

Rebel With a Cause



Kaemerz Dotiwala



Name of Religion

- Correct Version
- Deen-
- E
- Mazda Yasni
- Translation
- Religion
- Of
- Mazda Worship

Time Period

The bronze age around 1,800 B.C., on the steppes of Central Asia somewhere near modern day Tajikistan



Location

Steppes of Central Asia somewhere near modern day Tajikistan



Inhabitants

Pastoralists

Peaceful nomadic pastoralists tending their livestock

Marauders

Marauding nomadic tribes whose religion was based on pillage and destruction

Lifestyle

Nomadic Pastoralists

- ❖ Peaceful
- ❖ hardworking
- ❖ tending their livestock and crops.

Nomadic Marauders

- ❖ Warlike
- ❖ Did not raise livestock or crops
- ❖ Looted and pillaged pastoral villages for livestock and food needs.

Belief System

Nomadic Pastoralists

Prayed to their deities for:

- ❖ Rain
- ❖ Good weather
- ❖ Good health

Nomadic Marauders

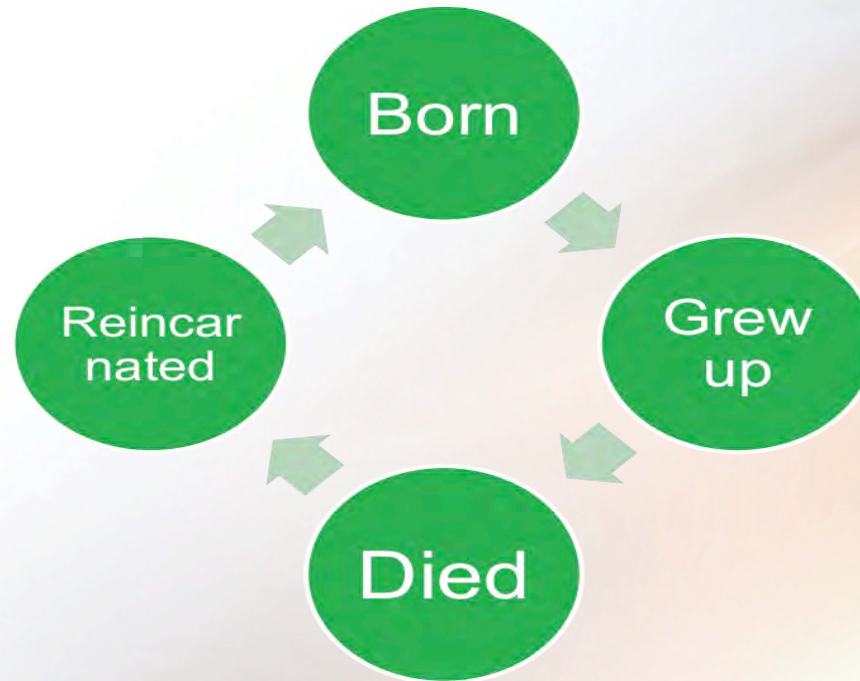
Prayed to their deities to:

- ❖ give them strength
- ❖ be victorious in battle so that they could bring loot home for their own deities as offerings
- ❖ so that they could be victorious in battle and bring more loot home as offerings to their deity as well as themselves

“The cycle continued”

Belief System

- ❖ The belief system of these people was based on a cyclical concept of time where people were:



Eschatology Bronze Age

Heaven was reserved only for:

- Royalty
- Priests

Common person's soul was supposed to languish in sort of a Twilight Zone which was neither Heaven nor Hell

Unique World View

Under such a scenario, for the first time appeared a young man who introduced his vision of a unique way of life and a view of the world.



New World Vision

He took the existing cyclical concept of birth and death and gave it a linear time frame of 12,000 years in which the cosmic drama and battle would take place, with final victory for the Good side

Message

He said, any deity which:

- ❖ Caused Death and Destruction
- ❖ Encouraged Looting and Pillage
- ❖ Required blood sacrifice

“Not worthy of worship”

Relationship With God

Man's Relationship with God:

- ❖ is not one of father and child, nor one of submission, but rather one of relative equality.
- ❖ Is one of an Eternally Good, Perfect God and that of a friend to a friend, a friend to all.
- ❖ There is no sense of fear in Man and God's relationship.

Vision of God

- ❖ He spoke of:
- ❖ A Universal God, “Ahura Mazda”
- ❖ All Perfect
- ❖ God of Wisdom and Light
- ❖ Nothing evil or destructive can come from Ahura Mazda
- ❖ Each human has in them the ability to reach Ahura Mazda



Reaction from Nobles and Priests

The Nobles and Priests reacted harshly towards the message of this upstart, this Rebel.

Blasphemous!!! They cried

Posters were posted all over the territories.

WANTED!



ASHO ZARATHUSTRA



Asho Zarathustra's Message Gathas

Asho Zarathustra's revelatory hymns, the Gathas, are the first poetic compositions in human history which can be ascribed without doubt to a known author.



