

**Living a Zarathushti life
Centered around our
Dar-e-Mehers - India**

Living Daily Zarathushtri Life In India:

Atash Behram(s)/Agiyaris

- **Walking Distance or close by**
- **Open all day with devotees coming/going**
- **Daily Rituals/ceremonies**
- **Center of Religious Activities for families**

Rituals and Ceremonies

- **Mostly in Atash Behrams/Agiyaris**
- **Yazashne – frequently**
- **Satum, Afargan/Farokhshi and Baj – daily**
- **Jashans - frequently**
- **Vendidad – frequently**
- **Visperad – Gahambars, Navar – infrequently**
- **Nirangdin - infrequently**

Community Special Occasions Prayers

Atash Behrams, Agiyaris, Baugs

- Parabs Jashans (same Day and Month occasions)
- Hum Bandagis – weekly in some Atash Behrams and Agiyaris
- Other ceremonies:
 - Navjotes
 - Weddings
 - Navars/Martabs
 - Death Ceremonies - Doongerwadis

- ❑ Most of the rituals (Yazashne, Visperad, Vendidad, Navars, Martabs) can only be performed in **consecrated** Atash Behrams, Agiyaris and Dadgahs

Individual Prayers

- Daily lighting the Deevo, Parab Days and/or special calendar days
- Individual Prayers
 1. Kushti prayers
 2. 101 Names of Ahura Mazda
 3. Sraosh Baj
 4. Appropriate Geh
 5. Niyashes
 6. Smaller Yashts with Nirangs
 7. Patet Pashemani
 8. Atash Niyash
 9. Doa Nam Setayeshne
 10. Tandarosti
 11. Persian Monajats

Prayers Sequence

- 1,2,3,4 any time to start the prayers
- Khorshed, Meher Niyash in sunlight hours (Haavan, Rapitwan, Uziran) with Vispa Humata, Chaar Deesaano Namaskaar in first 3 Gehs
- (Optional): Hormuzd, Ardebehesht Yashts in 1st 3 Gehs, Sarosh Yasht Vadi in Aiwisruthrem, Sarosh Yasht Hadokht in Ushahin
- Atash Niyayesh near a flame
- Doa Nam Setaayashne
- Tandarosti

Any prayers you feel like praying any time!

Zoroastrian Ceremonies In A Nutshell

- **The Socio-Religious Ceremonies**
- **The Purification Ceremonies**
- **The Initiation Ceremonies**
- **The Liturgical ceremonies**
 - (A) The Inner Liturgical Ceremonies (Pav Mahel):
 - (B) The Outer Liturgical Ceremonies (Hoshmordi):
 - (C) Combined Groups of Liturgical Ceremonies
(Pav Mahel & Hoshmordi):
- **The Consecration Ceremonies**

The Purification Ceremonies:

Bareshnum, the kind of purification

The Process of giving the Bareshnum

(A) Preliminary Preparations of

- (a) the Requisites,
- (b) the Purifier,
- (c) the Place, and
- (d) the Candidate

The Purification Ceremonies:

Bareshnum, the kind of purification

(B) The Process proper

✓ The Dog in the Ceremony

✓ Application of :

(a) the Nirang or consecrated cow's urine,

(b) of sand,

(c) of consecrated water,

(d) The final Bath

The Purification Ceremonies:

Bareshnum, the kind of purification

(C) Retreat of 9 days after the Bareshnum

- (a) The *navshu* Baths during the Retreat;
- (b) the Khub,

Causes that vitiate the Bareshnum:

- (a) Eating of food cooked by non-Zoroastrians,
- (b) non-observance of the Baj,
- (c) Long Travels and Voyages.
- (d) Falling off of the Turban, the turban and the padân being the insignias of Priesthood



Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs

▪The Initiation Ceremonies:

(a) Navjote (Sedreh Pushi) or the Initiation of a child into the fold

(b) Nâvar (Nowzuty) and Martab, the two grades of Initiation into priesthood.

III. The Initiation Ceremonies and Customs:

(B) Nâvar and Martab,

the two grades of Initiation into priesthood

➤ Priesthood hereditary

1. The Nâvar, the first Initiation

The different stages of Initiation:

