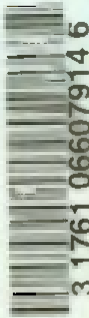


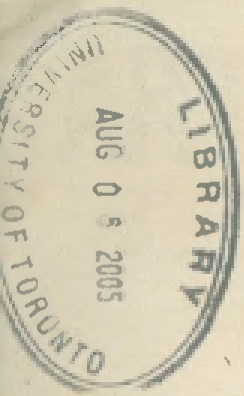
ZARATHUSHTRA



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Zarathushtra is the name of the prophet of the Parsis as it appears in the Avesta, their oldest scriptural text. In later writings the name appears as 'Zartusht, Zardosht'. In the ancient Greek writings the name of the prophet appears in various forms, but the most common form is "Zoroaster", which is generally used in English and other European languages.

Zarathushtra lived and preached his religion in antiquity, in pre-historic times. His life-history, therefore, is not adequately known. But tradition has preserved the prophet's life-story as recorded in the late writings of the 9th century. These writings are evidently based on older sources. The life-story of the prophet given in this booklet is taken from the said traditional account.

The religion preached by Zarathushtra is based on the principle of Avesta arta—which signifies 'truth, law, divine cosmic law'. It is explained and expounded in simple language: humata hukhta hvarshta—'good thought', 'good word', good deed'. The principle of divine justice is: **BAD UNTO THE DOERS OF BAD, GOOD BLESSING UNTO DOERS OF GOOD.**

The Zoroastrians once numbered millions, during the time of their empires (about 6th century B.C. to 7th century A.D.). After the downfall of the empire of the Sasanians about the middle of the 7th century, their numbers dwindled in Iran. Then some of them left Iran and migrated to India. At present the world population of the Parsis may be estimated at 130,000 souls—about 101,000 in India, about 18,000 in Iran, about 6,000 in Pakistan, and about 5,000 in Europe, America and other places of the world.

H. K. Nasta

OUR NEXT TITLE : THE LORD OF LANKA


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ZARATHUSHTRA


THOSE WERE EVIL TIMES
IN ANCIENT PERSIA.






O, AHURA MAZDA, SEND US A SAVIOUR. LET THE PAST GLORY RETURN TO THIS EARTH.

AT THAT TIME, IN THE CITY OF RAF LIVED FRAHIMURVA AND HIS DAUGHTER DUGHDHOWA.




SEND YOUR DAUGHTER AWAY, FRAHIMURVA. SHE PORTENDS EVIL.

YES. THIS RADIANCE COVERING HER IS AN EVIL OMEN. THROW HER OUT.



MY CHILD, WE MUST LISTEN TO THE WISE MEN. BUT I CANNOT BEAR TO SEE YOU GO.

OH, FATHER, PLEASE LET ME STAY WITH YOU. WHO WILL LOOK AFTER YOU WHEN YOU ARE OLD ?



NO, CHILD, WE MUSTN'T THINK ONLY OF OURSELVES. GO. MY GOOD FRIEND PAITARASP AWAITS YOU.

OVERCOME BY GRIEF,
BOTH FATHER AND
DAUGHTER STOOD
SILENT FOR A WHILE.
THEN -

LOOK AFTER
YOURSELF,
FATHER. DON'T
FORGET ME.

MAY
AHURÀ
MAZDA
BLESS
YOU, MY
CHILD.

WHEN DUGHDHOWA
REACHED PAITARASP'S
HOUSE -

WELCOME DUGHDHOWA,
DAUGHTER OF MY DEAREST
FRIEND. THIS
IS YOUR
HOME NOW.

THIS IS POURUSHASP.
IT IS YOUR FATHER'S
WISH THAT YOU MARRY
HIM.

WHAT A
LOVELY
GIRL! I AM
INDEED
LUCKY.

WHAT A
HANDSOME
MAN. I SHALL
BE PROUD TO
BE HIS WIFE.

THEY WERE SOON MARRIED. A FEW MONTHS LATER
DUGHDHOWA BECAME PREGNANT. ONE NIGHT -



THE NEXT MORNING -

MY DEAR, YOU
LOOK FRIGHTENED.
WHAT IS THE
MATTER ?

