

EDITORIAL

First of all I would like to wish all of you, a very

HAPPY NOU ROUZ

personally and also on behalf of all the members of The Ancient Iranian Cultural and Religious Research and Development Center. This is our third New Year together and we look forward to many more fruitful years to follow with your support as readers and writers. We also take this opportunity to thank all of you who have send donations to help us continue this endeavour for we very much depend on your support.

This issue is about the PERSIAN LANGUAGE and the next two issues will be about the science of "ASTRONOMY IN ANCIENT IRAN" and "MUSIC AND DANCE IN ANCIENT IRAN". We request all our dear scholars and writers to send us their papers on these topics, or of course any other topic of their choice.

It is our pleasure to inform you that **UNESCO** has designated the year **2003 as the 3000th anniversary of Zarathushti Culture & Religion**. This has been made possible by the efforts of the Government of Tajikistan. It is inspiring to see that the people and government of Tajikistan are repeating what their ancestors did, for history tells us that Zarathushtra teachings were first accepted and spread by the Ruler of Balkh, - Shah Gustasp.

To give you an idea of the thoughts and aspirations of the people of Tajikistan, in this issue we have printed extracts from the book¹ written by no other than the **PRESIDENT OF TAJIKISTAN** his highness Emomali Rahmonov.

I feel it is the duty of all those who love Ancient Iran and all that it stands for, to support the Tajiki people and its government in whatever way possible. Tajikistan is a young republic with an ancient history, it has a learned population and academicians and a benevolent government who are trying to establish their land locked country in the modern world.

¹ "The Tajiks in the Mirror of History". (London River Edition Ltd. INSB 0-9540425-0-6)

Since Tajikistan's establishment as a Republic they have organized many fruitful conferences and ceremonies to celebrate its Ancient Iranian Culture and Religion.

Now that after 1400 years a country and a government has for the first time stepped forward to present this ancient religion & culture to the world. **They deserve all the support that we can possibly give.**

We propose that all organizations through out the world that have any affiliation with the Ancient Iranian Culture and Religion should contact the chapter of UNESCO in their country and with their support organize seminars and celebrations and showcase this Ancient Culture and Religion to the world.

We salute the people of Tajikistan for their initiation and efforts.

Khordaad Baad

Fariborz Rahnamoon