

YATHA AHU VAIRYO

The Manthra of Creation

By Behram D. Pithavala

At His birth Asho Zarathushtra Saheb laughed aloud and, sitting up, recited **Yatha Ahu Vairyo** ("YAV"). It is the human interpretation of **AHUN**, the Word pronounced by Ahura Mazda before Creation, rendered for us by the Divine Child. Just as **AHUN** (from which **AUM** and **AUMEN**, **AMEN** are undoubtedly derived) is the very source of all Creations, **YAV** is the foundation of the Zarathushtrian Religion, for out of every single word of it a Nusk or treatise was expounded by our revered Prophet.

1. **Yatha Ahu Vairyo, the Manthra of Creation.** — There are in all 21 words in this most bountiful Manthra. Now, if we read "21" Avestawise i.e. from right to left, we proceed from "1" symbolizing Ahura Mazda and arrive at "2" signifying "the Many", i.e. the Creations. Thus, "21" esoterically indicates emergence of Creations from the One Creator, Ahura Mazda. This indicates that **YAV** is the Manthra of Creation, of Involution. Incidentally, **Ashem Vohu**, which contains 12 words, is the Manthra of Evolution and of Redemption, the Creations (2) re'urning to their Creator, their Divine source (1)!

It can, therefore, be legitimately inferred from what is stated above the since **YAV** is the Manthra of Creation, it should reveal to us how the Creations came into being and how they are sustained from eon to eon. Within the compass of this short article an attempt is made by me as a humble student to show that **YAV** does in fact contain, in a nutshell, the Zarathushtrian Philosophy of Cosmogony.

2. **Introductory remarks.** — The Ultimate Reality which exists in Boundless Time (**Zrvana Akarana**) is **Ahu**, the Absolute, the Unmani-

fest Lord of Existence (**ah**, to be, plus **u**, the Lord). (Compare (**A**)**RTA**, Divine Order, Truth, Righteousness, plus **u** = **Ratu**, the Lord of Order, Truth and Righteousness). **Ahu** is beyond human comprehension and hence it cannot be defined. It is verily "Unthinkable" (**Anamanthwao**). And for this very reason we do not have any prayer or litany addressed to, or a mode of worship of, **Ahu**. It sees countless "long periods of activity" (**Zrvana Daregho Khwadhata**: "ZDK") rhythmically appearing and disappearing one after the other. The present ZDK is often cryptically referred to as the "period from Gayomard to the Saoshyant" (**Az Gayomard unda Soshios**).

At the Dawn of Creation (**Hoshbam**) an enormous shaft of Divine Light (**RA**, **RAE**, **Ray**) emerges from the Unmanifested Lord **Ahu**. This Divine Manifestation is, therefore, called "**AHURA**" (**Ahu** plus **Ra**). He is also referred to as "**Mazda**", the Lord of Creation or the Omniscient Lord, and also as **Ratu**. In the Holy Gathas (**Yasna 43-5**). He is referred to as "**the First at the birth of Life**" (**angheush zanthoi paourveem**).

Ratu, **Mazda**, then pronounces the Word of Power, **AHUN** (i.e. Let there be ..), whereupon the Divine Hierarchy, viz. the Seven Holy Immortals and Their Angelic Hamkars, manifests first of all, all Cosmic Spheres, so far asleep in the womb of **Ahu**, once again become active, and finally, all Primordial or Archetypal Creations come into being.

All this happens strictly in accordance with the Law of **Asha** (Divine Order) formulated by Ahura Mazda Himself and not as a result of any fortuitous accident.

Vohu Mano, Behman Ameshaspend who, incidentally, is the first Creation of Ahura Mazda, then produces the other Creations on the model of the aforesaid Archetypal Creations.

Khshathra, Sheherevar Ameshaspend, the Mighty Vital Life Force of Ahura Mazda, sustains all Creations during the active phase of each ZDK.

This, in substance, is the message of YAV.

In passing, it may be pointed out that at the end of every ZDK, i.e. at the Epoch of Frashogard ("Making fresh"), all evolving souls do not necessarily attain Prefection and Immortality. Hence they have to carry on their work of curing their defects (**dravao**) then becoming inherent in them, during the next ZDK, Again, since these souls are then at different stages of spiritual development, they are given birth, from life to life, in different religious com-

munities, to the end and intent that they may reach their goal as expeditiously as possible. Thus all souls are not alike at birth. Further, the whole panorama of Creation manifests of necessity, and not as a plaything of Ahura Mazda, nor is this all a mere illusion (**Maya**). All Creation has a well-defined definite purpose behind it. This is the sublime view of the Religion of Zarathushtra which teaches activity and is vehemently opposed to inactivity).

I translate the whole Manthra as under :

According to the Plan of Ahu, Ratu Mazda (brought into existence) the Primordial or Archetypal Creation in accord with the Law of Asha, Behman Ameshaspend is Mazda's Producer of the diverse manifestations of Life. And it is the Mighty Life Force (Khshathra) of Ahura Mazda which gives sustenance to the revolving Spheres.