

EDITORIAL

Time flies by IRAN ZAMIN is in the second year of publication and this is the first issue of our second Volume. It is an occasion to thank our readers and our beloved scholars and writers who have made it happen. Iran Zamin was welcomed by all quarters and it was a pleasure to see some very good reviews by our colleagues in their publications. We thank them all; namely Asha, Rah e Asha, the Bombay Press namely Parsiana and Jame Jamshed, Fezana Journal Payke Mehr and those that we may be unaware of because we may not be receiving a copy of their publication. Thank you all for your support. We shall strive to keep up to our promises, and progress.

Some of our scholarly friends have given us advice and some have had questions. I would like to answer a couple of them here because may be you dear readers had the same question. By the way we would love to hear your comments so please send us your questions, suggestion and criticisms. Space permitting we will publish it.

A dear friend and a respected scholar Mr. Jehan Daruwalla wanted to know the reason why in my first editorial I have said that since the days of the Sassania dynasty the Khordeh Avesta has replaced the Gathas of Zarathushtra among the followers of Zarathushtra. He thinks by this statement I have ".... overlooked and ignored the immense contribution of scholars like K.R.Cama, Shams Ul-Ulema Jamshedji Jivanji Modi, Taraporewala, Ardeshir Khabardar Aga Pour Davoud and others."

I would like to assure all of you and reiterate that we have great respect for our scholars and my statement was is no way belittling the efforts of our scholars. When I say Khordeh Avesta has replaced the Gatha it is among the general population who have to learn the Khordeh Avesta by heart, who can only find a copy of the Khordeh Avesta to read and pray from, in Fire Temples all over the world. Who kiss the Khordeh Avesta and pay due respect to it but may not; possess or have seen or read a copy of the Gatha. In Iran on the New Year table the Muslims places the Quran and the Zarathushti, Khordeh Avesta. Even today we cannot recite a single verse from the Gatha like we recite Tan Dorosti prayer. It is only in the last decade that the general population has become conscious of the Gathas.

I was announcing our plan to study and find out what our ancestors did before the Khordeh Avesta was compiled. Did they pray "TAN DOROSTI TAN E KHISH"? Herodotus denies that, when he says, "The actual worshiper (Persian) is not permitted to pray for any personal or private blessing, but only for the king and the general good of the community, of which he is himself a part. "

While tying the Kushti did they say, " *Besare gozare CHINVAD, pole bizorg, saboko khorramo, shado asan man vedvar ni, ya Dadar Ourmazd.*" Did they live to die and cross the Chinavat Bridge or did they live to attain Khordad - Perfection? With these in mind I had made that statement.

The other question raised was, by Ostad Jalal O din Ashtiani an eminent scholar, about the significance of the picture on the cover of our third issue. Namely, the space shuttle and the picture of Mehr sacrificing the bull. He says " Neither the shuttle nor the Roman Mehr has anything to do with the Iranian Culture then why is it on the cover of Iran Zamin".

The reason is the difference of outlook to life and the world. The ancient Iranian way of life based on the teaching of the greatest intellect and teacher of mankind Zarathushtra, is for the whole world, for all the *HAFT KESHWAR ZAMIN*, all the Seven Continents of the world, (Asia, Africa, Europe, America, Australia and the two landmasses of the Arctic and Antarctic). In the same issue on page 5 of the English section and page 40 of the Farsi section I have talked about the difference between Culture and Tradition and derived that "**Culture is Progress and Tradition is Stagnation**".

The picture on the cover depicted Culture by way of the shuttle and Tradition by way of the statue of Mehr. Let us not forget that the Iranians still sacrifice animal irrespective of their religious beliefs. Still Mehregan is celebrated by distributing bread and meat. Today in Iran Tradition rules and culture is at a stand still, so we shopped around the Haft Keshwar Zamin for progress.

There is more about the topic of progress in this issue as we are discussing "Knowledge in Ancient Iran and its influence on the World". Where we delve on how the contemporary civilizations and powers believed that knowledge was in the realm of gods while the Gathas taught the Ancient Iranians to use their mind and progress hand in hand with nature towards perfection.

In the next issue our Theme Topic will be "Mithraism". Please send us you papers on the said topic or any other topic of your choice.
Iran Zamin is an outlet for presenting your findings to the world.

Khordad Baad
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