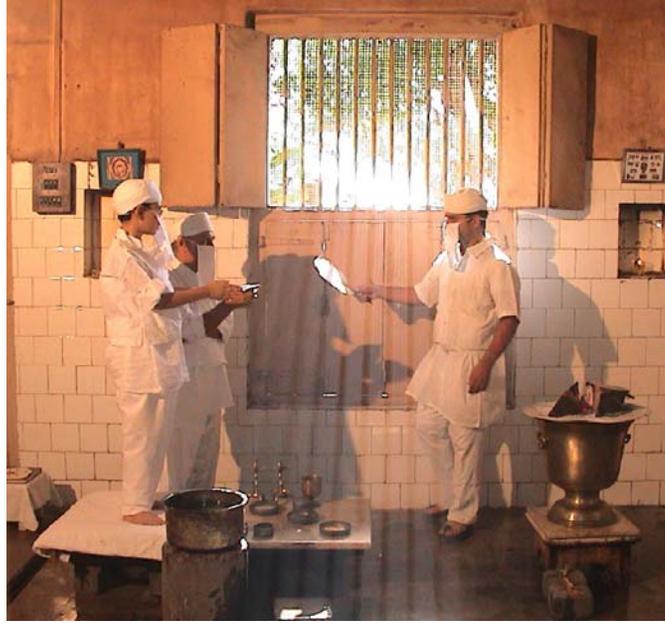
(a) The Bareshnum

(b) The Gewrâ

(c) The Initiation proper

➤ Gurz, the symbolic mace

2. The Martab



The Liturgical Ceremonies:

(A) The Inner Liturgical Ceremonies (Pav Mahel):

- (a) Yasna,
- (b) Visperad,
- (c) Vendidad,
- (d) Baj.

(B) The Outer Liturgical Ceremonies (Hoshmordi):

- (a) Āfringān,
- (b) Farokhshi,
- (c) Satum.

Pav Mahel – Holy/Consecrated House
Hoshmordi - Common

The Liturgical Ceremonies:

(C) Combined Liturgical Ceremonies (Pav Mahel & Hoshmordi):

- (1) Nirangdin
- (2) Hamāyasht or Homāsht
- (3) Geti-Kharid (4) Sarosh (5) Zinda-Rawan
- (6) The Gāhambār Ceremony
- (7) Jashan
- (8) Frawardigān or Muktaḍ Ceremonies
- (9) Fireshte [Farestā]

Most of the rituals (Yazashne, Visperad, Vendidad, Navars, Martabs) can only be performed in consecrated Atash Behrams, Agiyaris and Dadgahs

What is Consecration?: (JJ Modi)

Webster defines Consecration as: "the act or ceremony of separating from a common to a sacred use, or of devoting and dedicating a person or thing to the service and worship of God" by certain rites or solemnities.

Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs

1.A complete Broad Brush coverage of all Z Ceremonies (almost 30)

2.Ervad Dr. J. J. Modi's historic Book as reference

3.Available on Internet at:

<http://www.avesta.org/ritual/rcc.htm>

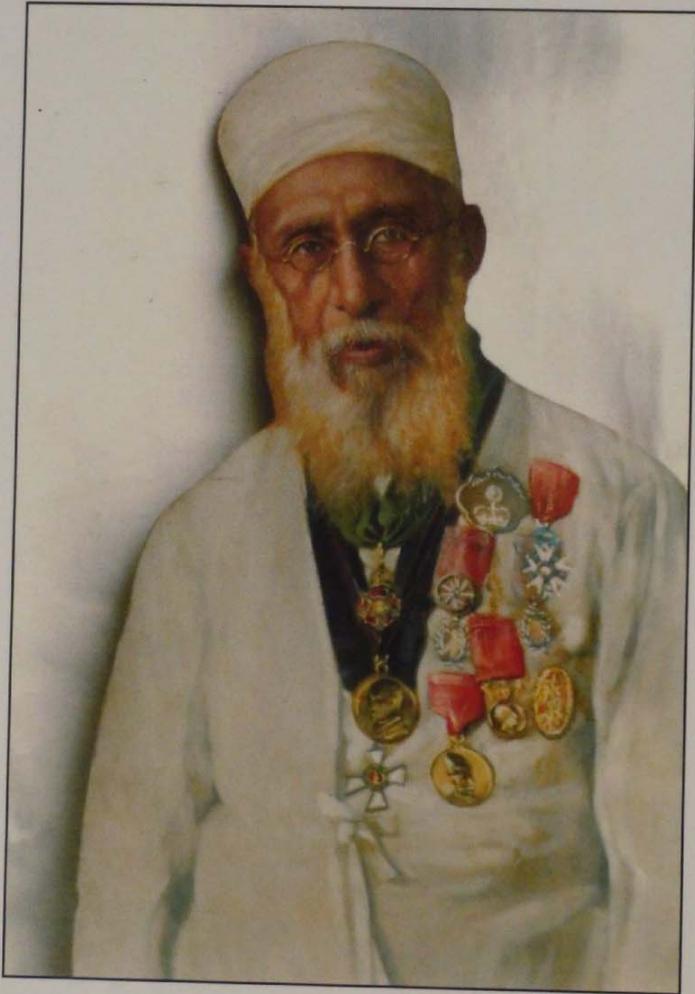
thanks to the painstaking effort by Joseph Peterson

Thanks to Joe, A PDF version is also available to download at the above website.

