

**THE FEDERATION OF ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATIONS
OF NORTH AMERICA (FEZANA)**

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To: The Presidents & Representatives of FEZANA Member Associations and friends,

I wish to dedicate this message to the Zarathushti Clergy – our Aathravans.

It has been said that our religion exists today because of our priests, who can deny that. Their dedication, sacrifice, steadfastness and leadership to our community are legendary and has enabled our religion and community to survive the millennia of ups and downs.

The recent resolution passed by the Parsi High Priests in India has received high degree of Press and opinions for or against in the media and the net abound. As FEZANA, we recognize that our jurisdictional responsibility is enveloped in USA and Canada, hence it would be inappropriate for us to remark on this issue. Personal opinions, notwithstanding, FEZANA is committed to INCLUSIVITY of all schools of thought from a point of view of information and knowledge transfer. FEZANA has not indulged, and wisely so, in matters of religious authority, or in defining who is or not, or can be or not, a ZARATHUSHTI. This has been accepted as the honored prerogative of the two Mobed Councils of North America, and has been left as a decision of its Member Associations since their autonomy is enshrined in its Constitution.

However, FEZANA is always keen to support any works of the Mobed Councils that would be in tune with the objectives and purposes as stated in its Constitution. One such example is the recent North American Mobed Council's Seminar on "RITUALS" held in Toronto Canada on April 19, 2003, that FEZANA was fortunate to sponsor.

Even though, due to the unfortunate concern about SARS, which took a heavy toll with four Speakers canceling out, along with a few attendees; the NAMC organizers did a marvelous job of conducting this event to enable those who were there to have a fruitful day of religious learning and Hamazor.

Er. Parvez Bajan from Mumbai, Mobed Kamran Jamshidi from Sweden and Prof. Almut Hintze from School of Oriental & African Studies, University of London, UK, deserve our special thanks for braving to come from overseas.

FEZANA is also undertaking a project to sponsor three Young Mobeds to attend the upcoming North American Zarathushti Youth Congress in Toronto Canada in July 2003. Their sponsorship will include return Air-fare, NAZYC 2003 Congress registration and their stay at the Congress Venue, etc. from funds donated by Individuals and ZYNA.

The three young Mobeds are

1. Ervad. Mehernosh Bhada from Pakistan
2. Ervad. Darayus Bajan from India
3. Mobed. Ardeshir Hormozyari from USA

The Congress Program Committee has agreed to set up a Two-Hour Session for a panel of four Mobeds, including three of the above and a local Young Mobed from Toronto. We look forward to their active participation and hope that the concern for SARS has been eliminated by then.

We pray that Mazda Ahura give protection and strength to those affected by the dreaded disease of SARS and prevent its further spread. We offer our support and co-operation to the medical authorities and wish that a cure is soon found. We have reports of a Young Nurse who has recovered from SARS. This gives us hope that the Grace of Mazda is everywhere. May it be so forever! Amin.

I was invited to deliver a message from FEZANA at the NAMC Seminar. It is reproduced below.

Respected Dastoorji Sahebs, Ervads, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with pride and passion that I stand before you, on behalf of the Zarathushti community of U.S.A. and Canada, represented by FEZANA.

We congratulate the North American Mobed Council for organizing this Seminar on "Zarathushti Rituals, Past, Present and Future", and wish them success.

FEZANA has always been there to support the good works of the NAMC, whenever requested to do so. It is with much pleasure that FEZANA has contributed to this event with funds as well as volunteer time through the members of its Historical Research & Preservation Committee, chaired by Er. Jehan Bagli.

Our aim is to offer FEZANA's leadership, to encourage you to think, speak and act as far as Rituals are concerned, from the point of view of what we can accomplish in this part of our newly settled world. A world that is highly different in the social, political, economic and ethnic make-up, from the parental lands of Iran and India, where most of us experienced Rituals in maintaining our Spiritual and Religious obligations.

Here we will have to make our own religious infrastructures, so that our future generations can keep the Mazdeyasnan Fire ever burning in our minds.

However, no such endeavor or enterprise can succeed in a sustained way without the Fire in the belly of it's adherents. So I ask each and every one of you, if you have the fire in the belly, make the future of our Religion enshrined in perpetuity on this Continent.

Support the work of NAMC and our Mobeds with emancipated vision and courage to boldly go in new areas of religiosity, and to those who don't have this Fire in the belly, we ask that you re-ignite this fire and join us to achieve this goal of setting up the infrastructure of Consecrated establishments for training of our Aathravans and practicing the divine revelation of Asho Zarathushtra, for our community.

We thank all the Donors, Speakers, Volunteers and all attendees for their participation and support.

Rituals make us Rich with religious devotion. Let us acquire this richness today.

Respectfully,
Firdosh Mehta --- FEZANA President