The Gathas of Zarathustra

Translated by D. J. Irani
What Are The Gathas?

The Gathas are the hymns composed by Zarathushtra, the Prophet or the founder of the religion of ancient Iran, who lived around 1300 BCE. The verses are composed in the metrical forms of ancient Indo-Iranian religious poetry. It is in a very condensed style of versification, in which standard grammatical construction is more absent than present. In extent the Gathas constitute a small book containing about 6000 words, in about 1300 lines set in 238 verses which are collected in 17 chapters, each called a Haiti, or in the more usual later term, HA. The 17 Ha’s of the Gathas were, some time later, incorporated into a long prayer, or liturgy, recited at a ceremony. The Yasna recitation has 72 chapters. The Ha’s are identified by their numberings as chapters of the Yasna. There are five major sections of the 17 Ha’s of the Gathas listed here:

1. Ahunavaiti, consisting of Ha’s 28-34 of the Yasna, containing 100 verses.
2. Ushtavaiti, consisting of Ha’s 43-46 of the Yasna, containing 66 verses.
3. Spenta Mainyu, consisting of Ha’s 47-50 of the Yasna, containing 41 verses.
4. Vohu Khshathra, consisting of Ha 51 of the Yasna, containing 22 verses.
5. Vahishto Ishti, consisting of Ha 53 of the Yasna, containing 9 verses.

The language of the Gathas is one belonging to the old Indo-Iranian group which was part of the Eastern families of the Indo-European languages. This language is called Gathic, and because it is incorporated into the Yasna scripture which is part of the Avesta, it is also called Old Avestan. Much of our grasp of the Gathic language, both in vocabulary and grammar comes from its close affinity with the early form of Vedic Sanskrit.
Ahunuvaiti Gatha

Yasna 29

1. Unto Thee, O Lord, the Soul of Creation cried:
   “For whom didst Thou create me, and who so fashioned me?
   Feuds and fury, violence and the insolence of might have oppressed me;
   None have I to protect me save Thee;
   Command for me then the blessings of a settled, peaceful life.”

2. Thereupon, the Creator asked Asha:
   “Whom wilt Thou have as saviour for the world,
   to be its protector and upholder of order?
   Who with his sagacity and zeal may bring prosperity;
   Whom wilt Thou have as its lord, who will repel violence,
   and dispel the forces of Evil?”

3. Thus to the Lord doth Asha, the Truth, reply:
   “No guide is known who can shelter the world from woe,
   None who knows what moves and works Thy lofty plans.
   The most powerful Of beings is he to whose help
   I shall go on an invocation.”

4. Mazda knows best what works have been wrought
   by the perpetrators of Evil and their followers;
   And He knows what shall be wrought by them ever hereafter.
   The Lord, Ahura is, the sole discerner;
   For us, let it be as He ordains.

5. And thus we two, my soul and the soul of creation,
   prayed with hands outstretched to the Lord;
   And thus we two urged Mazda with these entreaties:
   “Let not destruction overtake the right-living,
   Let not the diligent good suffer at the hands of evil.”

6. Then, thus spake Ahura Mazda, the Lord of understanding and wisdom:
   “As there is no righteous spiritual lord or secular chief,
   So have I, as Creator, made thee (Zarathushtra) the protector and guide,
   For the welfare of the world and its diligent people.”

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7. The Wise Lord, with the spirit of Truth and Righteousness, made these holy hymns, The Benevolent Providence gave these teachings for the well-being of the world and its righteous people. Whom hast Thou, O Mazda, ordained, verily to give forth, through the Good Mind, these bounties to mortals?

8. (Thus spake Ahura Mazda): “The one who alone has hearkened to my precepts is known as Zarathushtra Spitama; For his Creator and for Truth he wishes to announce the Holy Message, Wherefore shall I bestow on him the gift of eloquent speech.”

