



This chapter, putting aside section V, may be entitled; Funerals and Purification. Logical order may easily be introduced into it, by arranging the sections as follows: I, IV, II, III, VI, VII, X, VIII, IX.

## FARGARD 8. Funerals and purification, unlawful sex

### I

Notes:

1. If a dog or a man die under a hut of wood or a hut of felt<sup>1</sup> what shall the worshippers of Mazda do<sup>2</sup>?

1. A movable shelter, by contradistinction to a fixed abode, something like the oba of the Tartars, one of those huts made of boards or felt and called th&acirc;ruma by the Arabs, which served as pavilions for princes as well as tents for nomads.

2. That sort of abode, having only one room, can have no chamber for the dead (Vd5.10).

2. Ahura Mazda answered: 'They shall search for a Dakhma, they shall look for a Dakhma all around<sup>3</sup>. If they find it easier to remove the dead, they shall take out the dead, they shall let the house stand, and shall perfume it with Urvasna or Vohu-gaona, or Vohu-kereti, or Hadha-naepata, or any other sweet-smelling plant<sup>4</sup>.

3. If there is a Dakhma In the proximity, they remove the corpse at once. If there is no Dakhma or the season prevents its access, they purify the hut first.

4. 'So, when a dog or a man dies, the first thing to do is to take the corpse out (from the house), and to purify the house, inside and outside, with perfumes burnt on the fire' (Comm.)

See Vd11.4. Urv&acirc;sna

is the r&acirc;san plant, a sort of garlic; Voh&ucirc;-gaona, Voh&ucirc;-kereti,

and Hadh&acirc;l;-na&ecirc;pata are respectively (according to Fr&acirc;mj&icirc;)

benzoin, aloe, and pomegranate.

3. 'If they find it easier to remove the house, they shall take away the house, they shall let the dead lie on the spot, and shall perfume the house with Urvasna, or Vohu-gaona, or Vohu-kereti, or Hadha-naepata, or any other sweet-smelling plant.'

### II

4. O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! If in the house of a worshipper of Mazda a dog or a man happens to die, and it is raining<sup>5</sup>, or snowing, or blowing<sup>6</sup>, or

it is dark, or the day is at its end, when flocks and men lose their way, what shall the worshippers of Mazda do?<sup>6</sup>

5. 'No corpse must be taken to the Dakhma when rain is falling, or threatening. If one is overtaken by rain on the way, if there be a place to lay it down, they shall lay it down; if there be none, they must go on and take it to the Dakhma, they must not retrace their steps.... When arrived at the Dakhma, if they find it full of water, they may nevertheless lay down the corpse' (Comm.)

6. If it is the season of rain or snow.  
See Vd5.10 seq.

5. Ahura Mazda answered: 'The place in that house whereof the ground is the cleanest and the driest, and the least passed through by flocks and herds, by the fire of Ahura Mazda, by the consecrated bundles of Baresma, and by the faithful;'-

6.

O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! How far from the fire? How far from the water? How far from the consecrated bundles of Baresma? How far from the faithful?

7.

Ahura Mazda answered: 'Thirty paces from the fire; thirty paces from the water; thirty paces from the consecrated bundles of Baresma; three paces from the faithful;'-

8. 'On that place they shall dig a grave<sup>7</sup>, half a foot deep if the earth be hard, half the height of a man if it be soft<sup>8</sup>; [they shall cover the surface of the grave with ashes or cowdung]<sup>9</sup>; they shall cover the surface of it with dust of bricks, of stones, or of dry earth<sup>10</sup>.

7. This is the case when the house is too small for containing a special chamber for the dead (as prescribed Vd5.10).

Nowadays they dispense even with that grave: the corpse is laid on the floor, on a slab of marble, by which it is sufficiently isolated from the ground to prevent its being defiled.

8. Soft earth, being not impervious to liquids, lets contagion through more easily.

9. Vendidad Sada.

10. Substances more impervious.

911. 'And they shall let the lifeless body lie there, for two nights, or three nights, or a month long, until the birds begin to fly, the plants to grow, the hidden floods to flow, and the wind to dry up the earth.

11. §§ 9-10; see Vd5.12-13.

10. 'And when the birds begin to fly, the plants to grow, the hidden floods to flow, and the wind to dry up the earth, then the worshippers of Mazda shall make a breach in the wall of the house<sup>12</sup>, and two men, strong and skillful<sup>13</sup>, having stripped their clothes off<sup>14</sup>, shall take up the body from the clay or the stones, or from the plastered house<sup>15</sup>, and they shall lay it down on a place where they know there are always corpse-eating dogs and corpse-eating birds.

12. 'The master and mistress of the house are carried away through a breach (made in the wall of the house); others through the door' (Comm.) -- 'The more scrupulous parties have it [the body] removed by a side, in preference to the usual general entrance' (H. G. Briggs, *The Parsis*, 1852, p. 50).