SHAMS-UL-ULAMA

DR. SIR ERVAD JIVANJI JAMSHEDJI MODI

Kt., C.I.E., B.A., Ph.D., LL.D.



by

Marzban J. Giara

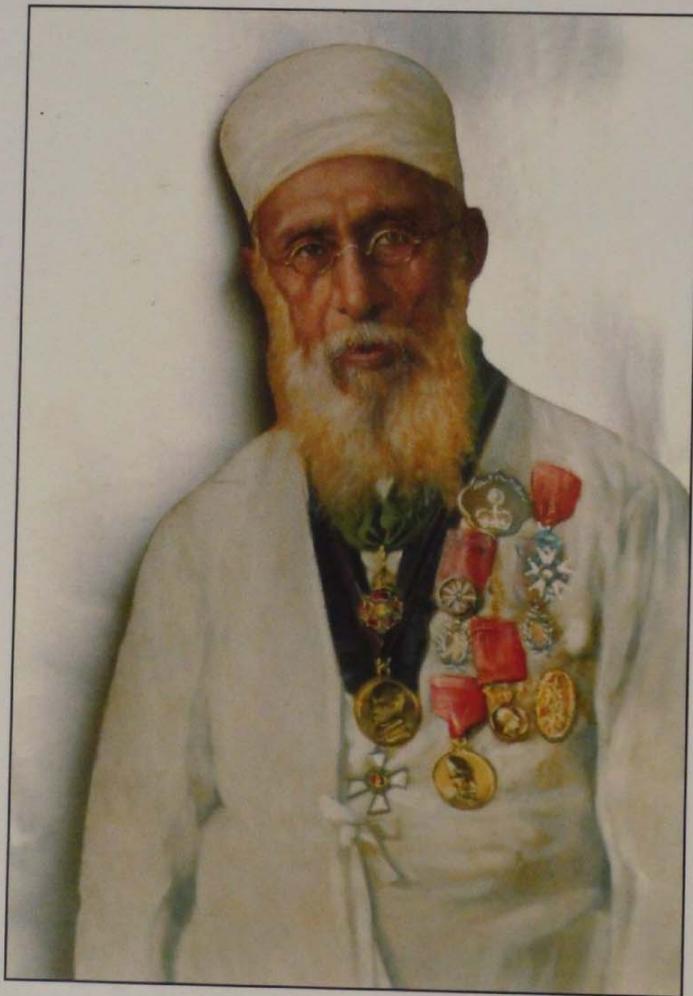
**THE RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES
AND
CUSTOMS OF THE PARSEES**

J. J. MODI

SHAMS-UL-ULAMA

DR. SIR ERVAD JIVANJI JAMSHEDJI MODI

Kt., C.I.E., B.A., Ph.D., LL.D.



by

Marzban J. Giara

Also Available on Internet at:

<http://www.avesta.org/ritual/rcc.htm>

With the kind Permission of Joseph Peterson

Part 1 Part 2 Part 3 Part 4 Part 5

NOTE: Also available as a PDF.

THE RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES
AND CUSTOMS OF THE PARSEES.

By JIVANJI JAMSHEDJI MODI,
B.A., PH.D., C.I.E.,

FELLOW OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BOMBAY
(1887), DIPL. LITTERIS ET

ARTIBUS (SWEDEN, 1889),

SHAMS-UL-ULAMA (INDIA, 1893),

OFFICIER D'ACADÉMIE (FRANCE, 1898),

OFFICIÉR DE L'INSTRUCTION
PUBLIQUE (FRANCE, 1902),

CAMPBELL MEDALLIST,

B. B. R. ASIATIC SOCIETY (1918).

1922

BRITISH INDIA PRESS, MAZAGON, BOMBAY.

Zoroastrian Ceremonies and Customs - Resources

CEREMONIES OF PAV-MAHEL

With their Merits.

Comprising

All the ceremonies of PAV-MAHEL for Nirangdin, Varsiyo, Bhasham, Foundation of the Tower of silence &c, The explanation of performing every ceremony, its merits, Maps & Charts, Baj of every Faresta and it includes many other things.

COMPILED

BY

Ervad Noshervan Nawroji Unwala.

Edited and Published

BY

"Bazame Khademane-Iransha"-Udwada.

for the benefit of the Athornans of Udwada and others.

(All rights reserved)

"Jain Vijaya" Printing Press-SURAT.