9. Thereupon the Soul of Creation cried: “In my woes I have obtained for help the feeble voice of an humble man, When I wished for a mighty over-lord! Whenever shall I get one to give me help with power and with force?”

10. O Ahura Mazda, and O Spirit of Truth and Right! Do Ye grant me and my followers such authority and power through Truth, That with the Good Mind, we may bring the world peace and happiness, Of which, Thou, O Lord, art indeed the first possessor.

11. When shall Truth, the Good Mind, and the Holy Power, hasten to me in full, my Lord? Do Thou assign them to me for the great dispensation. And verily, grant now to us, Thy devoted servants, Thy gracious help for this Great Cause!
Yasna 28

1. In humble adoration, with hands outstretched
   I pray to Thee, O Mazda!
   First of all, through Thy Holy spirit vouchsafe to me
   All righteousness of action, all wisdom of the Good Mind,
   That I may thereby bring joy to the Soul of Creation.

2. O Wise Lord, by virtue of the Good Mind,
   may I reach Thy Presence.
   Grant me the blessings in both worlds,
   the corporeal and the spiritual,
   attainable through Righteousness;
   Thy rewards which bring beatific happiness
   to the faithful blessed with them.

3. As never before, I shall weave my songs for Thee,
   O Mazda Ahura,
   And for Thee, O Spirits of Truth and the Good Mind,
   Then, shall Armaity, the Spirit of Benevolence,
   make the imperishable Dominion of Heaven flourish.
   For that perfection, come ye all to my invocations.

4. I shall take the awakened soul to the exalted abode
   with the help of the Good Mind;
   Knowing the blissful rewards of the Wise Lord
   for righteous deeds;
   As long as i have power and am able,
   I shall teach all to seek for Truth and Right.

5. O Asha, equipped with the knowledge of Truth and Righteousness,
   When shall I see Thee, and Vohu-Mana too!
   And through that Inspiration (Sraosha), when shall I
   be in the presence of the Most Beneficent Mazda!
   With the proclamation of these sacred words shall we
   make the evil ones turn toward Thee O Holy Mazda!

6. Come, O Eternal Wise Spirit, through the Good Mind,
   With the long lasting gift of Righteousness
   vouchsafed in Thy sublime words.
Grant unto Zarathushtra, and to us all
Thy gracious help, O Ahura,
Whereby we may overcome the evil of wrong-doers.

7. Grant me, O Truth, the blessing which is the fruit of the Good Mind.
Grant me, O Piety, to me and to Vishtaspa, our desire for effectiveness,
And grant, O Mazda, sovereign Lord,
That reciting Thy holy words of revelation
I may make Thy felicitous message heard.

8. O Thou, Best One, in accord with the Highest Truth,
The best blessing, I beseech of Thee for
noble Frashaoshtra and for me.
And mayest Thou grant to us, for all time,
the gift of the Good Mind.

9. And blessed with these bounties, we who have always offered our songs of praise to Thee,
We shall not displease Thee, O Mazda,
Or Ye, O Truth, and the Best Mind;
Ye, who are the most helpful to promote the Dominion of Blessedness.

10. Those whom Thou knowest as full worthy, by reason of their Righteousness and Good Mind,
For those, do Thou fulfill their desire for attainment,
O Mazda Ahura.
For I well know that the words of these song offerings to Thee directed to righteous ends
Will have their blissful effect.

11. And through these divine songs, for evermore shall I preserve Righteousness and Good Mind for the people.
To enable me to apprise all, teach me O Mazda Ahura,
Through Thine own Spirit and Thine own Words, the principle of creation of the first existence.
Yasna 30

1. O ye, coming to seek wisdom, now shall I proclaim to you the message of the Wise Creator, The hymns unto Ahura, and the offerings of the Good Mind, The enduring sacred Truth, And the glorious vision of the Heavenly Lights attainable through Truth sublime.

2. Hearken with your ears to these best counsels, Reflect upon them with illumined judgment. Let each one choose his creed with that freedom of choice each must have at great events. O ye, be awake to these, my announcements.