I HAD A
TERRIBLE
DREAM.

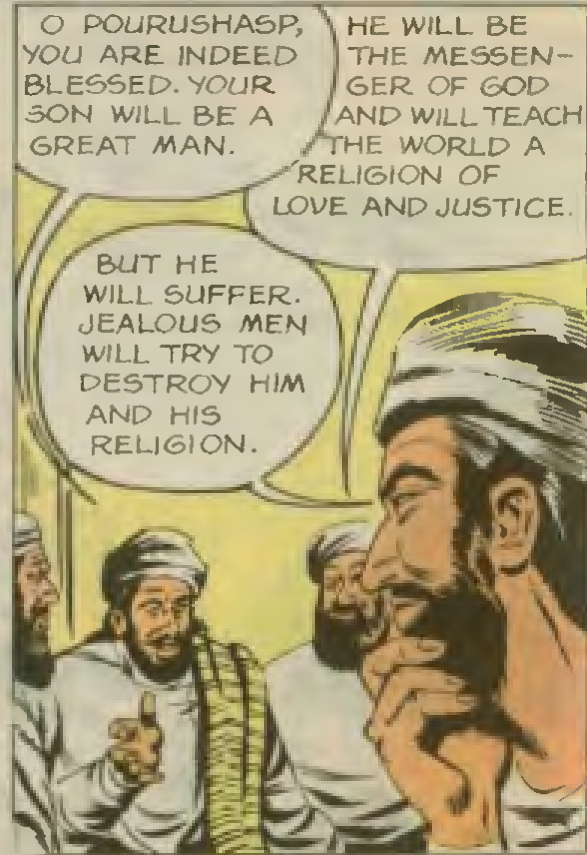
THE SAME DAY, POURUSHASP
SOUGHT THE HELP OF THE
WISE MEN.

TELL ME.
WHAT DOES
THE DREAM
MEAN ?

O POURUSHASP,
YOU ARE INDEED
BLESSED. YOUR
SON WILL BE A
GREAT MAN.

HE WILL BE
THE MESSEN-
GER OF GOD
AND WILL TEACH
THE WORLD A
RELIGION OF
LOVE AND JUSTICE.

BUT HE
WILL SUFFER.
JEALOUS MEN
WILL TRY TO
DESTROY HIM
AND HIS
RELIGION.



AT LAST, ONE SPRING DAY,
ZARATHUSHTRA WAS BORN.

LET US CALL HIM ZARATHUSHTRA.
ISN'T IT STRANGE THAT HE
SMILED INSTEAD OF CRYING
WHEN HE WAS BORN?



DURASROB, THE HEAD PRIEST
WHO WAS ACTUALLY A SORCERER,
KNEW ZARATHUSHTRA TO BE A
THREAT TO ALL FORCES OF EVIL—

THE CHILD
MUST NOT
LIVE. I
SHALL
KILL HIM.



SO ONE DAY HE STOLE THE
BABY AND —





HAVING FAILED IN HIS FIRST ATTEMPT, DURASROB DECIDED TO TRY AGAIN.

ONCE AGAIN THE CHILD WAS SAVED.



THE EVIL MAN, HOWEVER, WOULD NOT ACCEPT DEFEAT SO EASILY. HE TOOK THE BABY INTO A FOREST.



YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE THIS TIME. THE WOLVES WILL TEAR YOU TO PIECES.



BUT THE WOLVES TOOK ONE LOOK AT THE HOLY CHILD AND SLUNK AWAY.



DURASROB SEETHED WITH RAGE.

I SHALL BURN YOU TO DEATH.



BUT THE FIRE TURNED INTO A BED OF FRAGRANT ROSES.



MY DARLING BABY. HOW DID YOU GET HERE? I NEARLY DIED WITH WORRY.



A YEAR LATER, ZARATHUSHTRA
FELL ILL.

OH, WHAT WILL
HAPPEN TO MY
BABY?

