

Asha Vahishta Seminar II #3: Synopsis

Our third seminar (of Part II) of the AVSS (Asha Vahishta Seminar Series) was an Education Insight session.

The educational insight in this case, was a study of Black faith worship and fellowship. Participants gained an understanding of the complexities of history surrounding the circumstances that contributed to the vibrancy and dynamism of contemporary African-American spirituality.

Participants contemplated the power of faith.....the power of faith, and its fellowship, to transform a subjugated diasporic people. In particular, participants acknowledged that without a very real sense of living and relevant faith experience, Black worship communities would not exist in their present form.

Key to this education insight, is that an alien faith imposed through imperialism and sometimes used as a justification for subjugation (European Christianity), was transformed by the re-imagining of the oppressed (African Americans). Christianity become self-actualized, personal, provocative, and empowering, as an authentic Black expression of faith and fellowship.

The session participants acknowledged that diasporic Zoroastrianism has much to learn from such a case study, which enlightens regarding how faith must be endowed with a sense of social justice purpose that is personal and rooted in location.