3. In the beginning there were two primal spirits, Twins spontaneously active, These are the Good and the Evil, in thought, and in word, and in deed. Between these two, let the wise choose aright. Be good, not base!

4. And when these Twin Spirits came together at first, They established Life and the Denial of Life; And so shall it be till the world will last. The worst existence shall be the lot of the followers of evil, And the state of Best-Consciousness be the reward of the righteous.

5. Of these Twin Spirits, the Evil one chooses doing the worst, While the most bountiful Holy Spirit of Goodness, clothing itself in the imperishable heavens, chooses Truth and Righteousness. And so will those who would please Ahura Mazda with righteous deeds, performed with faith in Truth.

6. Between these two Spirits the Demon-worshipers could not discern aright. To them Deception came at the time of decision, And they chose the Worst Mind.
With violence then they rushed together,
Life, in the world, to destroy.

7. And to support this life comes Armaity, the spirit of
Benevolence and Right-mindedness.
Together with the Spirit of Holy Power, the Good Mind, and Truth,
That the soul, passing through the test of truth,
shall be with Thee, O Lord.

8. And when there cometh the ultimate retribution
for the evil ones,
Then, at Thy Ordinance, shall the Good Mind
establish the Kingdom of Heaven, O Ahura!
For those who will deliver Untruth into the hands of Truth.

9. So may we be like those making the world progress
toward perfection;
May Mazda and the Divine Spirits help us and
guide our efforts through Truth;
For a thinking man is where Wisdom is at home.

10. Then truly cometh the blow of destruction upon Untruth;
While those of good renown shall be received in
the promised abode,
The blessed abode of the Good Mind, of Truth, and
of the Wise Lord.

11. O ye mortals, mark these commandments,
The commandments the Wise Lord has given for
happiness and for pain:
Long suffering for the doer of Evil, and bliss
for the follower of Truth,
The illumination of salvation for the Righteous ever after.
Yasna 31

1. O ye, mindful to learn, I proclaim to you this message, Unheard as yet by those who are destroying the civilization of the Righteous, with evil ways of the Spirit of Untruth, The message, most welcome to Thy followers dedicated to Thee, O Mazda!

2. As you realize not the eternal truths, and recognize not the better life, I come to you all to guide you in the right selection between the two sides That we may thence live in accordance with Truth and Right.

3. Tell me, O Mazda - That which Thou shalt bestow by Thy Spirit and Fire, The blessing Thou shalt assign through Truth for those acting with discernment, The Holy Law for their enlightenment. Give it in Thy own inspired word That I may thereby bring its realization to all.

4. As you hear our prayer, O Lord, Give us the Truth, Give us the help of the Divine Spirits, Give us the blessing of Armaity, the Spirit of Benevolence, And through the work of the Best Mind, give us the mighty Dominion, That we may overcome, thereby, the Evil Spirit of Untruth.

5. Declare to me, what Thou hast, through Right, appointed for me as the better portion; Teach me, with the help of the Good Mind, to know and realize my state, And apprise me, O Mazda Ahura, of all things that are to be and not to be.
6. His is indeed the Best State who declares truly
the message of holy wisdom:
The message of the perfection of being and rightful immortality,
Of Mazda’s Kingdom which ever flourishes through the Good Mind.

7. He who in the First Beginning thus thought:
Let the glorious heavens be clothed in light;
He by His supreme understanding created the
principles of Truth and Light;
Enabling mortals thereby to maintain the Good Mind.
O Wise Lord, O ever-the-same Ahura, by Thy Holy Spirit
make these realms flourish.

8. Not only did I conceive of Thee, O Mazda
As the very First and the Last,
As the Father of the Good Mind,
As the veritable Creator of Truth and Right.
As the Lord Judge of our actions in life,
I beheld these with my very eyes!