13. The corpse-bearers or *nasu-kasha* (Kh&acirc;ndyas). 'The corpse must be carried by two persons (see Vd3.13 seq.), no matter who they are; they may be a man and a woman, or two women' (Comm.)

14. 'As they are exchanged for the special clothes in which they carry corpses (Comm.), the so-called *j&acirc;ma-i dakhma*, 'the Dakhma clothes.'

15. The Dakhma (see Vd6.50 seq.)

11. 'Afterwards the corpse-bearers shall sit down, three paces from the dead, and the holy Ratu<sup>16</sup> shall proclaim to the worshippers of Mazda thus: "Worshippers of Mazda, let the urine be brought here wherewith the corpse-bearers there shall wash their hair and their bodies!"'

16. The priest who directs the funerals, 'the chief of the *Nasu-kashas*' (Comm.), the so-called *Nas&acirc;-s&acirc;l&acirc;r*.

12. O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! Which is the urine wherewith the corpse-bearers shall wash their hair and their bodies? Is it of sheep or of oxen? Is it of man or of woman?

13. Ahura Mazda answered: 'It is of sheep or of oxen; not of man nor of woman, except a man or a woman who has married the next-of-kin<sup>17</sup>: these shall therefore procure the urine wherewith the corpse-bearers shall wash their hair and their bodies<sup>18</sup>.'

17. The next-of-kin marriage or *Hvaetvadatha* (*kwetodas*) is one of the good works that Ahriman dreads most (*Shayest-na shayast* 18; West, *Pahlavi Texts*, I, 389). 'Ahriman and the demons are less predominant in the body of him who practises *kwetodas*' (West, II, 422). Therefore their *ma&ecirc;sma* is as powerful as the *gomez*.

18. 'When back in the village they perform the regular *Barashnum*

with consecrated gomez' (Comm.)

### III

14. O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! Can the way, whereon the carcasses of dogs or corpses of men have been carried, be passed through again by flocks and herds, by men and women, by the fire of Ahura Mazda, by the consecrated bundles of Baresma, and by the faithful?

15. Ahura Mazda answered: 'It cannot be passed through again by flocks and herds, nor by men and women, nor by the fire of Ahura Mazda, nor by the consecrated bundles of Baresma, nor by the faithful<sup>19</sup>.

19. The way by which the corpse has passed is haunted by the Druj Nasu: the Drug is expelled from it by the same proceeding as it was expelled from the dead, by the Sag-did. The Sag-did for the purification of the way seems to have fallen into desuetude.

16. 'They shall therefore cause a yellow dog with four eyes<sup>20</sup>, or a white dog with yellow ears, to go three times through that way<sup>21</sup>. When either the yellow dog with four eyes, or the white dog with yellow ears, is brought there, then the Druj Nasu flies away to the regions of the north, [in the shape of a raging fly, with knees and tail sticking out, droning without end, and like unto the foulest Khrafstras<sup>22</sup>.]

20. A dog with two spots above the eyes.

21. 'Afrag says, the dog goes straight along the length of the way; Maidyo-mah says, he goes across it from side to side' (Comm.)

22. See Vd7.3.

17. 'If the dog goes unwillingly, O Spitama Zarathushtra, they shall cause the yellow dog with four eyes, or the white dog with yellow ears, to go six times<sup>23</sup> through that way. When either the yellow dog with four eyes, or the white dog with yellow ears, is brought there, then the Druj Nasu flies away to the regions of the north, [in the shape of a raging fly, with knees and tail sticking out, droning without end, and like unto the foulest Khrafstras.]

23. 'Three times suffice if the dog goes of his, own accord; if he goes by force, it counts as nothing; if he goes but with reluctance, that shall suffice' (Comm. ad § 18).

18. 'If the dog goes unwillingly, they shall cause the yellow dog with four eyes, or the white dog with yellow ears, to go nine times through that way. When either the yellow dog with four eyes, or the white dog with yellow ears, has been brought there, then the Druj Nasu flies away to the regions of the north, [in the shape of a raging fly, with knees and tail sticking out, droning

without end, and like unto the foulest Khrafstras.]

19. 'An Athravan shall first go along the way and shall say aloud these victorious words: "Yatha aha vairyo<sup>24</sup>: - The will of the Lord is the law of righteousness.

"The gifts of Vohu-mano<sup>25</sup> to the deeds done in this world for Mazda.

"He who relieves the poor makes Ahura king.

24. A prayer in frequent use, and considered of great efficacy, generally known as the Ahuna Vairya or Ahunwar. It was by reciting it that Ohrmazd in his first conflict with Ahriman drove him back to hell (Bund. I).

