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# Avesto is the Source of our Spirituality.

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**ANNOTATION:** Zoroastrianism, whose holy book is the Avesto, was one of the oldest religions. It was widespread among the peoples of the Middle East before Islam. It is interpreted as the religion revealed to the people by the prophet Zoroaster through revelation from God. Rare cultural monuments such as the Avesto, no matter what the idea or purpose, have become a universal value in their time. Mankind is always exploring aspects and factors that serve the development of the heritage of the past, regardless of its ideas, ideology and teachings. He feels the need for it.

**KEYWORDS:** Avesto, Yashna, Yasht, Visparad, Vandidot, Zoroaster, Parthia, Turanian land, peoples of the East, Islam, Mazdapism, goodness, Ahuramazda.

In our ancient history, until the independence of the socio-cultural life of the country where our ancestors lived, the way of life and worldview of the people, the principles of the spiritual process, many speculative false and unscientific statements are made, only the findings giving illuminated the dark pages of the past.

Thanks to independence, our country has the opportunity to comprehensively analyze and apply the development of statehood, socio-political, economic, cultural and spiritual life of ancient times.

The sacred book "Avesto", the common spiritual heritage of the ancient Turanian Iran, the Turkic and Persian-speaking peoples who lived in these lands, dates back more than three thousand years. found Zoroastrianism, whose holy book is the Avesto, was one of the oldest religions. It was widespread among the peoples of the Middle East before Islam. It is interpreted as the religion revealed to the people by the prophet Zoroaster through revelation from God.

It is true that Zoroastrianism, like all other religions, was passed down by pagans and priests in various countries that practiced Zoroastrianism for centuries, and was later written down in the 3rd century BC and supplemented with new passages, depending on the place of residence and language of these priests. Close

The Avesto originally consisted of 1,000 chapters and included 21 nask (books). Abu Rayhan al-Biruni writes: In the treasury of King Darius ibn Darius there was a copy of the Avesta engraved in gold on the skins of twelve thousand oxen. Alexander destroys the fireplaces and burns them while killing the servants in them. Therefore, since then, three-fifths (or eighteen nasks) of the Avesto have disappeared. The Avesto had thirty nasks. The pagans had about twelve nasks.

Other medieval sources confirm the destruction of the Avesto. However, historical sources say that 200-300 years later, during the reign of Parthian king Vologes I (51-76 AD), the oral and written remains of the Avesto were collected. Also, during the reign of Ardasher I (226-242 AD), king of the Sassanid dynasty, 226-247 AD, Zoroastrianism was declared the official religion during the reign of Ardasher's son ShopurI (303-379 AD), and the Avesto taught astronomy, medicine, mathematics and philosophy. The relevant parts are recorded and arranged. This main text was then completed. Two complete Parthian manuscripts of these completed copies are preserved in India. One is at the Coma Institute, the cultural center of Zoroastrianism in Bombay, and the other is at the State Library in Calcutta.

During the reign of Khisrov I (531-579 AD), the text of the Avesto was translated into Pahlavi. This explanatory translation is called Zand. The oldest surviving copy of the Avesto, dated 1324, is kept in Copenhagen.

No other holy book in the world has met with the fiercest resistance of the enemy as much as the Avesto. He has suffered countless blows over the centuries. But the sanctity and greatness of the Avesto was such that it overcame disasters with the majesty and power of destiny each time. Kings and priests who memorized the Avesto were passed

down from generation to generation, re-copied and distributed in book form. Thus, the following four parts of the holy book "Avesto": "Yashna", "Yasht", "Visparad", "Vandidot" have come down to us in full.

There is also a book called "Little Avesto" ("Little Avesto"), a set of essential prayers for daily rituals of faith. Among the pieces that have arrived is the Vandidotnaski, which consists of the entire 22nd chapter. A number of chapters and paragraphs of the remaining 3 nasks have not been preserved.

Despite the fact that many parts have been lost, the preserved parts alone can fully reflect the encyclopedic glory of the Avesto, its high value as a historical source, its spiritual, universal features.

1. "Yasna" consists of 72 chapters, which include the recitation of memorized prayers during the performance of praise, supplication, sacrifice and other Zoroastrian rituals, singing and chanting in a certain tone and addressing the goddess of goodness, as well as rituals of fire festivals. expressed.

2. The nasht "Yasht" consists of prayers and praises in honor of the god Ahuramazda and his sole creator in the book "Avesto". The Yashtnaski consisted of 22 chapters. However, 10 chapters have come down to us.

Avesto's Yashtnask stands out from the rest. Their mythological foundations are very ancient. In them the realities of social life are reflected in a peculiar uplifting spirit.

3. Visparad is similar to Yasna in terms of style and content. It consists of 24 chapters and is dedicated to all the good qualities and attributes created by the Supreme Lord Ahura Mazda, who follows the path of purity and righteousness.