9. Thine was Armaity, the Spirit of Benevolence,
Thine was the Wisdom which created Life,
Thine was the Divine Spirit which established choice
Between the diligent protector of creation, and
the not diligent.

10. Of these two, did Creation choose the diligent
cattle-tending protector.
As a righteous master and one possessing the Good Mind.
The deceiving idler, the non-protector, has no share
in the Holy Message.

11. By Thy perfect Intelligence, O Mazda
Thou didst first create us having bodies and
spiritual consciences,
And by Thy Thought gave our selves the power of
thought, word, and deed.
Thus leaving us free to choose our faith at our own will.
12. He lifts up his voice, be he the speaker of truth or
   the speaker of falsehood,
   He who knows and he who knows not,
   Each according to his heart and mind,
   May Armaity appeal to the spirits wavering in doubt.

13. Doctrines and deeds, clearly manifest or dimly recognized,
   Those which impose great penance for a trifling offense;
   These all, through Thy Truth, do not escape Thy perceptive vision.

14. This I ask Thee, Ahura!
   Of the events happening, and the events to happen,
   What requitals, in accord with their deeds, are
   appointed for the truthful righteous, and
   what for the lying sinners?

15. This I ask Thee, Ahura!
   What is the penance ordained for one who seeks to
   achieve sovereignty for the Liar;
   For one of evil deeds who seeks not his living
   without harm to the flock of the shepherd;
   And of the good who listen not to the voice of Untruth?

16. And this I ask Thee, O Mazda Ahura!
   The truthful righteous striving to establish the dominion
   That will further the well-being of his house,
   his province, and his country,
   How shall his spirit be like unto Thee?
   When shall he be worthy of Thee?
   What actions of his shall be most acceptable to Thee?

17. Let him that knows, tell him that would know,
   which of the creeds is better,
   The belief of the righteous or of the liar?
   Let not the unenlightened deceive any more!
   Be Thou to us, O Mazda Ahura, the bestower of Good Thought.

18. Then let none give ear to the words of the evil liar,
   The liar bringing woe and destruction to house and
   clan, to the province and the land.
   Resist him, then, with force.
19. Listen unto the teller of Truth, a healer of existence,
   Listen unto him who thinks of Righteousness,
   Listen unto him the enlightened and the knowing,
   Who, standing before Thy holy Fire,
       with his powerful words and flowing tongue,
   Reveals the truth to the contending sides.

20. The follower of the righteous shall attain the Abode of Light;
   But he who deceived the good and the righteous,
   For him shall the future be long life of misery and
       darkness, woe and despair,
   O ye of evil lives! Your own deeds will lead you to
       this dark existence.

21. To him, who is Thy true friend in spirit and in
       action, O Mazda Ahura!
   To him shalt Thou give the perfection of integrity
       and immortality;
   To him shalt Thou give perpetual communion with
       Truth and the Holy Dominion,
   And to him shalt Thou give the sustaining power of
       the Good Mind.

22. Clear is this all, to the man of wisdom,
       as to one who thinks with care:
   He who upholds Truth with all the might of his power,
   He who upholds Truth the utmost in his word and deed,
   He, indeed, is Thy most valued helper, O Mazda Ahura!
Yasna 32

1. The followers of the counsel of Untruth in the community and the clan
   Prayed for supreme bliss, even as we do.
   May we be thy messengers
   May we repel the evil of Thy lying opponents!

2. The Lord Mazda inspiring with the Good Mind,
   The Lord Ahura ruling in his Divine Sovereignty,
   The Lord Most High, protector of Truth and Right,
   Thus did reply:
      “For your flourishing, We have chosen to accept your good devotion”

3. O ye, evil ones,
   You are products of the Evil Mind
   And of arrogance and perversity;
   And so are those who honor you!
   Your evil deeds have long been known in the seven regions of the earth.

4. For, ye liars confound the human mind,
   and make men act their worst,
   Make men speak as lovers of Evil,
   Separated from the Good Mind,
   Far removed from the will of Ahura Mazda,
   Departing from the path of Truth and Right.

