

# NOU ROUZ

2009

In Indianapolis, Chicago & Louisville Kentucky

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**NOU ROUZ**<sup>i</sup> 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 vast Persian Empire. Two diverse religions that are among the latest to have originated in Iran namely 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 Iranians have lost their ancient knowledge but have preserved their ancient culture in spite of the hostile environment. After the fall of the Sassanian Empire<sup>ii</sup> in 635 CE, the Arab invaders in the name of Islam 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.<sup>iii</sup> They even collected books in lieu of the infidel tax (Jazyeh) and burnt them. They replaced libraries with mosques. 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.<sup>iv</sup> Thus the ancient Persian knowledge was lost and today Nou Rouz (New Day) has become synonymous with Sal e Nou (New Year).

As mentioned in the ancient Avesta writings and according to 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,<sup>v</sup> 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** (New Year) become **Nou Rouz** (New Day)?

In 1725 BCE Zarathushtra the sage of ancient Iran who was also a distinguished mathematician and astronomer 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 day of 1725 BCE in Sistan near lake Hamoun where Zarathushtra had his ancient planetarium.

In 1725 BCE the vernal equinox coincided with sunrise at Sistan,<sup>vi</sup> 62 degrees longitude, whereby the New Year and the New Day began at the same time. This phenomenon happens every year at different longitude and could repeat at the same longitude may be once in roughly a millennium.

This phenomenon has been archeologically recorded in history when Nou Rouz was celebrated at Takth-e-Jamshid (Persepolis). On the spring equinox of 487 BCE Nou Rouz was celebrated 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. 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 natural 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 rest of the New Year were just call "Sal E Nou" (New Year).

The Nou Rouz of 2009 or the coinciding of the sun rise with the vernal equinox in 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 and west of Louisville Kentucky. In Chicago the sun will rise 11 minutes later at 11:54GMT/UTC and in Louisville Kentucky 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, that peace and love will overpower upheaval and hatred. For that is what Zarathushtra propounds in his Gathas<sup>vii</sup>.

For the skeptic, there is further proof of the ancient wisdom of the Iranians. Zarathushtra had also calculated the first scientific meridian and called it "Nim Rouz", which means "Mid Day". The Meridian of Zarathushtra was located in ancient Sistan at 62 degrees longitude. In the ancient Avesta book in the section on Mehr Yasht (kardeh 103) the southern basin of the river Rangha which flows into the Hamoun Lake in Sistan is called the center of the Earth. Even today that location in the Afghanistan side of the border 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.<sup>viii</sup>

In the ancient Avesta book they speak of the seven continents, "Haft Kesvar Zamin". 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.

Let's celebrate the Real Nou Rouz of 2009 on an international scale in Chicago, Indianapolis & Louisville Kentucky where the sunrise will coincide with the equinox and revive the ancient knowledge with the hope that knowledge and wisdom will prevail over superstition and that peace and love will overpower upheaval and hatred.

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 Canada, among philosophers and the tour guide will tell you that he was the father of philosophy and that the founders of British Columbia were influenced by their philosophy when framing the constitution.

He gave the world a simple maxim with great implication;

**GOOD THOUGHTS - GOOD WORDS - GOOD DEEDS.**

He said everything that is created is 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.<sup>ix</sup>

May Wisdom Prevail  
Happy Nou Rouz

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<sup>i</sup> 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. In all languages there is only one form of writing a word but different forms of pronunciation of the same based on the regional dialect. So also is the word Nou Rouz when written in Persian. While writing it in English we should follow the Persian form where the alphabets used to write it are N- OU and R- OU –Z.

<sup>ii</sup> 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.

<sup>iii</sup> For detail check “Genocide of the Zarathushties” at <http://www.ancientiran.com>

<sup>iv</sup> 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)

<sup>v</sup> According to modern science the last Ice age is claimed to have happened some ten thousand year ago,

<sup>vi</sup> This can be verified at the NASA website, which calculates the time of the equinox and sunrise for any given date.

<sup>vii</sup> 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.

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

<sup>ix</sup> Free rendering of Gatha verse 28.11