

## **Asha Vahishta Seminar II #1: Synopsis**

Reconvening the AVSS sessions (having finished Phase I, now beginning Phase II), we began the next round of colloquia by educating ourselves on the value of comparative history and perspective to be employed when considering topics of religion and theology.

Our first session, of Phase II (the second round/season) of the Asha Vahishta Seminar Series (AVSS), was entitled “Reading Zoroastrianism from Christian Perspectives: Insights into Faith and Fellowship Development”. This session was an interactive lecture-discussion about the evolution of Christianity as an organized system of worship.

Briefly, the development of a few key Christian doctrines were traced from their origins to present. In particular, the focus of tension, conflict, and schism, within Christian history; arising from controversies surrounding: the nature of Divinity and Its relationship to the figure of Jesus Christ, and the origins of evil.

Participants gained an understanding of how the dogma of the world’s most populous and organized religion, arose. Key take-aways within this understanding were: the continuous evolution of belief-systems, their administrative structures, and the corresponding evolution of group identity. Utilizing these comparative historical insights, further discussion regarding the reform and future of Zoroastrianism will be undertaken.