5. And thus the liars defrauded humanity of a life of happiness and immortal bliss;
   For the Evil One preaches with Evil Mind and Evil Word
   Evil actions to the lying soul promising supremacy,
   But bringing it to ruin.

6. These evil-doers, attaining notoriety by their aggression
   Shall surely receive their due, before Thee, O Ahura,
   Lord of the Best Understanding, ever mindful of man’s deserts.
   For the reign of Right shall be honored when Truth prevails in Thy realms, O Mazda!
7. These sinners, none of them, know the end in store for them.
   None of them know of the destruction of evil with
   the flood of glowing metal.
   The final end is indeed known to Thee, O Most Wise Lord!

8. And one of such sinners was Yima, the son of Vivahvant,
   Who to gratify men sanctioned the flesh of the Cow.
   From among these, let me stand apart
   In Thy discriminating judgment, O Mazda.

9. The teacher of evil destroys the Understanding,
   He destroys the design of life,
   Snatches away the blessed realization of the Good Mind.
   With these deeply felt words proceeding from my spirit,
   I cry to Thee, O Mazda, and the Spirit of Truth!

10. He who abhors and shuns the light of the Sun,
    He who refuses to behold with respect the
        living creation of God,
    He who leads the good to wickedness,
    He who makes the meadows waterless and the pastures desolate,
    He who lets fly his weapon against the innocent,
    An enemy of my faith, a destroyer of Thy
        principles is he, O Lord!

11. The fabric of my life work they destroy,
    The evil doers, extolled as masters and mistresses,
    Who dispossess persons of their rightful heritage
    And those who will retard the good and truthful
        from the realm of the Good Mind, O Mazda.

12. To those who deter men from the best action,
    To those who destroy with a callous heart,
    To those who place the evil and the wicked above
        Truth and Right,
    To those who yearn for the rule of the Lie,
    Doth Mazda declare: “Evil are you all.”
13. These evil-doers,
   Who shall dwell in the abode of the Worst Mind,
   Who yearn for ill-gotten gain, and seethe from discontent,
   Who wantonly destroy life;
   Away from Thy Prophet’s message,
   They shall not behold the Vision of Truth.

14. The evil Grehma and the tribal chiefs
   For long have designed to promote the Lie,
   To sacrifice the Cow and desolate the good living creation,
   Kindling the fire of drink in their aid.

15. Thy message shall undo the work of the evil-doers,
   No more shall the wicked Kavis, and the Karpans,
   rule over the lives of the righteous.
   But the good shall be escorted through Perfection
   and Immortality
   To the Realm of the Best Mental Existence!

16. Following the enlightening doctrine is for us indeed
   the state of excellence,
   Even when the vengeful harm of the wicked threaten us.
   The power of Thy teaching, O Mazda Ahura, shall
   avert that harm from befalling on Thy devotees.
Yasna 33

1. In accordance with the Primeval Laws of this existence,
The Ratu (Judge) shall deal perfect justice to all;
To the good who chose the Truth,
To the evil who chose Falsehood,
And to those in whom good and evil are mixed.

2. He who opposes Evil by his thought or word,
Or by the work of his own two hands,
He who instructs people to their good,
Makes a worthy offering of faith to Thy Purpose,
O Ahura Mazda!

3. He who is most good to the righteous,
Be he a noble, or a peasant, or a dependent,
He who zealously makes the good living creation flourish,
He shall come to dwell with Truth in the realm of
the Good Mind.

4. I am he who by devotion and prayer shall
Keep disobedience and the Evil Mind far from Thee, O Mazda,
Keep insolent heresy away from the nobles,
The distrust spread by slanderers, from the community,
And the evil of destruction from the pastures of cattle.