4. The Vandidot consists of 22 fargards (chapters), ie 22 chapters, in which the sixteen countries created by Ahuramazda and the damage done to them by Ahriman are mentioned.

In Vandidot, the laws of the Zoroastrians promised individual and social rights, as well as the place of people in society, morality and decency, crime and punishment, hardening of the body and soul, burying the dead, punishing the one who defiled it, false promises, punishing a person who violates an oath, punishing a person who betrays his family, and many other issues are described in detail.

Zoroastrianism and the Avesto are the rarest, most unique and unique books in the world, illuminating the hearts of mankind with the light of goodness for thousands of years.

The events described in the Avesto take place mainly in the country of ArianamVayja, which is called "Great Khorezm" by scholars. This state included Bactria, Margiyana, Sogdiana, Khvayrezm (Khorezm).

Er.avv. In the IX-VIII centuries, such a light appeared in the central part of Asia that it was able to show its influence on the development of mankind. At a time when the social order of the ancient tribes living in Eastern Iran and Central Asia was changing and their religious views and social stratification continued, new ideas, new thoughts and new teachings emerged along the Amu Darya in the Turan lowlands. It was a doctrine that could withstand the polytheism and extravagance that had formed in the country, the pollution of the environment, and the slaughter of many living animals that played an important role in human life.

It is considered permissible for a person who follows this doctrine (EzguFikr, EzguKalam (Word), EzguAmal) to place this trinity in his heart throughout his life. The founder of this doctrine was Zoroaster, who was able to prove himself right by fearlessly spreading his teachings among the representatives of any class living in society. According to Beruni, Zoroaster was born 258 years before Alexander the Great came to Central Asia. But further research, especially the analysis of the Gats (poetic texts in the Avesta), based on their descriptions of the natural conditions and events of that period, confirms that Zoroaster was born in the late eighth century BC and died in the last quarter of the seventh century. Its main name is Zarathustra, which means "owner of the yellow camel", "owner of the golden light". He is a descendant of the famous Spitama, who lived in the Lower Amudarya basin (more precisely, Sipiytmom - sipiytoma in the Avesto. The family of the prophet Zoroaster is named after him. the name of the prophet as a child, and the name of Zoroaster is said to have been given after the attainment of prophecy) he entered the union of the seed of the Aryans. His father's name was Purishasp and he was from the seed coccyx. Her mother's name was Dugova, and

she was also the daughter of Farokhoma, a descendant of Spitama. From an early age, Zoroaster was apprenticed to his father, the shepherd Barzin-kurush. He remembers the common ages in the Aryan clan, which worshiped various gods until he was 15 years old. When he reached the age of 23, he believed that the main reason for tribal disputes was that they worshiped different gods, and the plight of the people was that they made many sacrifices to various gods and even used people as victims. He then began to preach the worship of only one god, Ahura-Mazda (Ahura - "owner of all worlds", "powerful", Mazda - "intelligence", "wisdom") and to follow the Avesto, which is his instructions. But his calls are met with coldness by his tribesmen. His appeals to his tribesmen, who had been accustomed to polytheism for centuries, were badly affected and he was expelled from his homeland. He devoted ten years to wandering in the desert, in the mountains, in the towns and villages, and during this time spreading his teachings there. He later returns to his homeland and marries his own tribe. She gave birth to three sons and three daughters. According to some sources, Zoroaster's wife was the daughter of Gushtasp, the minister of the Kavi tribe. Today, the scientific work of art that embodies his ideas is called the Avesto, and the religion that embodies the teachings and ideas he founded is called Zoroastrianism. The religion of Zoroastrianism is based on dualism, that is, the universe consists of two foundations of two beginnings, the constant struggle of light and darkness, good and evil.

The events described in the Avesto take place mainly in the country of ArianamVayja, which is called "Great Khorezm" by scholars. This state included Bactria, Margiyana, Sogdiana, Khvayrezm (Khorezm). This state was formed at that time on the basis of the principles of military democracy. The Avesto also pays special attention to kings, high-ranking officials, priests and religious traditions. The noble intentions of the ancient people have a special place in it.

The Avesto also contains valuable ideas about nature and its protection from evil forces (giants). According to Zoroaster Ferdowsi and Beruni, who were persecuted by their people and did not see the light of their people, they based their religion on King Vishtasp of Iran and gained his recognition. In the book Shahrastanihoi Iran, according to Vishtasp's decree, Zoroaster wrote the 1,200-chapter pandnoma "Avesto" on gold plates and handed it over to the king's fire. The king then became an ardent propagandist of the new religion as a supporter of the prophet. Meanwhile, the ruler of the lands on both banks of the Amu Darya, Arjasp accuses his brother Vishtasp of apostasy and draws an army against him, a war breaks out between the two, and Arjasp is killed in the battle. As a result, Mazda-Zoroastrianism will be fully introduced in Iran and Turan. At the request of Zoroaster and the decree of Vishtasp, fire-temples were built in all cities. According to the Avesta, the universe consists of the beginning of two foundations, namely light and darkness, the constant struggle of good and evil. It is written that Ahuramazda, the god of goodness, and Ahriman, the god of evil (Ahriman in Pahlavi in the Avesta means "world of war and enmity"), the leader of the enemy giants in the new Avesta, the uncompromising enemy of Ahura Mazda. the struggle between death is eternal, and finally the struggle must be won by good as a result. Zoroaster calls everyone to a fierce struggle against evil, darkness. He believes that people should always do good. He says that if a person enters the path of evil, he will have to answer for what he did in front of the great god Ahuramazda.

