

Welcoming Speech
Presented by Ervad Dr. Jehan Bagli
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Good morning and welcome to the 'Seminar 2005' of NAMC.

Among others, one of the mandates of NAMC is to disseminate the knowledge of the religion of Zarathushtra not only among the Mobeds but through them to the zarathushtrian community. For this reason it is imperative that we make a concerted effort to build a cadre of knowledgeable priesthood that can do this job efficiently and satisfactorily. NAMC attempts to fulfill this commitment using various means such as publications, lectures and seminars.

While organizing a seminar is a challenging project in itself, often hurdles that naturally emerge on the way to a successful seminar often become test to ones patience. In 2003 when we organized a seminar on zarathushtrian Rituals we were beset at the last minute with the problem SARS epidemic that unexpectedly imposed travel bans to Toronto by WHO. This prevented some of our invited speakers from participating in the seminar. We thought this year we were fortunate. However, only a week ago one of our speakers was in a car accident and just three days ago the other speaker had a sad demise in the close family. This however did not deter our spirits. With the help of Mazda although the two speakers could not come for the meeting, we have the lectures of both these speakers with us and will be read by two of our executive members.

With this I will now introduce the first talk.