I SHALL
SEND FOR
DURASROB. HE
WILL CURE OUR
CHILD.

AS SOON AS DURASROB CAME -

SIR, MY SON IS VERY
ILL. CAN YOU HELP?



DON'T WORRY.
I SHALL SEND HIM
A SPECIAL REMEDY
IN THE EVENING.



MY POISON NEVER
FAILS. LET'S SEE HOW
YOU ESCAPE MY
CLUTCHES THIS TIME,
ZARATHUSHTRA.
HA! HA! HA!

THAT SAME EVENING -

THIS IS THE
MEDICINE,
SIR.

THANK YOU.
I SHALL GIVE
IT TO MY
SON AT
ONCE.



OH, YOU
NAUGHTY BOY.
YOU'VE SPILT
THE MEDICINE.
BUT WHAT'S
THIS? YOUR
FEVER HAS
COME DOWN.



ZARATHUSHTRA SOON GREW UP
TO BE A STURDY, CLEVER,
HANDSOME BOY.

YOUNG MAN,
IT'S TIME YOU
STARTED SCHOOL.
THE LEARNED
BURZIN KURUS
WILL TEACH
YOU.



ZARATHUSHTRA WAS THE MOST
INTELLIGENT PUPIL THAT
BURZIN EVER HAD.

YOU HAVE DONE WELL,
ZARATHUSHTRA. I AM INDEED
PROUD OF YOU.



ONE DAY THE AGING
POURUSHASP SENT FOR HIM.

ZARATHUSHTRA, WHAT
WOULD YOU HAVE OF
MY POSSESSIONS?

YOUR
GIRDLE,
FATHER.



ONLY MY
GIRDLE?
WHY?

WHEN I WEAR
IT, I FEEL SO
CONFIDENT...



... SO SURE OF WINNING
GOD'S BATTLE AGAINST
THE FORCES OF EVIL.

IS DUGHDHOWA'S
DREAM GOING TO
COME TRUE? IS
MY SON REALLY
GOING TO BE THE
FOUNDER OF A
NEW RELIGION?



ZARATHUSHTRA LIVED A SIMPLE
LIFE AND SPENT HIS DAYS
HELPING THE POOR, THE SICK
AND THE NEEDY.



HE WAS ESPECIALLY KIND TO DUMB ANIMALS.



HE PRAYED TO GOD FOR STRENGTH EVERY DAY.



ONE DAY POURUSHASP INVITED DURASROB AND THE EQUALLY EVIL BRATROKKESH HOME.

FATHER, WHY DID YOU CALL THESE SORCERERS HERE? TO PRACTISE SORCERY IS EVIL.



BE QUIET, ZARATHUSHTRA. YOU ARE FOOLISH AND IMPERTINENT.

BY ABUSING ME YOU ONLY REVEAL YOURSELF, BRATROKKESH.



THIS BOY WILL
INDEED GROW
UP TO BE A
GREAT MAN.

YES, HOW EASILY HE
SAW THROUGH THE
EVIL MAGICIAN AND
PUT HIM IN HIS
PLACE.



ZARATHUSHTRA LEFT HOME IN
SEARCH OF TRUTH.



ON THE WAY, HE HAD TO CROSS
THE RIVER ABAHI, WHERE
THERE WAS NEITHER BRIDGE
NOR BOAT, BUT -



HE WANDERED THROUGH
THE LAND, STUDYING THE
MYSTERIES OF NATURE.



THEN HE CAME TO ANOTHER
RIVER - THE DAITI.



HE BEGAN TO CROSS IT.



THE WATER REACHED HIS KNEES...



...THEN HIS CHEST...



...AND HIS NECK. BUT NO HIGHER.



WHEN HE REACHED THE OTHER SIDE,
HE STEPPED OUT, GLOWING WITH A
NEW LIGHT.



THIS MIRACULOUS EPISODE INDICATED THAT THE NEW RELIGION ZARATHUSHTRA WAS TO FOUND, WOULD SPREAD THROUGH THE WORLD IN FOUR STAGES.