25. Of Paradise, as Vohu-mano (Good Thought) is the doorkeeper of heaven (see Vd19.31).

20. "Kem-na mazda<sup>26</sup>:

- What protector hast thou given unto me, O Mazda! while the hate of the wicked encompasses me? Whom but thy Atar and Vohu-mano<sup>27</sup>, through whose work I keep on the world of righteousness? Reveal therefore to me thy Religion as thy rule<sup>28</sup>!

"Ke verethrem-ja<sup>29</sup>: - Who is the victorious who will protect thy teaching? Make it clear that I am the guide for both worlds. May Sraosha come with Vohu-mano and help whomsoever thou pleasest, O Mazda!

26. Yasna 46.7.

27. I have no protection to expect but from my virtue (Vohu-mano, 'Good Thought') and from thy fire, which in the fire ordeal (Var Nirang) will show my innocence.

28. That is to say, one must take Religion as one's rule.

29. Yasna 44.16.

This stanza, which in the original Gatha refers to the human incarnation of Sraosha, that is to say, to king Vishtaspa, the victorious, protector of the Prophet and his, Religion, is applied here to the god Sraosha, as a protector of the soul in its passage from this world to the other (Vd7.52).

21. "Keep us from our hater, O Mazda and Armaiti Spenta! Perish, O fiendish Druj! Perish, O brood of the fiend! Perish, O creation of the fiend! Perish, O world of the fiend! Perish away, O Druj! Rush away, O Druj! Perish away, O Druj! Perish away to the regions of the north, never more to give unto death the living world of Righteousness!"

22. 'Then the worshippers of Mazda may at their will bring by

those ways sheep and oxen, men and women, and Fire, the son of Ahura Mazda, the consecrated bundles of Baresma, and the faithful.

'The worshippers of Mazda may afterwards<sup>30</sup> prepare meals with meat and wine in that house; it shall be clean, and there will be no sin, as before.'

30. On the fourth day. For three days and nights after the death it is forbidden to cook meat in the house (Comm.)

#### IV

23. O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! If a man shall throw clothes, either of skin or woven, upon a dead body<sup>31</sup>, enough to cover the feet, what is the penalty that he shall pay<sup>32</sup>? Ahura Mazda answered: 'Four hundred stripes with the Aspahe-astra, four hundred stripes with the Sraosho-charana.'

31. The dead must be stripped of his clothes, and is exposed on the heights 'clothed with the light of heaven' (Vd6.51). -- The modern use is to have him wrapped in a shroud as old and as much worn out as possible (Vd5.61).

32. See Vd5.60; Vd7.20.

24. O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! If a man shall throw clothes, either of skin or woven, upon a dead body, enough to cover both legs, what is the penalty that he shall pay? Ahura Mazda answered: 'Six hundred stripes with the Aspahe-astra, six hundred stripes with the Sraosho-charana.'

25. O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! If a man shall throw clothes, either of skin or woven, upon a dead body, enough to cover the whole body, what is the penalty that he shall pay? Ahura Mazda answered: 'A thousand stripes with the Aspahe-astra, a thousand stripes with the Sraosho-charana.'

#### V

26.

O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! If a man, by force, commits the unnatural sin [sodomy], what is the penalty that he shall pay?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'Eight hundred stripes with the Aspahe-astra, eight hundred stripes with the Sraosho-charana.'

27. O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! If a man voluntarily commits the unnatural sin, what is the penalty for it? What is the atonement for it? What is the cleansing from it?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'For that deed there is nothing that can

pay, nothing that can atone, nothing that can cleanse from it; it is a trespass for which there is no atonement, for ever and ever.'

2833. When is it so?

'It is so if the sinner be a professor of the Religion of Mazda, or one who has been taught in it.

'But if he be not a professor of the Religion of Mazda, nor one who has been taught in it, then his sin is taken from him, if he makes confession of the Religion of Mazda and resolves never to commit again such forbidden deeds.

33. See Vd3.38-42, text and notes.

29. 'The Religion of Mazda indeed, O Spitama Zarathushtra! takes away from him who makes confession of it the bonds of his sin; it takes away (the sin of) breach of trust; it takes away (the sin of) murdering one of the faithful; it takes away (the sin of) burying a corpse; it takes away (the sin of) deeds for which there is no atonement; it takes away the worst sin of usury; it takes away any sin that may be sinned.

30.

In the same way the Religion of Mazda, O Spitama Zarathushtra! cleanses the faithful from every evil thought, word, and deed, as a swift-rushing mighty wind cleanses the plain.

'So let all the deeds he doeth be henceforth good, O Zarathushtra! a full atonement for his sin is effected by means of the Religion of Mazda.'

31. O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! Who is the man that is a Daeva? Who is he that is a worshipper of the Daevas? that is a male paramour of the Daevas? that is a female paramour of the Daevas? that is a wife to the Daeva<sup>34</sup>? that is as bad as a Daeva: that is in his whole being a Daeva? Who is he that is a Daeva before he dies, and becomes one of the unseen Daevas after death<sup>35</sup>?

