

Asha Vahishta Seminar #3: Synopsis

During the third colloquium session of the Asha Vahishta Seminar series, the aspect of religious community was explored.

Drawing on the themes of the previous two sessions, faith, and identity, the participants went on to investigate whether "Zoroastrianism is a team sport" and if so, to what degree. Analogies between religion, fellowship, team and voluntary organization were drawn.

This was done in order to better understand the relationship between the creation of a 'mission statement' and its corresponding 'success-assessment criteria'. Specifically, the participants developed an appreciation for the purpose of religion, the development of a faith based community and the expectations surrounding the development and maintenance of community.

Some of discoveries from this session were that Zoroastrianism is considered a cosmopolitan and global vision, rather than an ethnic preserve, and that multiple viewpoints and faith practises should be included within mainstream Zoroastrianism.

Through discussion, it was also found that there is a degree of uneasiness, or inability, to express definitions for 'religion', 'religious', and 'successful religious community'. Introspection of the mandate and rationale for Zoroastrianism, its code of conduct, and its features of participation, require more thorough discussion.

This is especially true since, it becomes the mandate of contemporary community members, to 'pass on' the faith. This process, its problems and issues, shall be the focus of the next colloquium session.