Gathic Thought and Concepts

In the Gathas Asho Zarathustra introduced the concepts of:

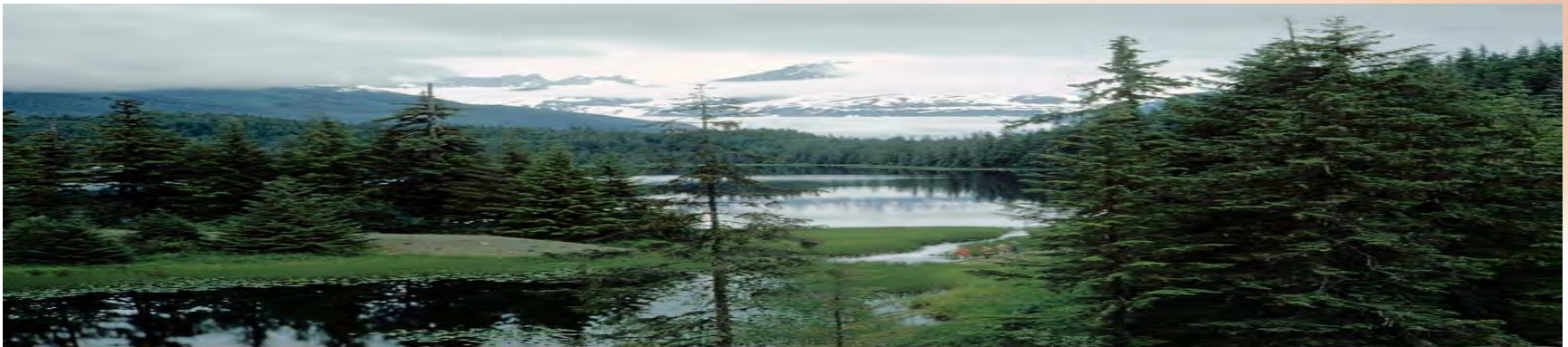
- ❖ An all Good beneficent and single God
- ❖ Asha
- ❖ Human free will
- ❖ Heaven and hell
- ❖ Final judgment, salvation,
- ❖ Human stewardship over other creations in nature,
- ❖ Perfection of life upon this earth.

Concept of sin

- ❖ Any act that:
 - ❖ progresses creation to progress is righteous
 - ❖ regresses or moves creation away from progress is not righteous or sinful

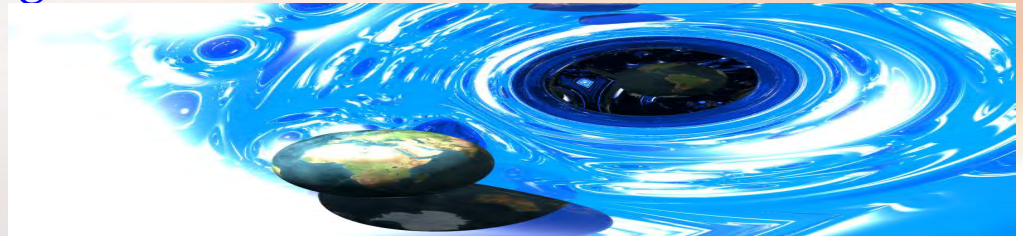
Yasna 30, Ahunavad Gatha verses 3,4 and 5 The Twin Mainyus

- ❖ Within this Material World, there are two spiritual vectors or mentalities (Mainyus),
- ❖ Spenta Mainyu, the benevolent progressive mentality
- ❖ Angra Mainyu, the evil mentality.



The Twin Mainyus And Asha

- Apprehending the conflict of the two spirits in terms of Asha, one can understand that:
- Spenta Mainyu (Progressive Mentality) is good specifically because it promotes and follows the Law of Asha, thereby bringing the world towards the state of Ideal Perfection.
- Angra Mainyu (Evil Mentality) is evil precisely because it attempts to frustrate the progressive realization of Asha.



Asha interpreted as Truth/Right

- ❖ It is in this aspect of Gathic Theology that Asha is interpreted as,
- ❖ "**Truth**". Because, It is the true picture of the form of Ideal Existence, and also the Ideal towards which the conflicted world evolves.
- ❖ "Righteous Action." Using the same framework Asha is interpreted as **Right**. That action is right which is in accord with Asha, and which furthers the realization of Asha.

Gatha Ushtavad

Ha. 45.2

at²⁸ fravakhshyâ²⁹
anghêush³⁰ mainyû³¹
pouruyê³²
ýayâo³³ spanyâo³⁴ ûiti³⁵
mravat³⁶ ýêm³⁷ aňgrem³⁸

I will declare²⁹ (unto you)
about the Twin Spirits³¹ of the
world³⁰
first of all³²
of whom³³ the most
bountiful³⁴ (spirit) spoke to
the harmful³⁶ (or destructive)
(spirit)³⁸ thus³⁵.

