

NOU ROUZ

The only scientific New Year

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NOU ROUZⁱ the Persian New Year is the only scientific New Year celebrated in the world today. It is celebrated exactly at the moment in time when the vernal equinox takes place. Nou Rouz has crossed all religious and national boundaries and is celebrated by all the people that once formed the great Persian Empire. Even later day religions that originated in Iran like the Bahai religion and the Ismaili Muslims have both incorporated Nou Rouz into their religion.

Nou Rouz is made up of two Persian words, **Nou** meaning **New** and **Rouz** meaning **Day**. The question that should arise is; why is the New Year called New Day? However, nobody raises that question for it has gradually taken the form of a proper name.

The fact is that after the fall of the Sassanian Empireⁱⁱ in 635 CE the Arab invaders enforced their lunar calendar upon the Iranians; they destroyed libraries and burnt books, they killed the learned and cut the finger and hands of Persian scholars who attempted to write.ⁱⁱⁱ They even collected books in lieu of the infidel tax (Jazyeh) and burnt them. They did all this because they believed that all the knowledge that God wants them to know is in the Koran and the Persian knowledge is blasphemous.^{iv} Thus the ancient knowledge was lost and today Nou Rouz (New Day) has become synonymous with Sal e Nou (New Year).

According to the ancient Avesta writings and also the "Shahnameh", the savior of the Persian culture and language, written by Ferdowsi; the first New Year (Sal e Nou) was celebrated by King Jamshid, on the first spring after the great ice age,^v on the day called Ormazd in the month of Farvardin.

"SAR E SAL E NOU ORMAZD O FARVADIN"

So when and why did **Sal e Nou** become **Nou Rouz**?

3733 years ago Zarathushtra the sage of ancient Iran is believed to have coined the word "Nou Rouz" which means the "New Day" as against 'Sal e Nou' which means "New Year". It was to record the phenomenon that occurred on the New Year of 1725 BCE in Sistan where Zarathushtra had his planetarium.

In 1725 BCE the vernal equinox coincided with sunrise at Sistan whereby the New Year and the New Day began at the same time. This phenomenon happens every year at different longitude on earth but repeats at about the same longitude once in roughly a millennium.

According to recorded history on the spring equinox of 487 BCE when the first rays of the rising sun coinciding with the equinox, lighted the square stone set in the central hall of the Apadana palace Nou Rouz was celebrated at Takth-e-Jamshid (Persepolis). This celebration was preplanned, the Persians scholars and astronomers had pre calculated this event and Darius the Great had designed the Apadana palace for this great event.

Thus Nou Rouz is the coinciding of the sunrise with the equinox, which happens every year at a different longitude on earth. The ancient Iranians celebrated it as a special event when it happened in their kingdom.

The Nou Rouz of 2008, that is the coinciding of the sunrise with the equinox, will happen in Europe. At the time of the equinox the sun will rise at about 4 degrees longitude. This happens to be a few miles west of Brussels and east of Paris. The equinox will be at 05:48:19 hours GMT/UTC while the sun will rise in Brussels at 05:45 and in Paris at 05:53 GMT/UTC.

The Nou Rouz of 2009 will happen on the North American continent where the sun will rise at about 86 degrees longitude at the time of the equinox (11:43 GMT/UTC). This happens to pass through Indianapolis and a few miles east of Chicago where the sun will rise at 11:54GMT/UTC and west of Louisville Kentucky where the sun will rise at 11:46GMT/UTC.

Today with the Persians spread all over the world it is time to revive the ancient festival with new vigor and understanding and introduce it to the world. Thus reviving the ancient knowledge and showcasing the wisdom of the great sage Zarathushtra, with the hope that knowledge and wisdom will prevail over superstition and that peace and love will overpower upheaval and hatred. For that is what Zarathushtra has advocated in his Gathas^{vi}.

For the skeptic, there is further proof of the ancient wisdom of the Iranians. Zarathushtra had also calculated the first meridian and called it "Nim Rouz", which means "Mid Day". The Meridian of Zarathushtra was located in ancient Sistan at 62 degrees longitude. Even today that location in Afghanistan is called the **Nimruz Province**.

When it is mid day at the Meridian of Zarathushtra (62 degrees longitude) there is sunshine from Japan the land of the rising sun to the western tip of Africa. What better location can there be for an intellectual and scientific meridian.^{vii}

All this gains importance when we weigh it against modern knowledge and how Galileo was condemned to death for revealing just the tip of an ancient knowledge.

The name of Zarathushtra or Zoroaster as the Greeks called him can be seen on the stained windowpane in the Parliament Building of British Columbia in Victoria among philosophers, and the tour guide will tell you that he was the father of philosophy.

He gave the world a simple maxim; **GOOD THOUGHTS - GOOD WORDS - GOOD DEEDS**.

He said everything that is created was first a thought, so let your Thoughts be Good, good thoughts are those that are in harmony with nature. Thoughts not converted into words will be forgotten so convert only your good thoughts into Good Words. The result will be Good Deeds good products, and a heavenly earth.

May Wisdom Prevail
Happy Nou Rouz

ⁱ Please note that Nou Rouz is also spelled by some as, Now Rooz, No Rooz, Norooz, Novruz, Noruz etc. it is based on the different dialects but they do not represent the sound of all the alphabets used in Persian to write the word as is done when spelling it as Nou Rouz.

ⁱⁱ The last of the Persian Empires that lost to the Arab invaders who came in the name of Islam and forced Islam upon the Iranians.

ⁱⁱⁱ For detail check "Genocide of the Zarathushtries" at <http://www.ancientiran.com>

^{iv} History by Tabari and also in the Muqaddimah of Ibn Khaldun. An Introduction to History. Translated from Arabic by Franz Rosenthal (Vol 3 pg.114 Chapter VI sec.18 original III,90)

^v which science claims to have happened some ten thousand year ago,

^{vi} Gathas is the songs written by Zarathushtra, where each verse is a summary of a philosophic discourse. It is part of the ancient Avesta and the only original words of Zarathushtra which has survived the ravages of time and the atrocities of humans.

^{vii} To see this natural phenomena live on the internet at 12 noon Afghanistan time check <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/sunearth.html>