34. 'As a wife is obedient to her husband, so is he to the Daevas' (Comm.)

35. Demons are often the restless souls of the wicked, excluded from heaven. The Persian sect of the Mahabadians, believed that the soul that had not spoken and done good became an Ahriman or jinn (Dabestan).

32. Ahura Mazda answered: 'The man that lies with mankind as man lies with womankind, or as woman lies with mankind, is the man that is a Daeva; this one is the man that is a worshipper of the Daevas, that is a male paramour of the Daevas, that is a female

paramour of the Daevas, that is a wife to the Daeva; this is the man that is as bad as a Daeva, that is in his whole being a Daeva; this is the man that is a Daeva before he dies, and becomes one of the unseen Daevas after death: so is he, whether he has lain with mankind as mankind, or as womankind<sup>36</sup>.'

36. [i.e. the recipient is equally guilty. -JHP]

The guilty may be killed by any one, without an order from the Dastur (see § 74 n.), and by this execution an ordinary capital crime may be redeemed (Comm. ad Vd7.52).

## VI

33. O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! Shall the man be clean who has touched a corpse that has been dried up and dead more than a year<sup>37</sup>?

37. The corpse, dried up, contains no longer any of the solid and liquid elements that generate corruption and infection (see above, Vd6.50, note 16).

34. Ahura Mazda answered: 'He shall. The dry mingles not with the dry<sup>38</sup>. Should the dry mingle with the dry, how soon all this material world of mine would be only one Peshotanu, bent on the destruction of righteousness, and whose soul will cry and wail! so numberless are the beings that die upon the face of the earth<sup>39</sup>.'

38. 'This principle still prevails even with Moslem Persians:

'Pour encourir leur immondicité; dans l'attouchement des Chrétiens et autres idolâtres, il est nécessaire que s'ils les touchent, leurs vêtements soient mouillés. C'est la cause, disent-ils, qu'ils restent secs l'immondicité; ne s'attache pas; . . . ce qui est cause que dans les villes où leurs Mullas et Docteurs ont plus d'autorité; ils font

parfois défondre par leurs Kans que lorsqu'il pleut, les Chrétiens

ne sortent pas de leurs maisons, de crainte que par accident, venant à les heurter, ils, ne soient rendus immondes' (G. da Chinon, p. 88 seq.; cf. Chardin). Still nowadays, in Persia, the Jews are not allowed to go out of their house on a rainy day, lest the religious impurity, conducted through the rain, should pass from the Jew to the Moslem.

39. See Vd5.4.

## VII

35.

O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! Can the man be made clean that has touched the corpse of a dog or the corpse

of a man?

36. Ahura Mazda answered: 'He can, O holy Zarathushtra!'

How so?

'If the Nasu has already been expelled by the corpse-eating dogs, or by the corpse-eating birds, he shall cleanse his body with gomez and water, and he shall be clean<sup>40</sup>.

40. If the Sag-did has been performed, a simple ghosel is enough. See Vd7.29, notes 27 and 31.

37. 'If the Nasu has not yet been expelled by the corpse-eating dogs, or by the corpse-eating birds<sup>41</sup>, then the worshippers of Mazda shall dig three holes in the ground<sup>42</sup>, and he shall thereupon wash his body with gomez, not with water. They shall then lift and bring my dog<sup>43</sup>, they shall bring him (thus shall it be done and not otherwise) in front [of the man]<sup>44</sup>.

41. If the Sag-did has not been performed, the Barashnum is necessary.

42. The first three holes, which contain gomez. For the disposition of the holes, see the following Fargard.

43. Three times; every time that the unclean one passes from one hole to another (Comm. ad IX, 32).

44. To look at him, or, rather, at the Nasu in him, whilst the priest sings the spells that drive the Nasu.

38. 'The worshippers of Mazda shall dig three other holes<sup>45</sup> in the ground, and he shall thereupon wash his body with gomez, not with water. They shall then lift and bring my dog, they shall bring him (thus shall it be done and not otherwise) in front [of the man]. Then shall they wait until he is dried<sup>46</sup> even to the last hair on the top of his head.

45. Containing gomez too.

46. He rubs himself dry with handfuls of dust (see Vd9.29 seq.)

39. 'They shall dig three more holes<sup>47</sup> in the ground, three paces away from the preceding, and he shall thereupon wash his body with water<sup>48</sup>, not with gomez.

47. Containing water.

48. As a master does not take away the dunghill from his house with his own hands, but has it taken away by his servants, so the water, being of higher dignity than the gomez, has the worst of the impurity taken by the gomez, and intervenes only when there is nothing left that can attain it (Abalish, tr. Barthelemy, ch. V and note

29).