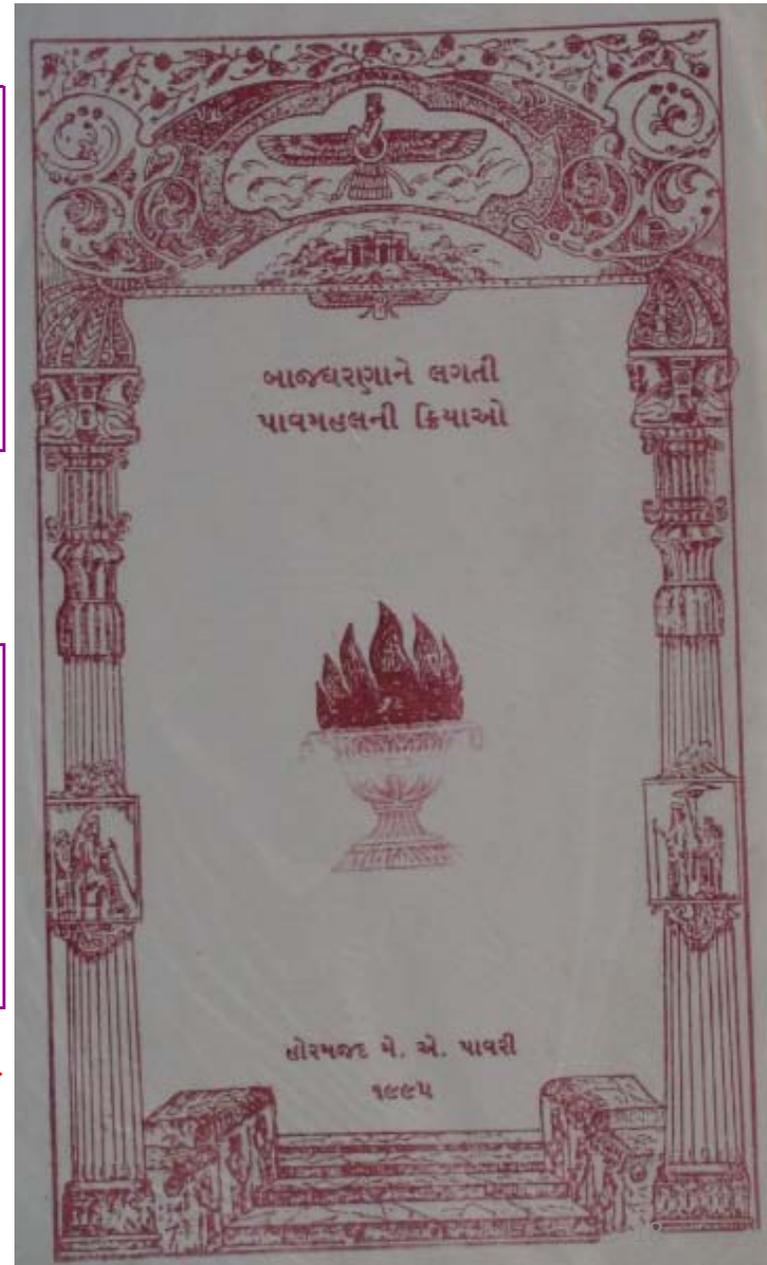
1292 Yazdezardi

1222 A. D.

Unwala –
Pav Mahel
(Gujarati)
Ceremonies
(for Udwada
Mobeds)



Pavri – Pav
Mahel
(Gujarati)
Ceremonies
(for Navsari
Mobeds)





**Pak Iranshah
Atash Behram**

**There are three grades of the Sacred Fire—
(A) The Atash Behram (16 fires),
(B) The Atash Adarian (4 fires) and
(C) The Atash Dadgah (hearth fire).**

The Consecration Ceremonies:

(A) Consecration of the Sacred Fire and Fire-temples

(1) Consecration of the Atash Behram,

the sacred fire of the first grade

➤ **The Requisite 16 fires of different kinds:**

- (a) the Collection,
- (b) Purification,
- (c) Consecration
- (d) Union of the Fires
- (e) The Consecration of the united fires.
- (f) Consecration of the Chamber of fire,
- (g) The final Enthronement

➤ **The Spiritual rule of the sacred fire**

➤ **A National toast connected with the sacred fire**

➤ **Signification of the purifying and consecrating processes**

➤ **The sacred ash**

Three Grades of the Sacred Fires (contd.):

These three have their different rituals of consecration and also different rituals for the daily prayers at the five times (gahs) of the day, when they are fed with fresh fuel.

At first, let us discuss the process of consecrating these three grades of the sacred fire.

We will only cover overall basic steps without too much details.

Please note that even in India, new Places Of Worship are seldom built and consecrated any more.

In fact, slowly but steadily, many Places Of Worship in India are closed or shifted.

