



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):

Subject of the Lesson:

Yasna 30.9-Purpose of Life

Background Knowledge for the Teacher:

Yasna 30.9

Transliterated Text:

*atcâ tôi vaêm xyâmâ
yôî îm ferashêm kerenâun ahûm,
mzdâscâ ahurânghô
â môyâstrâ baranâ ashâcâ
hyat hathrâ manâ bavat
yathrâ cistish anghat maêthâ.*

(The Gathas: Yasna 30.9)

By Dr. Jafarey

And may we be among those
who make this life fresh!
You, lords of wisdom,
who bring happiness through righteousness,
come, let us be single-minded
in the realm of inner intellect.

By Dinshaw J. Irani

So may we be like those making the world progress towards perfection; May the Lord and His Divine spirits help us and guide our efforts through Truth; For a thinking man is where Wisdom is at home.

Vocabulary:

ferashêm kerenâun- making this life fresh, renewing this existence.



Learning target

The master question has always been: Why are we here and what is the purpose of this life? Civilizations have come and gone, empires have shaped numerous cultures and human history for as long as there's been humanity. For millions of years mankind has thrived to be better and stronger. This innate desire to advance has always existed from discovery of fire to discovery of space continuum. We as humans have the potential to promote this existence and it's been done constantly. However sometimes we forget that existence includes our environment, our planet, and other beings. We should be reminded that part of our mission is while advancing and renovating our existence we should also be in harmony with our surroundings and to be successful in this path using acquired knowledge and wisdom is the key.

Lesson for students:

Zarathushtra was a brilliant man who was mentally and philosophically ahead of his time. Albert Einstein was another example of a brilliant mind in the modern scientific world. Both people advanced our existence, one spiritually and ethically the other scientifically. But the mass population of this planet on average had a hard time comprehending the concepts presented by those two people. The significance of this fact is that within the 4000 years between these two people humanities has advanced greatly anyways. Our knowledge has advanced and the dept of our value system has increased tremendously. We have discovered, created, built, modified many things to our advantage; however, destroyed so much as well. Through science and innovations mankind has defeated deadly diseases, natural disasters, and catastrophic events. Lifespan has become longer and more sophisticated and, in many instances, more gratifying by the same people whose mission in life has been promoting and progressing this life forward for centuries.

However, Mankind needs to remember the simple notion that one of its duties as an intelligent being is to renew this existence in its entirety. And while we advance through science we must respect and protect the planet and ultimately the universe and that's what the Gathas refer to as a meaningful righteous life.

Activity for Students:

1: The Gatha suggests that man's purpose in life is to refresh this existence. Is believing in gender equality and practicing life in a way that treats men and women equal one example? Is this practice mentioned in Zarathushtra's teachings?

2: Through what means did Cyrus the Great, a Zoroastrian king who wrote the first charter of human rights in history, advance this existence?



3: What tools do we have to promote our lives? What is it that we are promoting? Can anyone do this?

4: Is there a reward for those who succeed in this path? If so, what is it?

5: Name someone you know in history or modern era that succeeded in this mission and advanced life for others on a universal scale.

Take away lesson:

Eternal happiness is the ultimate reward in one's life. It's achieved by righteous acts that benefit others, the environment, humanity, and existence in general. It can be as simple as an act of kindness toward others or as sophisticated as finding a cure for cancer. The possibilities are endless and within reach of human imagination. Every man and woman within their limits can be part of this noble purpose of refreshing this existence. Let us be among those who wisely participate in this mission.

Sources:

1. The Gathas Our Guide Translated by AA Jafarey
2. Hymns of Zarathusthra Translated by DJ Irani

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