

Asha Vahishta Seminar #7: Synopsis

As planned, the seventh session of the Asha Vahishta Seminar Series was conducted as a 'Conversation in Faith'.

Dr. Neville G. Panthaki and Ervad Gustad M. Panthaki were seated upon chairs, at a table set upon the stage. The two engaged in a conversation in faith (about faith and fellowship), while engaging in-faith with one another.

With regard to the latter point (in-faith), it is meant that the discussion was conducted honestly and openly.

As such the session displayed an intimacy of familiarity between the discussants (between son and father), often taking a heightened tone. This was intentional, in that it was not avoided due to any perception and pretenses towards 'polite conversation' which is often restrained in the vigour and passion of its dialogue. Indeed, the opportunity for the audience to witness the attachment to faith was displayed, along with the divergent opinions of the discussants.

As an extended session of four hours, perspectives were shared, but more importantly the rationale behind opinions was investigated. It became clear that any disagreements and impassioned statements were the result from a sincere desire not only to be understood, but also to repair fractures. This became one of the most important insights into the session.

The discussants conversations revolved around topics and questions, which were compiled from the audience. It became clear that answers were predicated upon the sociocultural and locational experiences of the respondent. More importantly, that understanding about the definition of faith and fellowship, was the basis from which answers arose.

Hence, one of the conclusions to this session and at the end of this phase of the seminar series in general, is that further talk and discussion regarding contemporary issues of Zoroastrianism requires a grounding of clarity (regarding faith and fellowship).