Gatha Ushtavad

Ha. 45.2

nôit³⁹ nâ⁴⁰ manâ⁴¹

nôit⁴² sêñghâ⁴³

nôit⁴⁴ khratavô⁴⁵

naêdâ⁴⁶ varanâ⁴⁷

nôit⁴⁸ ukhdhâ⁴⁹

naêdâ⁵⁰ shyaothanâ⁵¹

nôit⁵² daênâ⁵³

nôit⁵⁴ urvânô⁵⁵

hacaiñtê⁵⁶

Neither³⁹ our⁴⁰ thoughts⁴¹

nor⁴² our⁴⁰ teachings⁴³

nor senses⁴⁵ (or understandings)⁴⁵

nor our manners⁴⁷ (or doctrines)⁴⁷

nor words⁴⁹

nor deeds⁵¹

nor our consciences⁵³

nor SOULS⁵⁵

conform or accord with each other.⁵⁶

Concept of Human Beings

- ❖ Human beings are comprised of five immortal parts:
- ❖ Ahu (“life”),
- ❖ Daēnā (“religion”),
- ❖ Baodah (“knowledge”),
- ❖ Urvan (“soul”), and
- ❖ Fravashi (“preexistent souls”). The latter term seems literally to mean “preeminent hero”

Five Constituents of Man

1. Kherpa- Prototype Image
2. Tanu- Physical Body
3. Ushtana- Breath of Life
4. Urvan- Soul
5. Fravashi- Guardian Spirit



Five Constituents of Man

<u>Avestan</u>	<u>English</u>
Kherpa	Prototype image
Fravashi	Guardian Spirit
Urvan	Soul
Tanu	Body
Ushtana	Breath of life

Kherpa

- ❖ Believed to be the link that man has to his original abode, which is endless light.
- ❖ Kherpa is sometimes identified as, “Aura” which is believed to reflect the inner state of man’s psychological world.

Urvan or Soul

In Deen-E-Mazdiyasni, the soul is:

- ❖ fashioned by Ahura Mazda from endless light and implanted in the prototype of man.
- ❖ man's essence, and the body in which it resides is seen as it weapon and garment.
- ❖ instrument that directs the body, the breath of life, the prototype image, and the guardian spirit.
- ❖ spiritual power of God in man, for in the soul is seated the faculty of comprehension in order that it may become knowledgeable about the religion. The soul of man can never be destroyed or eternally damned. The soul is judged at the bridge of the separator.

Urvan or Soul

- ❖ The Urvan or soul is:
- ❖ spiritual preceptor or directing principle that helps man to generate a thought, word, and deed from a multitude of choices.
- ❖ deemed to be the decision maker in an individual.
- ❖ spiritual power of God in man, for in the soul is seated the faculty of comprehension in order that it may become knowledgeable about the religion.
- ❖ That which can never be destroyed or eternally damned.
- ❖* judged at the bridge of the separator.

Fravashi

- ❖ It is believed that:
- ❖ Fravashis that first existed in the spiritual state, aided Ahura Mazda to fashion the prototype's of the physical creations of the sky, waters, earth, plants, cattle, and man.
- ❖ Every human being possesses a Fravashi which acts as an observer in one's life.
- ❖* It does not interfere with the decision making process, and hence, unlike the soul (Urvan) the Fravashi is not judged at the bridge of the separator.
- ❖ Fravashi's are seen to represent, "God Essence" within man,
- ❖ Fravashis possess the wisdom of all knowledge, which links them to Ahura Mazda. They are also believed to be the spiritual protector's of man.

Points To Remember

- ❖ Some important points to remember are:
 - ❖ Ahura Mazda is all Wise,
 - ❖ All Good,
 - ❖ All Perfect,
 - ❖ There for nothing imperfect like illnesses, anger or destruction can originate from Ahura Mazda.

Points To Remember continued

Every Human being has a spark of Ahura Mazda in them, therefore;

- ❖ human beings are also wholly good. Only their choices and the resulting actions if the choice is wrong can be evil.
- ❖ It is also because of this reason, that there has always been total equality between the sexes from Asho Zarathushtra's time.

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a white ceramic bowl. The hand is positioned at the bottom right, with fingers wrapped around the base of the bowl. The bowl is white and has a smooth, glossy finish. The background is a soft, out-of-focus gradient of light colors, possibly a wall or a backdrop. The lighting is bright, creating highlights on the rim of the bowl and the skin of the hand.

Points To Remember continued

Asho Zarathushtra's vision is founded on the functioning of the Laws of Asha in our daily decision making process

Zarathushti Call to Action 2014

Let us today become Zarathushti Promise
Keepers

Let us today:

- ❖ look at committing and rededicating ourselves
- ❖ to understand the message of Asho Zarathushtra and internalize it in our decision making process.



We Want Asho Zarathushtra



Faith and Unity
The XVII North American
Zoroastrian
Congress



This logo is an artistic rendition of our religious symbol.