

EDITORIAL

When else would it be more appropriate to mark the beginning of a New Year than NOU ROUZ, the ancient Iranian festival coinciding with the rejuvenation in nature, the beginning of a new cycle of life, the first day of Spring, the Vernal Equinox. The most scientific method of keeping track of time, that even time cannot change. Iranians have been celebrating Nou Rouz since the days of Shah Jamshid who is said to have celebrated it on the first spring after the great Ice Age.

Dear readers, it will be our first year with you, and we take this early opportunity to wish you a

VERY JOYFUL AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

On this occasion we would like to reiterate our resolve to strive to bring about the recognition of real Iranian Culture, Religion and its exalted Civilization, by the world at large. I would also like to Thank all the intellectuals who have supported us with their scholarly treatises. Our thanks, also to everyone who has taken the trouble of reading **IRAN ZAMIN** because without a readership no publication can exist. And a big Thank You to all of you who have sent in donations to support us, we are most grateful. As we have said before **IRAN ZAMIN** is just the tip of the iceberg. With your support we intend to achieve much more.

Our first issue was distributed worldwide and we have received a very good response. From Europe we have received more Subscription forms than the number of magazines that were distributed there. If some of you have not sent in the Subscription forms please do so at your earliest convenience, as we would like to know if you are really interested in receiving a complementary copy. If you have a friend who is interested send in his address too, you can always make use of our email. -- ancientiran@hotmail.com

In every issue we intend to suggest a theme topic and invite discussions. In this issue as you can see, it is " Dualism as presented by Zarathushtra in the Gathas". In our next issue, which will be due in June 2001, our Theme topic shall be " **CULTURE IN ANCIENT IRAN.**" Please feel free to send in your thesis, we shall be glad to publish them. If you have anything to say on the topics of our previous issues that is also welcome, it is never too late. For those that have not received our first issue, we discussed two topics. "The meaning of Mazda and Ahura in the Gathas".

And the second topic was, "While the Egyptians built pyramids for life after death, the Iranians joined the Mediterranean to the Red Sea via the Nile. What was the reason for such different outlook to life and death". Apart from the theme topics any other topic pertaining to history, arts, sciences and religion in Ancient Iran that you would like to discuss is welcome. We shall also be glad to learn the views of our readers and space permitting, decide to publish them.

We had some feed back from our readers, which I would like to explain. Many had a lot to say about the vocabulary used in the Farsi text. They said that some words were unfamiliar, consequently difficult to understand as it did not contain the usual Arabicised vocabulary. Well friends, the virtuous trend among Iranian men of letters and scholars is to refine the Farsi language of all Arabic vocabulary and we should support them by trying to learn and use the genuine Farsi words. Farsi without Arabic words is etymologically very expressive and phonetically beautiful. If we are to revive our heritage and safeguard its august culture we have to start with the language. It is never too late to learn some new words. As Ferdowsi has said

"From cradle to grave be in search of knowledge".
"Ze Gahwarreh ta Goor Danesh Bejoo".

In spite of that we have and shall pass on your message to our learned writers.

With regard to the section on Asha Vahista we were reminded that Zarathushtra does not tell us how the earth and humans were created, etc. Yes we wholeheartedly agree with you, nonetheless, we did not make such a comment. We said that religions' say, and in fact it was an invitation to progress with knowledge towards Perfection. But I agree we should have been more specific.

The English version of **IRAN ZAMIN** is also available on the Internet at our site - www.ancientiran.com send us your e-mail address and we will keep you informed of updates.

Khordad Baad
For Zarathushtra wants us to achieve Perfection (Khordad)
Fariborz Rahnamoon