Consecration Steps:

- 1. Collection of different fires from different prescribed places**
- 2. Collection & Purification in prescribed number of times for each fire in Vendidad (8.73 – 96) and Rivayats**
- 3. Consecration of fires in prescribed number of times**

At each stage, separating a portion of the purified Fire & performing a Yazashne & Vendidad on

it

- 4. Uniting of all Fires into one**
- 5. Consecration of the United Sacred Fire**
- 6. Consecration of the Fire Temple itself**
- 7. Final Enthronement of the United Sacred Fire**

Atash Behram Consecration - 1. Collection: JJ Modi

No.	The Kind of Fire.	Yz. & Vds.	Yazata.
1	Burning corpse	91	Ahura Mazda
2	Dyer	80	Vohuman
3	Ruling authority	70	Ardwahišt
4	Potter	61	Shahrewar
5	Brick-maker	75	Spandarmad
6	Ascetic	50	Hordad
7	Goldsmith	60	Amurdad
8	Mint	55	Day-pa-Adar
9	Ironsmith	61	Adar
10	Armourer	61	Aban
11	Baker	61	Khwarshed
12	Brewer	61	Mohor [Mah]
13	Soldier	35	Tir/Tishtar
14	Shepherd	33	Gosh [Goshorun] (Drvasp)
15	Atmospheric Electricity	90	Day-pa-Mihr
16	Dastur Mobad, or a lay-man and of friction by flint and pieces of wood	184	Mihr
Total Yazashnes & Vendidads		1128	

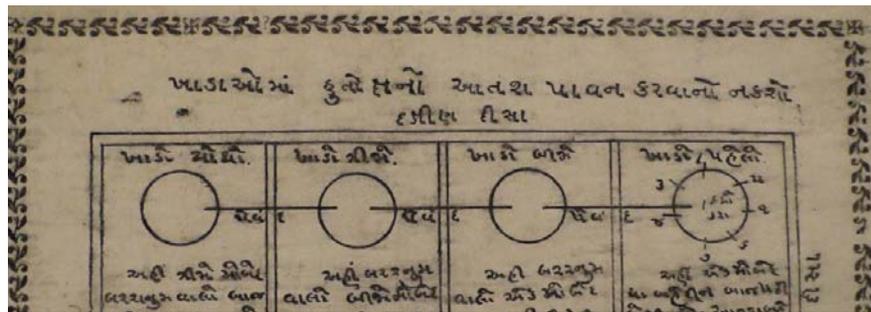
Names of the Yazatas in whose honour the three recitals of the Yasna and Vendidad are said for the first three days.

Burning Corpse: 3 for Ahura Mazda + 3 recitals in honor of the first 28 Yazatas from Ohrmazd to Zamyad and 2 in honor of Mahraspand and Anagran. Thus $3 + (28 \times 3) = 84 + (2 \times 2) = 91$. 91 times Collection & Purification by igniting next fire from the previous one. 91 times separating a portion of the Purified fire from above step and performing a Yazashne and Vendidad on it for Consecration Process.

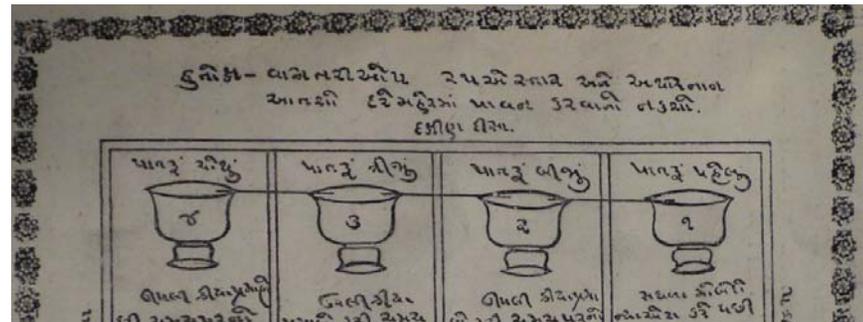
Atash Behram Consecration Steps:

2. Purification in prescribed number of times for each fire in Vendidad (8.73 – 96) and Rivayats

Initially, small pits prepared in the ground; later on, Afarganyus used for the purification process



Pits 1 to 91 for the 1st Fire from the Burning Corpse.
Use a Perforated Ladle with powder sandalwood about 12 to 15 inches from the fire and ignite from 1st Pit and transfer to the second and so on for 91 pits. The ladle should not touch the fire. The heat of the fire from the burning corpse easily ignites the fuel on the perforated ladle.



Later on, it being not practicable in towns to have a large open place, where 91 pits of the above kind can be provided, the pits were replaced by Afarganyus, and the process is repeated in Afarganyus.

The number of censers need not be 91.
A few as would allow the process to be repeated 91 times can do.

Atash Behram Consecration Steps:

16 fires for Atash Behrams, 4 for Adarians and common hearth fire for Dadgah

3. Consecration of fires in prescribed number of times

The fire, collected and purified as above, is placed in a censer and taken to the place where the religious ceremonies for the consecration are to be performed.

Two priests, who have gone through the Barashnom, take a portion of that fire, in a separate censer, and recite over it a Yasna and a Vendidad ceremony with the Khshnuman of Dadar Ahura Mazda. The fire, over which these recitals with their ritual are made, is kept in a separate censer and constantly fed. In the meantime the fire collected and purified as above, and out of which only a portion was removed on the first day for consecration, is fed and kept burning. On the second day, another portion out of it is taken and the Yasna and Vendidad ceremonies are performed over it in honour of Ahura Mazda. The fire thus consecrated on the second day is mixed up with the fire consecrated on the first day and which, as said above, is kept burning in a separate censer. The procedure is repeated as many times as prescribed.

