

Asha Vahishta Seminar II #2: Synopsis

The Asha Vahishta Seminar Series (AVSS) is a multi-phased project committed to furthering discussion about the condition and viability of contemporary Zoroastrianism. Obviously, these assessments contribute to discussions regarding the future course, sustainability, and development of Zoroastrianism in diaspora.

The Phase II sessions alternate between those which are Educative-Informative and those which are Resolution Building.

With regards to the Educative-Informative sessions, these are meant to provide historical case-studies concerning how other peoples/cultures/ethnic-groups, and their corresponding faith-systems, were/are organized. Insights from Educative-Informative examinations, are then utilized within Resolution-Building sessions to inform discussions concerning contemporary the Zoroastrian past-present-future.

Having reflected upon the evolution of Christianity (AVSS Phase II, Session #1), our second and follow-up session (AVSS Phase II, #2) was entitled “Retro or Reboot: Zoroastrian Operating System now and for the future”. We revisited previous discussion topics from AVSS Phase I (last season’s seminars) concerning Zoroastrian identity. The participants reflected on what a Zoroastrian ‘Mission Statement’, as the basis of a Zoroastrian Operating System, entailed.

The conclusions were: that a diasporic identity for Zoroastrianism needed to be reinforced, through the creating of self-governing sovereign institutions that would uphold the vision of faith lived and adhered to by Zoroastrians in diaspora. With this as the objective, we build and continue discussion towards an articulation of Articles of Faith/Tenets of Belief.