

# The Cosmic Connection - I

## Fire -- The Source of All Creation

By "Atash - Parast"

[ With this issue, we begin a new series on Holy Fire. The articles in this series will provide a comprehensive coverage, perhaps for the first time in English, of the functions, role and status of the various grades of "Fire Temples" in the Zoroastrian Religion and their connection with the different Fire Energies of Nature, of the duties and responsibilities of the Trustees, Athornans and Behdins who make use of these Spiritual Institutions. ]

According to the Zoroastrian Religion, Fire is the source of Light and of all creation. At the base of the entire Universe — from the tiniest atom to the mightiest galaxy — are Fire Energies of different grades. Of the four basic elements — Fire, Air, Water and Earth — the last three can be obtained freely, ready-made in Nature. But not so, Fire, Fire is the only element which has to be "created" or brought about by some process or friction, like, say, striking a match. It has got to be generated.

It is Fire and its various Energies in Nature, which constitute the nucleus of every atom and of the Cosmos. These Fire Energies alone sustain and nourish all life in the Universe. They are at the root of the Inconceivably remotest Past and the unimaginably distant Future -- from Eternity to Infinity !

The very first, fundamental question that arises at this stage is, what is the source of Fire ( i. e. Fire Energies ) itself ? For that, we have to go back trillions and trillions of years.

According to the Zoroastrian Faith, the concept of the Godhead is of twofold nature : (1) AHU ( literally, "it IS" ) that impersonal, inconceivable Supreme Deity (corresponding to the Nirakar Ishvar of the Hindu Religion) and (2) AHURA MAZDA the personal Deity, the Creator of this vast Universe, who can be conceived from his numerous names occurring in the Hormazd and Ram Yashts.

Even AHU has two phases : (a) Shaedan Shaed (Aves. Khshaetan Khshaeta), the Light of Lights, who is the shoreless, motionless Ocean of Light, about which nothing can be said or even thought of, except, AH : "it IS" (b) In the 2nd phase, certain motion takes place in an infinitesimal part of this AHU, on account of which that part assumes intense brilliancy. The brilliancy is caused by the primemost THOUGHT - divine going on in that tiny part, for the creation of the Universe.

( To be continued )

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( Continued from Vol. 7, No. 1 issue )

As a result of this Thought going on in AHU, there arises from it an emanation called, in the Fravardin Yasht, Khao Afrazyamna = fountain source of eternal freshness.

Between the essence and quality of AHU Khshæetan Khshaeta and the emanation (Khoa), there is a world of a difference. But as regards the nature of this difference there is absolute and perfect mystery. Hence, AHU has created a screen of light impregnable from the side of Khao Afrazyamna. This screen of light is called Niru. This Nira, though of much inferior potentiality than AHU, is yet immensely more powerful than Khao Afrazyamna. It is because of this screen of Light, Niru, that even the Yazatas, cannot see AHU.

The Fire Energies functioning in Nature are the outcome of the all-pervasive strength and power of AHU. After Shaedan Shaed, which is one of the appellations of AHU, Atash-e-Shaedan is the most primary and fundamental source of creative heat or energy of the supermost power functioning in the pre-cosmogenesis world, from which the Universe is subsequently created. On

account of this super power and brilliance, it is called Atash-e-Shaedan, = the heat and energy of the highest luster or splendour.

Besides Atash-a-Shaedan, there are 15 other gradations of Atash, meaning creative energy, functioning in the Universe, possessing different characteristics. Thus, with Atash-e-Shaedan, there are in all 16 grades of Atash in Nature.

The Atash-e-Shaedan remains aloof from and unmingled with the entire creation. This Atash is at the very boundary from which Niru begins. It is a part of the Shaedan Shaed AHU Himself. It assists Ahura Mazda, the Lord of the Universe in bringing the entire creation into being. Atash-e-Shaedan helps in creating and sustaining other 15 grades of Atash working in the Universe. It is the source of all energy and motion in the Universe.

In the next instalment, we shall consider the other 15 grades of Atash working in the Universe — the macro and micro Fire Energies.

( To be continued )