THE ANGEL OF THE GOOD MIND, VOHU MANO, STOOD BEFORE HIM.





I SHALL TEACH THE PEOPLE THE NEW RELIGION OF HUMATA (GOOD THOUGHTS), HUKHTA (GOOD WORDS) AND HVARESHTA (GOOD DEEDS).

ZARATHUSHTRA WENT BACK TO HIS PEOPLE.



LISTEN TO ME, MY BROTHERS. IT IS UP TO YOU TO DECIDE WHETHER YOU WANT TO TREAD THE PATH OF GOOD OR THE PATH OF EVIL.



DESTROY ANGRA MAINYU, THE EVIL WITHIN YOU WITH SPENTA, THE BENEFICENT PART OF YOU.



GOOD WILL ALWAYS BE REWARDED. EVIL CAN NEVER ESCAPE PUNISHMENT. THAT IS THE MESSAGE OF AHURA MAZDA.



BANISH EVIL FROM YOUR HEART AND MIND, AND MAKE ROOM FOR GOD. GOD DOES NOT SIT IN HEAVEN ON A GOLDEN THRONE. HE LIVES IN YOUR HEART.

ONE DAY -

COUSIN MEDIYOMAH,
I HAVE SEEN YOU
FOLLOWING ME.
WHAT CAN I DO
FOR YOU?
I WANT
TO BE YOUR
DISCIPLE.
TEACH ME
THE RELIGION
OF AHURA
MAZDA.



COME AND LISTEN
CAREFULLY TO
WHAT I HAVE
TO SAY.



MANY YEARS LATER,
IN THE KINGDOM OF
BALKH IN PERSIA,
KING GUSHTASP
HAD A DREAM -



ZARATHUSHTRA CAME THROUGH
THE ROOF ON A GOLDEN
THRONE, HOLDING A BALL OF
FIRE, THE SACRED BOOK
(AVESTA) AND A PLANT.

GUSHTASP PLANTED THE TREE,
WHICH SPOKE TO HIM.



THERE IS ONLY ONE
GOD. HE HAS TAUGHT
ZARATHUSHTRA THE
TRUE RELIGION.
FOLLOW IT,
GUSHTASP.

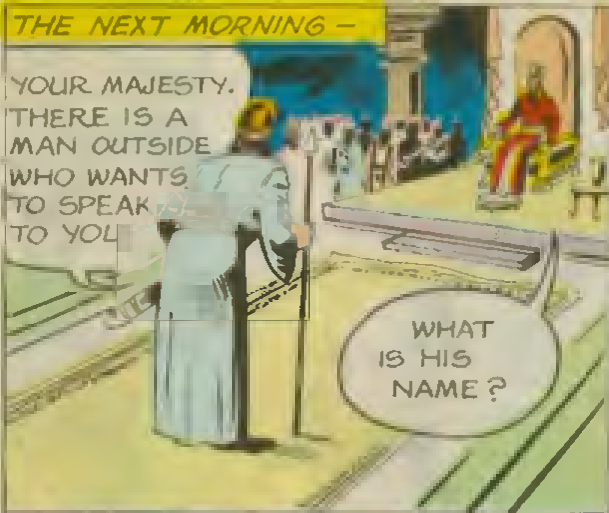
ZARATHUSHTRA HANDED THE
BALL OF FIRE TO GUSHTASP.



IT DOES NOT BURN MY
HAND, NOR CAN IT BE PUT
OUT BY WATER OR
EARTH. IT'S A
MIRACLE.



THIS IS THE
AVESTA, GOD'S
HOLY BOOK.



THE NEXT MORNING -

YOUR MAJESTY.
THERE IS A
MAN OUTSIDE
WHO WANTS
TO SPEAK
TO YOU

WHAT
IS HIS
NAME?



HE CALLS
HIMSELF
ZARATHUSH-
TRA.

ZARATHUSH-
TRA! IS
IT... IT CANNOT
BE. SEND
HIM IN AT
ONCE.



O GREAT
KING GUSHTASP,
MAY GOD BLESS
YOU WITH
WISDOM, POWER
AND LONG
LIFE.