All 16 fires are thus consecrated.

Atash Behram Consecration - 3. Consecration:

No.	The Kind of Fire.	Yz. & Vds.	Yazata.
1	Burning corpse	91	Ahura Mazda
2	Dyer	80	Vohuman
3	Ruling authority	70	Ardwahišt
4	Potter	61	Shahrewar
5	Brick-maker	75	Spandarmad
6	Ascetic	50	Hordad
7	Goldsmith	60	Amurdad
8	Mint	55	Day-pa-Adar
9	Ironsmith	61	Adar
10	Armourer	61	Aban
11	Baker	61	Khwarshed
12	Brewer	61	Mohor [Mah]
13	Soldier	35	Tir/Tishtar
14	Shepherd	33	Gosh [Goshorun] (Drvasp)
15	Atmospheric Electricity	90	Day-pa-Mihr
16	Dastur Mobad, or a lay-man and of friction by flint and pieces of wood	184	Mihr
Total Yazashnes & Vendidads		1128	

1,128 consecration recitals

One pair of priests can recite only 1 Vendidad/day. So, one pair of priests would take 1,128 days, i.e., about 37 to 38 months.

But more than one pair is employed in the consecration ceremonies.

1,128 consecration recitals:

So, the whole ceremony takes about a year or even less.

Atash Behram Consecration Steps:

16 fires for Atash Behrams, 4 for Adarians and common hearth fire for Dadgah

4. Uniting of all 16 Fires into one

As said above, all the sixteen fires are collected and fed in a separate censer.

So, in all, there are 16 different censers containing the 16 different fires.

The final uniting or collection must take place on the first Gatha Gahambar Festival day, *i.e.*, on the first of the five intercalary days at the end of the year.

A large censer is prepared for this process. Two Yozdathregar priests, *i.e.*, priests with Barashnum and Khub, form a *paiwand*, and, at first, remove, by means of a ladle, the consecrated fire prepared from the fire that burnt a corpse, from its censer to this large censer. Then, the other fires are carried there and united with the first in the consecutive order of their consecration.

Atash Behram Consecration Steps:

5. Consecration of the United Sacred Fire

The censer, containing the fire thus united and formed from the 16 consecrated fires, is then carried to the Yazashna-gah for final consecration.

At first, for three consecutive days, two priests recite a Yasna and a Vendidad, each day, with the Khshnuman of Sraosha. Then, from Ohrmazd, the 1st day of the next month to Anagran, the 30th of the month, 30 Yasnas and 30 Vendidads are recited, each on one day, in honour of the particular Yazata presiding on the particular day.

Then, on the last day fixed for the final consecration and enthronement of the Sacred Fire, another Yasna in honour of Sraosha is recited.

This completes the ceremony of consecrating the Sacred Fire of Atash Behram, the Fire of the first degree. What remains to be done is to place it, or, as the Parsee phraseology goes, to enthrone it, on its proper place (dâityô-gâtu).

Atash Behram Consecration Steps:

6. Consecration of the Fire Temple itself

The Consecration of the Fire chamber (the Sanctum Sanctorum).

The Sacred Fire being consecrated, the chamber in the Fire-Temple where it is to be enthroned must also be consecrated.

That consecration ceremony lasts for three days.

It must be performed before the final day of consecration and enthronement.

It consists of the performance for three consecutive days of the Yasna and Vendidad ceremonies in honour of Sraosha.

Atash Behram Consecration Steps:

7. Final Enthronement of the United Sacred Fire

- On the day fixed, the final consecration-recital of the Yasna being said, the Sacred Fire is removed to the consecrated chamber with all dignity and solemnity.
- A procession is formed, headed by the head-priest and other priests who have officiated at the various ceremonies of the consecration.
- Some bear swords and some Gurz or maces in their hands.
- The path, which leads from the Yazashna-gah where the final consecration of the Sacred Fire took place to the consecrated chamber where it is to be enthroned, is separated from the adjoining place by pavis to keep it undefiled.

Atash Behram Consecration Steps:

7. Final Enthronement of the United Sacred Fire (contd.)

- The path itself is divided into several pavis, so that the two priests who carry the censer containing the Sacred Fire can remain, at each advance, in a separate pavi.
- The fire is carried to its chamber, placed on a large censer standing on a large slab of stone surrounded by a pavi.
- Then, it is fed with sandalwood and frankincense, and an Atash Niyayesh is recited by the Head Dastur or Priest.
- Then, in the front hall of the Temple, a Jashan ceremony is performed, wherein three Afrinagans are generally recited. The first is with the Khshnuman of Sraosha, the second with that of Dahman and the third again with that of Sraosha. Similarly, the Bajis are recited.

