

ZARATHUSHTI FAITH - In a Nut Shell

ORIGIN & HISTORY

Unanimously acknowledged as the founder of Monotheism, the Zarathushti (Zoroastrian) religion was established around 1738 BCE, in eastern Persian in the kingdom of Balkh by Zarathushtra or Zoroaster as the Greeks called him.

Zarathushtism (Zoroastrianism) changed the face of civilization, benevolence and progress with righteousness, became the aim of its followers. Wisdom was valued above all things and for over a thousand years, (658 BCE and 652 CE) it was a dominant religion followed throughout the Persian Empire **by choice not force**.

The Torah and the Bible have nothing but good to say of the followers of Zarathushtra, and calls them Saviors and Wise Men, and record the freedom of religion afforded by them to the various people under their rule. The first Charter of Human Rights which today adorns the United Nations was the work of the Zarathushti Emperor, Kurosh / Cyrus the Great.

While ancient civilizations have left behind monuments built by slaves and forced labour, accounting records show that the Persians built Persepolis with paid workers from different parts of the Empire, and that women workers were paid maternity leave. Instead of temples they built highways and underground water canals; they joined the Mediterranean to the Red Sea and measured the depth of water from the Indus to the Red Sea to chart a safe route for ships. They believed in the use of Wisdom (Mazda).

These benevolent people and their religion was wiped out by the forces of Islam, millions were massacred while others were converted by force. Their women and children were raped and sold as slaves. Their libraries were destroyed and replaced with mosques. The few who fled and took refuge in India, are today famous as the Parses, they numbered 150,000 at their peak but their industriousness, philanthropy and benevolence are clearly evident in that nation of a billion people. Those that stood their ground in Iran were reduced to a mere 7,711 heads hiding in the

GOOD THOUGHTS

Progress Towards Perfection

deserts of Yazd and Kerman, when the Parses from India came to their rescue in 1882 and bought their partial freedom by paying the rulers of Iran enough money to cover the Jaziya Tax (infidel tax). With the sword lifted from above their heads, they started growing and flourishing as traders and entrepreneurs within the limits placed on them as infidels and untouchables. Their population grew to about 36 thousand and since the 1980's they have started migrating to the west. Semi official censuses show the number of Zarathushties to be growing in Iran, to between 90 thousand and 1.5 million and world wide to over 3 million. The group that has unceasingly preserved their faith in spite of atrocities committed against them number only around 120,000.

SCRIPTURES

The teachings of Zarathushtra, that have survived the tyranny of history and the ravages of time, are called the GATHA. They are to be found in the larger body of scriptures called the AVESTA. Literally "A"- "Vesta" means "Unknown Knowledge" or in modern terms "Research Papers". It includes history, geography, psychology, astronomy, physics, chemistry, medicine, mythology, ecology, law and other information. The maxim of the scriptures is **GOOD THOUGHTS, GOOD WORDS, GOOD DEED**.

BELIEF – Create Heaven on Earth

Men and women are born equal with complete freedom of choice. The goal of every human being should be to move towards Perfection by way of the good path that they choose to pursue in life and thereby create a heaven on earth. The path towards perfection and spirituality is summarised as the **Seven Eternal Laws** -Amesha Spentas.

- 1- VOHUMANA - **GOOD MIND** – Use your mind in a Good Way and to its maximum, to inquire and learn of
- 2- ASHA VAHISTA - **THE ULTIMATE TRUTH**–The laws of Nature, the laws of the Universe. Use them to make

GOOD WORDS

- 3- KHASH ATRA VARIYU **GOOD RULES** – Good Laws, Good Guidance, Good Products. Which will lead to
- 4- SEPANTA ARMAITI - **LAWFUL DESIRE**- Righteousness. Which will pave the way towards
- 5- HURVATATA - **PERFECTION** – Mental, Physical, and Spiritual. Which will lead to
- 6- AMERTATA - **IMMORTALITY**- a) after death being remembered and praised for the good deeds for generations. (b) In life being mentally free from the fear of death. This will lead to the oneness with
- 7- **AHURA MADZA** - The Creator of Wisdom, Khod-Ah- through Self Realization. KHOD = Self AH=to come

These laws are also to be found in the New Testament. The first three are the three gifts that the Zarathushti Magi's present to baby Jesus. The meaning of it is revealed in Mathew 4:3 to 4:11 and Luke 4:3 to 4:13 and the rest are mentioned by Jesus in Mathew 5:1-48. (For further detail please visit <http://www.ancientiran.com> and read "Influence on other Religions").

The most famous maxim of the religion is **GOOD THOUGHTS, GOOD WORDS, GOOD DEEDS**. This comes from the Gathas of Zarathushtra (28.11). Where he draws our attention to the fact that everything that is created was first a THOUGHT (from the creation of the stone chips to modern day micro chips), so the advice is LET YOUR THOUGHTS BE GOOD. Good Thoughts are those that are in harmony with Nature. Thoughts not converted into words will be forgotten so convert only your good thoughts to words and let the bad thoughts be forgotten. It is through healthy discussion and debate that the Good Thoughts will finally convert to Good Deeds and Good Products.

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GOOD DEEDS