid then introduced people to mingling earth with water. They found that they could make bricks from the clay that was produced. They built walls, bathhouses, castles, and palaces.

King Jamshid sought to find gems. He split open rocks to find different gems, such as gold, silver, yellow amber, rubies, and sapphires.



He also built ships to travel the oceans of the world.

King Jamshid commanded that his servants, called Demons, build a throne for him with lots of gems. The Demons raised the throne to the vault of heaven. King Jamshid was sitting there and as the sun was shining, people were staring at his glory, and they gathered and told him of his fortune. He called the day, the first day of Spring and named it Nowruz which means “new day”.

King Jamshid ruled as King for hundreds of years in peace, until the support of God (Farr Izadi) went away when he became filled with pride. He became filled with vanity and thought of himself as God. He told his people, “I recognize no lord but myself. It was I who adorned the world with beauty, and it is by my will that the earth has become what it now is. It is because of me that you have minds and souls in your bodies. Now, that you are aware that all this was accomplished by me, it is your duty to entitle me as the Creator of the World.” As soon as he made his speech, the support of God departed from him and caused his people to turn away from him. Men deserted his court, and no one desired to remain in his service.

We leave the story of Jamshid here and will go to a country called Dashteh Savaran.

Lesson for students:

The teacher will use the information in the “Background Knowledge for the Teacher” section to go over the first story. After reading the first story to the students, the students can work on the activity listed below.

Activity for Students:

After reading the story, the students can create their own throne using construction paper, crayons, and paint or with clay.

Sources:

- *Shahnameh: The Persian Book of Kings* retold by Elizabeth Laird
- *Shahnameh: The Epic of the Kings* by Abolqasem Ferdowsi (Translated by Reuben Levy)

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