This finishes the ceremony of enthroning the Sacred Atash Behram Fire.

Summary of the Consecration Steps:

- 1. Collection of different fires from different prescribed places**
- 2. Collection & Purification in prescribed number of times for each fire in Vendidad (8.73 – 96) and Rivayats**
Small pits prepared in the ground or Afarganyus used for the purification process
- 3. Consecration of fires in prescribed number of times**
At each stage, separating a portion of the purified Fire & performing a Yazashne & Vendidad on it
- 4. Uniting of all 16 Fires into one**
- 5. Consecration of the United Sacred Fire**
- 6. Consecration of the Fire Temple itself**
- 7. Final Enthronement of the United Sacred Fire**

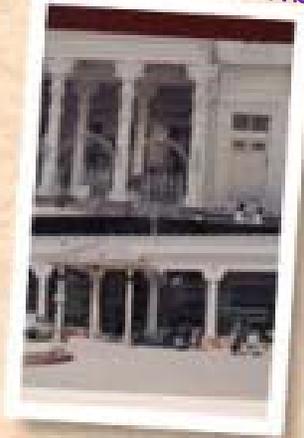
Sharifabad, Iran



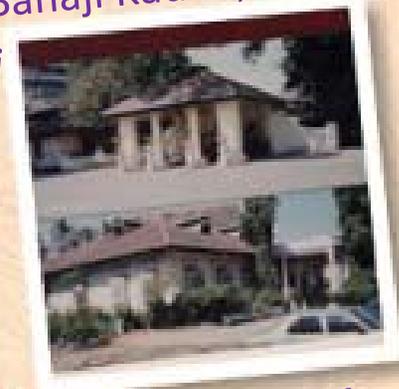
Vakeel Kadmi, Surat



Anjuman, Mumbai



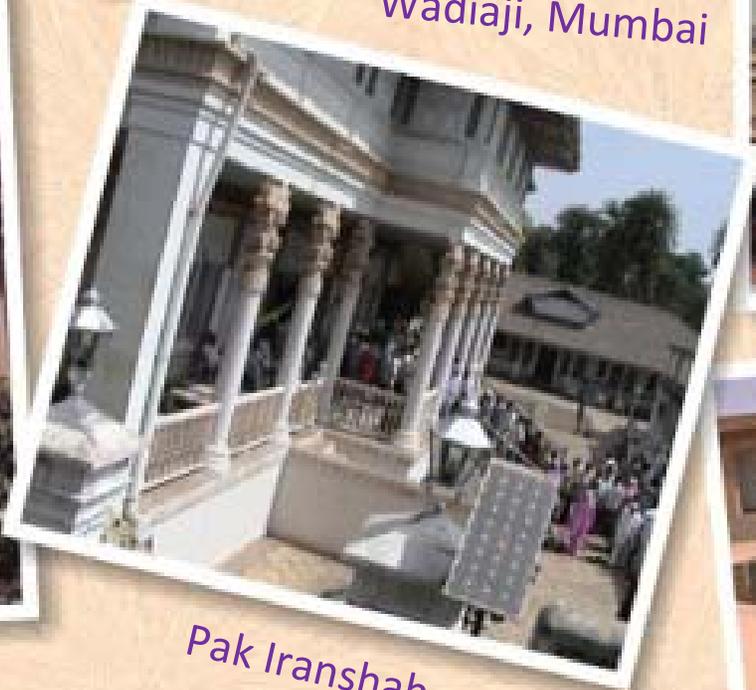
Banaji Kadmi, Mumbai



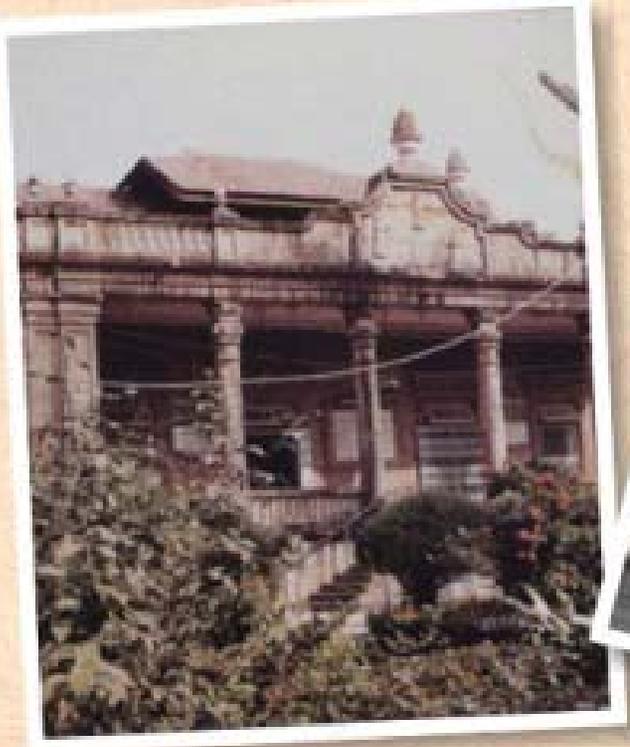
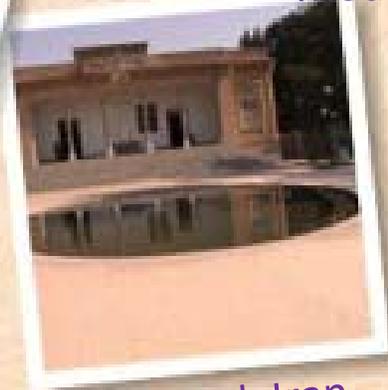
Dadiseth Kadmi, Mumbai