40. 'He shall first wash his hands; if his hands be not first washed, he makes the whole of his body unclean. When he has washed his hands three times, after his hands have been washed, thou shalt sprinkle with water<sup>49</sup> the forepart of his skull<sup>50</sup>.'

49. The water is shed from a spoon, tied to a long stick, 'the stick with nine knots' (Vd9.14).

50. Bareshnum; from which word the whole of the operation has taken its name.

41. O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! When the good waters reach the forepart of the skull, whereon does the Druj Nasu rush<sup>51</sup>?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'In front, between the brows, the Druj Nasu rushes.'

51. The Nasu is expelled symmetrically, from limb to limb, from the right side of the body to the left, from the forepart to the back parts, and she flies, thus pursued, downwards from the top of the head to the tips of the toes. The retreating order of the Nasu is just the reverse of the order in which she invaded the different members of the first man: she entered Gayomard by the little toe of the left foot, then went up to the heart, then to the shoulder, at last to the summit of the head (Gr. Bund.) Death still seizes the foot first.

42. O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! When the good waters reach in front, between the brows, whereon does the Druj Nasu rush?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'On the back part of the skull the Druj Nasu rushes.'

43.

O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! When the good waters reach the back part of the skull, whereon does the Druj Nasu rush?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'In front, on the jaws, the Druj Nasu rushes.'

44.

O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! When the good waters reach in front, on the jaws, whereon does the Druj Nasu rush?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'Upon the right ear the Druj Nasu rushes.'

45.

O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! When the good waters reach the right ear, whereon does the Druj Nasu rush?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'Upon the left ear the Druj Nasu rushes.'

46.

O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! When the good waters reach the left ear, whereon does the Druj Nasu rush?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'Upon the right shoulder the Druj Nasu rushes.'

47.

O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! When the good waters reach the right shoulder, whereon does the Druj Nasu rush?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'Upon the left shoulder the Druj Nasu rushes.'

48.

O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! When the good waters reach the left shoulder, whereon does the Druj Nasu rush?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'Upon the right arm-pit the Druj Nasu rushes.'

49.

O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! When the good waters reach the right arm-pit, whereon does the Druj Nasu rush?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'Upon the left arm-pit the Druj Nasu rushes.'

50.

O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! When the good waters reach the left arm-pit, whereon does the Druj Nasu rush?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'In front, upon the chest, the Druj Nasu rushes.'

51.

O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! When the good waters reach the chest in front, whereon does the Druj Nasu rush?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'Upon the back the Druj Nasu rushes.'

52.

O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! When the good waters reach the back, whereon does the Druj Nasu rush?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'Upon the right nipple the Druj Nasu rushes.'

53.

O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! When the good waters reach the right nipple, whereon does the Druj Nasu rush?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'Upon the left nipple the Druj Nasu rushes.'

54.

O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! When the good waters reach the left nipple, whereon does the Druj Nasu rush?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'Upon the right rib the Druj Nasu rushes.'

55.

O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! When the good waters reach the right rib, whereon does the Druj Nasu rush?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'Upon the left rib the Druj Nasu rushes.'

56.

O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! When the good waters reach the left rib, whereon does the Druj Nasu rush?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'Upon the right hip the Druj Nasu rushes.'  
57.

O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! When the good waters reach the right hip, whereon does the Druj Nasu rush?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'Upon the left hip the Druj Nasu rushes.'  
58.

O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! When the good waters reach the left hip, whereon does the Druj Nasu rush?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'Upon the sexual parts the Druj Nasu rushes. If the unclean one be a man, thou shalt sprinkle him first behind, then before; if the unclean one be a woman, thou shalt sprinkle her first before, then behind.'  
59.

O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! When the good waters reach the sexual parts, whereon does the Druj Nasu rush?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'Upon the right thigh the Druj Nasu rushes.'  
60.

O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! When the good waters reach the right thigh, whereon does the Druj Nasu rush?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'Upon the left thigh the Druj Nasu rushes.'  
61.

O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! When the good waters reach the left thigh, whereon does the Druj Nasu rush?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'Upon the right knee the Druj Nasu rushes.'  
62.

O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! When the good waters reach the right knee, whereon does the Druj Nasu rush?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'Upon the left knee the Druj Nasu rushes.'  
63.

O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! When the good waters reach the left knee, whereon does the Druj Nasu rush?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'Upon the right leg the Druj Nasu rushes.'  
64.

O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! When the good waters reach the right leg, whereon does the Druj Nasu rush?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'Upon the left leg the Druj Nasu rushes.'  
65.

O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! When the good waters reach the left leg, whereon does the Druj Nasu rush?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'Upon the right ankle the Druj Nasu rushes.'  
66.

O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! When the good waters reach the right ankle, whereon does the Druj Nasu rush? Ahura Mazda answered: 'Upon the left ankle the Druj Nasu rushes.'

