
Misconception about Mehregan

Fariborz Rahnamoon

Just like Now Rooz is the celebration of the **Vernal Equinox** and the first day of spring, **MEHREGAN** is the celebration of the **Autumnal Equinox** and the first day of Autumn. Having harvested the crops, and reaped the fruits of their collaboration with nature, having achieved the set goals, it is time for Giving Thanks to nature and all who contributed to the endeavour. It is time to enjoy, the outcome of working with nature by sharing the bounties of nature.

Mehregan is celebrated by sharing and spreading love and kindness among friends and neighbours. It also symbolizes the cycle of growth towards perfection (Hurvatata).

The ancient Zarathushti culture and festivals are based on understanding, respecting and celebrating the Ultimate Truth that is in Nature - **Asha Vahista**. With the passage of time, having become weak due to multiple defeats at the hands of opposing cultures, the original philosophy behind Mehregan has given way to superstitions. Truth has thus been sacrificed at the altar of Superstition.

As a result, Mehregan which is supposed to be celebrated on the Autumnal Equinox on the First of Mehr (22/23 September) is wrongly celebrated ten days after the Autumnal Equinox on Mehr day in the Month of Mehr.

How did this come about?

After the Arab invasion of the Persian Empire and enforcement of the Quranic verse, which demands conversion to Islam or death for the infidel men and sex slavery for the infidel women, which resulted in the greatest Genocide that the world has failed to recognize.ⁱ Persian scholars and thinkers, even when converted to Islam, were persecuted and killed, books were burnt and reading and writing in Persian was outlawed. The 360-day lunar calendar was imposed on the Iranians and the most accurate calendar in human history that needed no intercalation was made to vanish.

The Zarathushtis that survived in small pockets by paying the Jizyah tax followed the so imposed 360-day lunar calendar but added some ancient features in private. After a few generations of following this lunar calendar, the group of Zarathushtis know as Parses who fled to India took this calendar with them to India and called it the Shenshai (King of Kings) calendar. The 7,711 Zarathushtis that survived in Iran as infidels and were rescued by Maneckji Limji Hataria in 1854, called it the Kadmi (Ancient) calendar.

When these two groups separately realized that their calendar had gone astray they added 5 days to make it 365 days but froze it. Thus, the Kadmi calendar has its New Year in July and the Shenshai in August instead of on the Vernal Equinox in March. Since the 30 days of each month had a unique name they had to find a name for these five days that would come once a year. It was around this period that the European scholars had become interested in Zoroastrianism. In 1858 Professor Martin Haug had

discovered the Gathas from among the Avesta and so these five extra days were named after the Gathas.

When it came to celebrating the ancient festivals, the Parses had a memory of none and celebrated none. The Kadmi group in Iran remembered most except Yalda, but with the 360-day calendar it had lost its original significance, so they looked for a reason and came up with the coinciding of the name of the month with that of the day. The New year was an acceptance it was celebrated in Farvardin month on the day named Ormazd. Tirgan was celebrated in October in Tir month on Tir day. Mehregan was celebrated in December in Mehr month on Mehr day. On both occasions, the reason for the celebration was associated with Ancient History and the mythologies in the Shahnameh. Tirgan was related to Arshah the archer shooting his arrow -TIR- to determine the border of Iran. Mehregan was related to the victory of Faraydoon against Zahaak and also to Mitra and the importance of keeping promises.

Then in 1906, a group realized that both calendars are wrong and based on the Bundahishn the Fasli / Seasonal Calendar was developed but as a compromise, they limited the number of days per month to 30 and the last five days were dedicated to the Gathas and every four years a leap day was named Avardad. This calendar again has two version in India it starts on 21 March irrespective of the Vernal Equinox. In Iran, it starts on the Equinox which could be 19, 20 or 21 March. Both of these versions have a flaw due to the 30-day month whereby the Summer solstice and Autumnal Equinox do not coincide with the beginning of the respective months both happen in the following month. So, the coinciding of the name of the month and day still remains the best reason for celebration.

It is time to recognize the truth.

- 1- All four calendars are flawed and none are supported by the scriptures.
- 2- The Gathas were discovered in 1858 by Prof. Martin Haug. So, the name of the five days at the end of the year and all the stories about its relation to the soul came into being around that period.
- 3- The original All Soul Day of Sassanians was on the 19th day after the Vernal Equinox, Farvardin Roj (day) in the month of Farvardin, which in Iran is celebrated as Farvardingan.
- 4- The only calendar detailed in the scriptures (Bundahishn 25:25) is the MazdaYasni calendar which has been recognized as a perfect calendar from the 2nd millennium BCE which need no correction for 110,000 years. Check it out at <http://zarathushticalendar.com/>

LET'S CELEBRATE MEHREGAN ON THE FIRST DAY OF FALL SATURDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2018

THE AUTUMNAL EQUINOX IS ON 22 SEPTEMBER, 2018

AT 18:54 PDT/ 21:54 EDT / AND

IN IRAN at 5:24 AM IST / 01:54 UTC/ ON 23 SEPTEMBER, 2018

MEHREGAN KHOJASTEH BAAD

ⁱ As a result, it still openly continues to this day and age under the very nose of the superpowers, in ISIS held territories. http://ahura.homestead.com/files/GENOCIDEofZarathushtiesWEBJULY07_2_.pdf