Wadiaji, Mumbai



Modi, Surat



Navsari Bhagarsath

Pak Iranshah

Yazd, Iran

10 World Atash Behrams

Atash Adaran Consecration Steps:

4 fires are required for Adarians

✓ **From the Houses of a) Athornans (Priests), b) Ratheshtarans (Military), c) Vashtrayoshans (Agriculture), and d) Hutokhshans (Tradesmen)**

✓ **Athornan Fire – from Dastur, Head Priest, Ordinary Priest, Head Layman, Donor**

✓ **Ratheshtaran Fire – Governor, Ruling Authority, Collector, Military Officer, Police Officer, Chief Judge**

✓ **Vashtrayoshan – Parsi/Hindu Cultivator, Gardener**

✓ **Hutokhshan - goldsmiths, silversmiths, ironsmiths, tinsmiths, dyers, coppersmiths, distillers, bakers, potters, tillers, brick-makers, etc.**

The consecration procedures are the same as for the Atash Behrams with these 4 fires:

1. Collection of four fires from above four places

2. Purification using perforated ladles as explained above but only 3 times for each fire

3. Consecration - 4 pairs of priests perform Yazashne and Vendidad for 2 days in front of the fires

Atash Adaran Consecration Steps:

4. Final Consecration of the Sacred Fire

- On third day, the four fires are united into one by Athornan Fire receiving the other three.
- All Priests unite themselves by Paiwand, combine four fires and pray Atash Namaskar Prayer three times.
- Then 2 Priests of Athornan Fire perform Yazashne and Vendidad on it and on fourth day another Yazashne.

5. The Enthronement of the Sacred Fire

Same as that for Atash Behram explained above

- ❖ The fire is carried to its chamber, placed on a large censer standing on a large slab of stone surrounded by a pavi.
- ❖ Then, it is fed with sandalwood and frankincense, and an Atash Niyayesh is recited by the Head Priest joined by other Priests also.
- ❖ Then, in the front hall of the Temple, a Jashan ceremony is performed, wherein three Afrinagans are generally recited. The first is with the Khshnuman of Sraosha, the second with that of Dahman and the third again with that of Sraosha. Similarly, the Bajs are recited.

This finishes the ceremony of enthroning the Sacred Atash Adaran Fire.

Atash Dadgah Consecration Steps:

- 1.A new building is constructed usually**
- 2.The building is completely cleaned and washed**
- 3.It is then purified by washing with water three times.**
- 4.A Jashan and Baj ceremony is performed for the inauguration and then the same fire from these ceremonies is enthroned in the Sanctum Santorum with Atash Nyayesh prayer**

Current Status of Places Of Worship in India:

1. The last official Atash Behram was consecrated in Mumbai, the Anjuman Atash Behram in Dhobi Talao on October 17th 1897. Since then, no other Atash Behram has been consecrated and in current times, it is well nigh impossible to do so.

2. A number of Adarians have been consecrated in India over the last 2-3 centuries but recently no such Adarians have been consecrated

3. Please note that even in India, new Agiyaris are seldom built and consecrated any more.

4. In fact, slowly but steadily, many Agiyaris in India are closed or shifted.



Pak Iranshah
Atash Behram



JD Colaba
Atash Adarian

Common Sense Requisites Before Going to a Place Of Worship:

1. Bodily Purity is a must! And so, take a shower and wear some clean clothes.
2. You are presenting yourself to Atash Padshah!
3. White clothes are always preferred.
4. Take a piece of sandalwood as your offering if you have it at home.
5. If you do not need your electronics, leave them at home.
6. Take your favorite Khordeh Avesta if you have one.
7. Wear comfortable clothes so you can perform Kusti easily.



Dadar Institute



Cama Institute

Athornan Institutes in India:

1. Dadar Athornan Institute (Madressa) in 1919
2. M. F. Cama Athornan Institute in 1921
3. Dadar Institute had 45 students in 1975
4. Cama Institute had 75 students in 1950s
5. Current Status: Dadar 15, Cama 1!!!
6. Athornan Institute in NA should think about this