



The Fourth
World Zoroastrian Youth Congress
~ University of Ballarat, Vic. Australia

24th June, 2007.

List of topics for Youth Yakka sessions

As well as renowned and esteemed Special guest speakers, the Youth have expressed a desire to hear from **YOUTH LEADERS** and **YOUTH SPEAKERS** on an array of topics. Therefore the majority of speaking sessions at the 4thWZYC2007 will be presented *by the Youth, for the Youth!*

Listed below are some topics that have been collated from the suggestions made by the Youth at the 4wzyc Yahoo! Groups mailing list, various online forums and from face-to-face dialogue with Youth from around the world. We now invite you to select a topic to address and regale us all with.

Use of visual stimuli e.g. diagrams, photos, PowerPoint presentations, videos etc. are encouraged.

These subjects (in no particular order) embrace Zoroastrianism's PAST, the PRESENT and our FUTURE – let's learn about us, talk about us and continue on to a great future for us! In fact, it's a case of, Preserve, Practice, Perpetuate!

ZOROASTRIANISM:

- Go for Gold - The Zoroastrian way! Striving for Excellence as a way of life.
- The Influence of Zoroastrianism on world religions.
- Zarathushtra – the original spokesman for civilization as we know it.
- Seeking the limelight or seeking the Truth?
- The significance behind some common rituals – Why are they important?
- Agiary Etiquette – A priest's view.
- Zoroastrianism – A celebration of life.
- Are Good thoughts, good words, and good deeds the only way to define a GOOD Zoroastrian?
- What's in our scriptures? (Speak on any **one** main religious text.)
- Priestly Pressures - Discussing the lack of incentive for young boys to become Priests.
- Preservation of our precious Avestan texts.
- The importance of prayer.
- Mysteries and miracles of the Zoroastrian religion.
- One step at a time – Keeping the Faith alive.
- Ensuring the next generation is taught the ritually correct method of prayer.

ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH INVOLVEMENT:

- Bringing the Youth together - using Modern Technology to stay in touch.
- Stepping up - getting Youth involved in community affairs locally and globally (without bribing them!)

Preserve, Practice, Perpetuate.

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The 4thWZYC Inc. A0049539Y

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ZOROASTRIANISM & ME:

- The “Friendly” Persuasions that have made me what I am today!
- Why am I here at this Congress? - A light hearted view of my aspirations today.
- Applying Zoroastrian principles to today’s life style.
- Why am I holding on to my beliefs and customs?
- How I learnt my religion in my own country.
- My favourite Zoroastrian personality – even one person can make a difference.

ZOROASTRIAN CULTURE:

- Parsis, Iranis and Iranians – What’s in a name, if we are all the same? Bridging the cultural divide.
- “Because Mummaiji said so!” - 10 Parsi myths debunked.
- Breaking down the stereotypes! – What it is like being a Zoroastrian in my part of the world. (Sharing experiences and understanding cultural differences between Zoroastrians and others)
- Growing up as a true blue Zoroastrian and remaining one (in my home town) today.
- The exodus of Parsis from India and the Zoroastrians from Iran - Are we really shrinking in size, or merely shifting in location?

ZOROASTRIAN HISTORY:

- The impact of Zoroastrian Iran on world culture.
- Cyrus, the Great’s influence on the western world.
- Our History – Our Heritage.
- History matters! The “Shahnameh” preserving a Nation’s identity.
- Zoroastrian arrival in India – our first exodus.
- Famous Zoroastrians throughout history.

ZOROASTRIANISM & SCIENCE:

- Zoroastrianism and Science – how are they related?
- Environmentally conscious, ecologically sound – the practices of Zoroastrianism.
- Practicing an ancient religion in a modern world.

ZOROASTRIANISM & THE FUTURE:

- QUO VADIS? - My hopes/fears for the future of Zoroastrianism.
- Zoroastrianism – A Model for World Peace.
- The Zoroastrian Legacy – What will my kids think?
- Who will make our Sudrehs and Kustis in the coming years? What can we do to ensure future generations will have theirs?

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Please Note:

- Following the KISS principle, a maximum of 7 minutes per speaker, plus an additional 3 minutes for Q&A sessions with the audience is envisaged at this stage. All Youth speakers must be made aware of this time constraint and accordingly prepare their speeches to fit within this period.
- Every attempt should be made to make your talks not just enlightening but also exciting and relevant.
- The moderators will step in should time limits be broken or offensive language is detected.
- In case of several Delegates desiring to speak on the same subject, the adjudicators will decide on a limited number of presenters for the topic.
- All speakers invited to address the Delegates, will be notified in ample time.
- In case some wish to speak on a couple of subjects please be aware that acceptance of these will be totally dependent on the number of Youth who wish to speak.
- All speakers must allow the use of their papers to be put to any further use by the Organisers of the 4thWZYC2007, as they deem fit.
- At this stage it is envisaged that the speakers, a synopsis of their talks and their photographs will be included in the official brochure as far as is possible.
- Other open forum Youth Yakka sessions will allow the Delegates to express their opinions / have their say, on any and all subjects that fall within the ambit of the Congress and the Zoroastrian Religion.

In addition, at other sessions, like the open forums, **INTERACTIVE LEARNING STYLES** should be used wherever possible (rather than dry, dull speeches). These include (but are not limited to):

- Debates – Fun topics to be announced – **a show of interest is being called for right now.**
- Open forums – So, what’s on your mind? News, views and reviews
- Q & A Sessions – Ask and ye shall be answered!
- Small group work – “Females ONLY” or “Youth Leaders” - discussing and handling the issues.
- Hands on learning sessions where appropriate.

All those who would like to speak, are asked to email the following to papers@4wzyc.org

1. Your intended paper in Windows Microsoft Word 2003 format
2. A short bio-data of yourself to be used for publication wherever practicable
3. An indication of whether you will be using any form of visual aids whilst making your presentation
NO LATER than the 30th of September 2007

Any further inquiries may be directed to info@4wzyc.org

Shiraz J Mistry **Delara C Mistry**
Chairman **Vice Chair**
4thWZYC2007