According to the existing religious beliefs of this period, the ideas of Zoroaster were new ideas, as if they were gifted to Zoroaster by Ahuramazda, the god of goodness. Based on these ideas, Zoroaster, as the beloved son of Ahuramazda, was to protect the world from evil during this period. Zoroastrians have worshiped the wonders of nature, such as the sun, fire, earth, water, and air. For worshipers of this religion, fire, earth, water, and air were considered sacred, polluting them was considered a great sin, and even burying corpses in the ground was forbidden. The corpses were placed in an open high place.

The carcass was eaten by birds and wild animals, then the relatives of the corpse came and collected the bones from the carcass, placed them in special ceramic vessels called ostadon (assuari) and left them in the fires for eternal storage. Assyrians are now found in the heart of many ancient hills in Central Asia, which are mainly er.avv. It belongs to the V-IV centuries and is mostly found in the monuments of Kozalikir, Qalalikir, Jonbosqala, Toqroqqala of Khorezm. At the age of 77, Zoroaster was stabbed to death by a polytheist Bratarvahsh during a prayer service at a temple in Balkh. But his teachings and the religion he founded were revered as sacred in non-Arab countries until Islam was forcibly adopted. Two copies of the Avesta, the holy book on which this religion is based, were destroyed during the march of Alexander the Great. At the end of the Sassanid period, the Arabs invaded Iran and burned the old religion and holy books. Some tribes, faithful to their beliefs, fled to India with a large part of the Avesta. They reach one of the



villages around Bombay, India, with great difficulty, and stay there. Even today, 250,000 Persians live around Bombay, and a copy of the Avesta is kept in them. Aware of this, the French scholar AnketilDuperron went to India in 1755 and lived in this tribe and managed to get a copy of the Avesta and bring it to Europe in 1761 without trusting them. In 1771, Zend published a three-part book, Approximate Translations of the Avesta, and introduced the Avesta to Europe. The Avesto was familiar to many peoples in ancient times, including Greeks, Jews, Romans, Syrians, and other peoples who enjoyed its teachings. As a result, they used the valuable ideas of the Avesta in developing their teachings.

The Avesto was published in 1825 in English, in 1873 in German, and in 1901 in Russian.

The rarest copies of the book are now housed in the National Libraries of Copenhagen in Paris and Denmark. The new Uzbek edition of the work was prepared in 2001 on the occasion of the 2700th anniversary of the Avesto.

It should be noted that in November 1999, at its 30th session in Paris, UNESCO decided to widely celebrate the 2700th anniversary of the Avesto. Anniversary celebrations In 2001, the Avesto homeland was widely celebrated in Uzbekistan, namely in Khorezm, and the Avesto memorial complex was built in Urgench.

According to many scholars, many ideas and concepts of monotheism, including heaven and hell, doomsday, angels, devils, demons, and the like, were first encountered in the Avesta, but later spread to other religions, including Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. went

The sacred book "Avesto", which attracted the attention of our ancient ancestors, is not only a religious song, story and narration, but also a scientific source that covers the natural sciences, in particular, medicine, education.

One of the sacred holidays of Zoroastrianism is Navruz. Navruz is a big holiday of the Central Asian and Persian peoples dedicated to the New Year. In the spring, on March 21, all living beings, humanity, plants and animals in the universe will be revived. Mankind, as the highest product of nature, has celebrated this holiday with great joy and is still celebrating it today. In our country, Navruz is widely celebrated as a holiday of spring, a new day, a holiday of awakening of nature. One of the advantages of Zoroastrianism was that in this religion, along with the official beliefs that strengthen the kingdom of rulers, there were also the ideas of humanity, which glorified man as the creator of his own life, his own destiny.

Rare cultural monuments such as the Avesto, no matter what the idea or purpose, have become a universal value in their time. Mankind is always exploring aspects and factors that serve the development of the heritage of the past, regardless of its ideas, ideology and teachings. He feels the need for it. She takes care of him. After all, any civilization begins with a clash of ideas, ideologies and doctrines, through which to understand the world. From this point of view, the Avesto has great social, spiritual, moral, philosophical and logical significance in today's conditions of independence.

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