67.

O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! When the good waters reach the left ankle, whereon does the Druj Nasu rush? Ahura Mazda answered: 'Upon the right instep the Druj Nasu rushes.'

68.

O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! When the good waters reach the right instep, whereon does the Druj Nasu rush? Ahura Mazda answered: 'Upon the left instep the Druj Nasu rushes.'

69.

O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! When the good waters reach the left instep, whereon does the Druj Nasu rush? Ahura Mazda answered: 'She turns round under the sole of the foot; it looks like the wing of a fly.'

70.

'He shall press his toes upon the ground, and shall raise up his heels; thou shalt sprinkle his right sole with water; then the Druj Nasu rushes upon the left sole. Thou shalt sprinkle the left sole with water; then the Druj Nasu turns round under the toes; it looks like the wing of a fly.'

71.

'He shall press his heels upon the ground, and shall raise up his toes; thou shalt sprinkle his right toe with water; then the Druj Nasu rushes upon the left toe. Thou shalt sprinkle the left toe with water; then the Druj Nasu flies away to the regions of the north, in the shape of a raging fly, with knees and tail sticking out, droning without end, and like unto the foulest Khrafstras.'

[72. 'And thou shalt say aloud these victorious, most healing words:

"The will of the Lord is the law of holiness," etc.

[(Exorcism:)]

"What protector hast thou given unto me, O Mazda! while the hate of the wicked encompasses me?" &c.

"Who is the victorious who will protect thy teaching?"

&c.52

"Keep us from our hater, O Mazda and Armaiti Spenta!

Perish, O fiendish Druj! Perish, O brood of the fiend! Perish,

O creation of the fiend! Perish O world of the fiend! Perish away, O Druj! Rush away, O Druj! Perish away, O Druj! Perish away to the regions of the north, never more to give unto death the living world of Righteousness<sup>53</sup>!"

52. As in §§ 19, 20.

53. From the Vendidad Sada; cf. § 21.

## VIII

73. O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! If worshippers of Mazda, walking, or running, or riding, or driving, come upon a Nasu-burning fire, whereon Nasu is being burnt or cooked<sup>54</sup>, what shall they do?

54. For food. See Vd7.23-24. [Cannibalism -JHP]

74. Ahura Mazda answered: 'They shall kill the man that cooks the Nasu; surely they shall kill him<sup>55</sup>. They shall take off the cauldron, they shall take off the tripod.

55. 'He who burns Nasu (dead matter) must be killed. Burning or cooking Nasu from the dead is a capital crime. . . . Four men can be put to death by any one without an order from the Dastur: the Nasu-burner, the highwayman, the Sodomite, and the criminal taken in the deed' (Comm.)

75. 'Then they shall kindle wood from that fire; either wood of those trees that have the seed of fire in them, or bundles of the very wood that was prepared for that fire; then they shall take it farther and disperse it, that it may die out the sooner<sup>56</sup>.

56. A new fire is kindled from the Nasu-burning fire: this new fire is disposed in such a way that it should die out soon: before it has died out, they kindle a new fire from it and so on for nine times: the ninth fire, derived from the one impure, through seven intermediate fires, more and more distant from the original impurity, will represent the fire in its native purity and can enter into the composition of a Warharan fire. -- On the modern process, see Dosabhoj Framji, *History of the Parsis*, II, 113.

76. 'Thus they shall lay a first bundle on the ground<sup>57</sup>, a Vitasti<sup>58</sup> away from the Nasu-burning fire; then they shall take it farther and disperse it, that it may die out the sooner.

57. In a hole dug for that purpose; such is at least the custom nowadays. The ceremony is thus made an imitation of the barashnom. The unclean fire, represented by the nine bundles, passes through the nine holes, as the unclean man does (see above, § 37 seq. and Vd9.12 seq.), and leaves at each of them some of the uncleanness it has contracted.

58. A span of twelve fingers.

77. 'They shall lay down a second bundle on the ground, a Vitasti away from the Nasu-burning fire: then they shall take it farther and disperse it, that it may die out the sooner.

'They shall lay down a third bundle on the ground, a Vitasti away from the Nasu-burning fire; then they shall take it farther and disperse it, that it may die out the sooner.

'They shall lay down a fourth bundle on the ground, a Vitasti away from the Nasu-burning fire; then they shall take it farther and disperse it, that it may die out the sooner.

'They shall lay down a fifth bundle on the ground, a Vitasti away from the Nasu-burning fire; then they shall take it farther and disperse it, that it may die out the sooner.

'They shall lay down a sixth bundle on the ground, a Vitasti away from the Nasu-burning fire; then they shall take it farther and disperse it, that it may die out the sooner.

'They shall lay down a seventh bundle on the ground, a Vitasti away from the Nasu-burning fire; then they shall take it farther and disperse it, that it may die out the sooner.

They shall lay down an eighth bundle on the ground, a Vitasti away from the Nasu-burning fire; then they shall take it farther and disperse it, that it may die out the sooner.

78.

'They shall lay down a ninth bundle on the ground, a Vitasti away from the Nasu-burning fire; then they shall take it farther and disperse it, that it may die out the sooner.

79.

'If a man shall then piously bring unto the fire, O Spitama Zarathushtra! wood of Urvasna, or Vohu-gaona, or Vohu-kereti, or Hadha-naepata, or any other sweet-smelling wood;

80. 'Wheresoever the wind shall bring the perfume of the fire, thereunto the fire of Ahura Mazda shall go and kill thousands of unseen Daevas, thousands of fiends, the brood of darkness, thousands of couples of Yatus and Pairikas<sup>58</sup>.'

58. It will have all the power of the Warharan fire.

## IX

81. O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! If a man bring a Nasu-burning fire to the Daityo-gatu<sup>59</sup>, what shall be his reward when his soul has parted with his body?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'His reward shall be the same as if he had, here below, brought ten thousand fire-brands to the Daityo-gatu.'

59. 'The proper abode,' the Warharan fire. The Warharan fire is composed of a thousand and one fires belonging to sixteen different classes (ninety-one corpse-burning fires, eighty dyers' fires, &c.) As the earthly representative of the heavenly fire,

it is the sacred centre to which every earthly fire longs to return, in order to be united again, as much as possible, with its native abode. The more it has been defiled by worldly uses, the greater is the merit acquired by freeing it from defilement.

82. O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! If a man bring to the Daityo-gatu the fire wherein impure liquid has been burnt<sup>60</sup>, what shall be his reward when his soul has parted with his body?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'His reward shall be the same as if he had, here below, brought a thousand fire-brands to the Daityo-gatu.'

60. The h&ecirc;hr, that is to say all sort of impurity that comes from the body.

83. O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! If a man bring to the Daityo-gatu the fire wherein dung has been burnt<sup>61</sup>, what shall be his reward when his soul has parted with his body?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'His reward shall be the same as if he had, here below, brought five hundred fire-brands to the Daityo-gatu.'

61. 'The fire of a bath,' according to Framji; the use of the bath was prohibited; according to Josuah the Stylite (ch. XX, tr. Martin), king Balash (484-488) was overthrown by the Magi for having built bath houses. The reason of this prohibition was probably that it entailed the defilement of the fire, as they were warmed with cow dung.

84. O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! If a man bring to the Daityo-gatu the fire from the kiln of a potter, what shall be his reward when his soul has parted with his body?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'His reward shall be the same as if he had, here below, brought four hundred fire-brands to the Daityo-gatu.'

85. O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! If a man bring to the Daityo-gatu the fire from a glazier's kiln, what shall be his reward when his soul has parted with his body?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'His reward shall be the same as if he had, here below, brought to the Daityo-gatu as many fire-brands as there were glasses [brought to that fire]<sup>62</sup>.'

62. Doubtful.

86. O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! If a man bring to the Daityo-gatu the fire from the aonya paro-berejya, what shall be his reward when his soul has parted with his body?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'His reward shall be the same as if he had, here below, brought to the Daityo-gatu as many fire-brands as there were plants<sup>63</sup>.'

63. Meaning unknown. Perhaps a fire for burning weeds.

87. O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! If a man bring to the Daityo-gatu the fire from under the puncheon of a goldsmith, what shall be his reward when his soul has parted with his body?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'His reward shall be the same as if he had, here below, brought a hundred fire-brands to the Daityo-gatu.'

88.

O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! If a man bring to the Daityo-gatu the fire from under the puncheon of a silversmith, what shall be his reward when his soul has parted with his body?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'His reward shall be the same as if he had, here below, brought ninety fire-brands to the Daityo-gatu.'

89.

O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! If a man bring to the Daityo-gatu the fire from under the puncheon of a blacksmith, what shall be his reward when his soul has parted with his body?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'His reward shall be the same as if he had, here below, brought eighty fire-brands to the Daityo-gatu.'

90. O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! If a man bring to the Daityo-gatu the fire from under the puncheon of a worker in steel, what shall be his reward when his soul has parted with his body?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'His reward shall be the same as if he had, here below, brought seventy fire-brands to the Daityo-gatu.'

91. O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! If a man bring to the Daityo-gatu the fire of an oven<sup>64</sup>, what shall be his reward when his soul has parted from his body?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'His reward shall be the same as if he had, here below, brought sixty fire-brands to the Daityo-gatu.'

64. A baker's fire.

92. O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! If a man bring to the Daityo-gatu the fire from under a cauldron<sup>65</sup>, what shall be his reward when his soul has parted with his body?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'His reward shall be the same as it he had, here below, brought fifty fire-brands to the Daityo-gatu.'

65. The kitchen-fire.

93. O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! If a man bring to the Daityo-gatu the fire from an aonya takhairya<sup>66</sup>, what shall be his reward when his soul has parted with his body?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'His reward shall be the same as if he had,

here below, brought forty fire-brands to the Daityo-gatu.'

66. Meaning unknown.

94. O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! If a man bring a herdsman's fire to the Daityo-gatu, what shall be his reward when his soul has parted with his body?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'His reward shall be the same as if he had, here below, brought thirty fire-brands to the Daityo-gatu.'

[9567. O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! If a man bring to the Daityo-gatu the fire of the field<sup>68</sup>, what shall be his reward when his soul has parted with his body?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'His reward shall be the same as if he had, here below, brought twenty fire-brands to the Daityo-gatu.']

67. From the Vendidad Sada.

68. The hunter's fire, an encampment's fire.

96. O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! If a man bring to the Daityo-gatu the fire of his own hearth<sup>69</sup>, what shall be his reward when his soul has parted with his body?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'His reward shall be the same as if he had, here below, brought ten fire-brands to the Daityo-gatu.'

69. By which one warms one's self; the fire least exposed to uncleanness.

X

97. O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! Can a man be made clean, O holy Ahura Mazda! who has touched a corpse in a distant place in the wilderness<sup>70</sup>?

70. Where the regular process or purification cannot be performed. -- The Pahlavi Commentary to this chapter will be found in West, Pahlavi Texts, II, p. 455.

98. Ahura Mazda answered: 'He can, O holy Zarathushtra.'

How so?

'If the Nasu has already been expelled by the corpse-eating dogs or the corpse-eating birds, he shall wash his body with gomez; he shall wash it thirty times, he shall rub it dry with the hand thirty times, beginning every time with the head<sup>71</sup>.

71. Perhaps better: 'this is as good as the chief purification' (that is to say as a regular Barashnom). -- If the Sag-did has been 'performed, the S&icirc;-sh&ucirc; (thirty-fold washing) is enough. Cf. above, §§ 35, 36.

99. 'If the Nasu has not yet been expelled by the corpse-eating

dogs or the corpse-eating birds, he shall wash his body with gomez; he shall wash it fifteen times, he shall rub it dry with the hand fifteen times<sup>72</sup>.

72. If the Sag-did has not been performed, he cleanses himself in a summary way till he comes to a place where the Barashnom can be performed.

100. 'Then he shall run a distance of a Hathra<sup>72</sup>. He shall run until he meets some man on his way, and he shall cry out aloud: "Here am I, one who has touched the corpse of a man, and who is powerless in mind, powerless in tongue, powerless in hand<sup>73</sup>. Do make me clean." Thus shall he run until he overtakes the man. If the man will not cleanse him, he remits him the third of his trespass<sup>74</sup>.

72. See Bund. 26, note 1.

73. On account of my uncleanness, I am arm&ecirc;sht, excluded from active life and unfit for any work.

74. As he takes it upon his own head.

101. 'Then he shall run another Hathra, he shall run off again until he overtakes a man; if the man will not cleanse him, he remits him the half of his trespass<sup>75</sup>.

75. The half of the remnant, that is the second third.

102. 'Then he shall run a third Hathra, he shall run off a third time until he overtakes a man; if the man will not cleanse him, he remits him the whole of his trespass.

103. 'Thus shall he run forwards until he comes near a house, a borough, a town, an inhabited district, and he shall cry out with a loud voice: "Here am I, one who has touched the corpse of a man, and who is powerless in mind, powerless in tongue, powerless in hand. Do make me clean." If they will not cleanse him, he shall cleanse his body with gomez and water; thus shall he be clean<sup>76</sup>.'

76. 'He may then attend to his business; he may work and fill; some say he must abstain from sacrifice (till he has undergone the Barashnom)' (Comm.)

104. O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! If he find water on his way and the water make him subject to a penalty<sup>77</sup>, what is the penalty that he shall pay?

77. As he defiled it by crossing it.

105. Ahura Mazda answered: 'Four hundred stripes with the Aspahe-astra, four hundred stripes with the Sraosho-charana.'

106. O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! If he find trees<sup>78</sup>

on his way and the fire make him subject to a penalty, what is the penalty that he shall pay?

Ahura Mazda answered: 'Four hundred stripes with the Aspahe-astra, four hundred stripes with the Sraosho-charana.

78. 'Trees fit for the fire' (Comm.) If he touches those trees, the fire to which they are brought becomes unclean by his fault.

107. 'This is the penalty, this is the atonement which saves the faithful man who submits to it, not him who does not submit to it.

Such a one shall surely be an inhabitant in the mansion of the Druj<sup>79</sup>.'

79. Hell. Imitated from Yasna 49.11d.  
See Vd14.18.

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