5. I invoke Thy Sraosha (Inspiration) as the greatest of
all aids at the Consummation,
To attain Life Eternal in Thy Kingdom of the Good Mind,
To attain the straight path of Truth wherein Thou
dwelleth, O Mazda Ahura!

6. I, who as Thy steadfast priest, have learned the
straight path of Asha (Truth and Righteousness),
And would learn from the Best Mind how best to
do what should be done,
Therefore I ask of Thee, My Lord,
Bless me with Thy Vision and grant me a
consultation with Thee!
7. Come hither to me, in Thine own self, O Mazda!
   Come unmistakably, O Thou Best One, with
   The Spirit of Truth and The Good Mind!
   Let my message be heard beyond the limits of
   the community of adherents.
   Let the brilliant offerings of reverential prayers
   be manifest to all.

8. Do Thou make known to me, the Ultimate Good,
   the final end,
   That I may bring it about with the help of the Good Mind.
   Accept, O Mazda, the homage of Thy faithful worshipper,
   Accept, O Truth, my hymn of praise for Thee,
   Grant to us, O Spirits of Deathless Weal and Immortality,
       your own two blessings.

9. And with the blessings of these comrade Spirits of
   Perfection and Immortality,
   Let all advance to Thee, O Mazda!
   Let all promote the cause of Truth!
   Let all advance to the most exalted Abode of
   Wisdom with a mind best fitted for it!
   Sure is the support of these Twain, whose spirits work together.

10. All the felicities of life, which have been,
    which are, and which shall be,
    Come to us through Thy Divine Grace, O Mazda;
    Through Thy Holy Power, let our persons advance to the
        wished-for beatitude,
    With the help of the Good Mind, with the help of Truth!

11. Hearken unto me, O Most Benevolent Ahura Mazda!
    O ye Spirits of Piety and Truth that bless our existence!
    O ye Good Mind, and the Dominion of Heaven!
    Be gracious unto us as we receive our recompense!
12. Arise for me, O Ahura!
   Through my devotion give me steadfastness of purpose,
   Through Thy Most Bounteous Spirit make me pure in goodness,
   Through the Spirit of Righteousness grant me the
courage of spiritual might,
   And through the Good Mind give me the trust of the people.

13. With Thy divine grace, O Lord.
   Make wide the vision of my mind;
   Make manifest Thy everlasting attributes;
   Make known the blessings of Thy Kingdom of
Heaven, and the joyous recompense of
   the Good Mind,
   O Holy Armaity, inspire our consciousness with
   the Ultimate Truth.

14. To the Lord Mazda, as an offering,
   Zarathushtra dedicates the works of his life,
   even his very self.
   The noblest essence of his Good Thought.
   To Truth, he consecrates obedience to its principles
   In word and deed, and all the might of his
   spiritual authority.
Yasna 34

1. The deeds, the words, the worship,
   For which Thou hast established
   Immortality, Righteous existence and the Kingdom of Perfection;
   All these deeds and words and worship
   I dedicate first of all to Thee, O Lord Mazda!

2. Inspired by the Good Mind, these deeds come from
   the good spirit of the virtuous person,
   Whose soul follows the path of Truth,
   Approaching Thy Presence, O Mazda, singing
   hymns of Thy praise.

3. To Thee, and to Truth we tender our offerings of
   reverential adoration.
   In Thy Kingdom may all the living achieve their
   destiny of perfection through the Good Mind.
   For, indeed, the advancement to Thy exalted presence is
   forever secure among the right thinking, O Mazda!

4. Thy sacred fire, O Ahura, mighty through Truth,
   most swift and powerful,
   May its helpful radiance be a bringer of joy to the good;
   But for the malicious wicked, may its power their evil disclose!

5. What is Thy power? What is thy domain, O Mazda,
   How can one’s actions justify Thy protection, O Mazda?
   Indeed, thus:
   Through Righteousness, and through the Benevolent Mind,
   and by protecting Thy poor.
   We will declare Thy exaltation to all — even to the powers
   of evil and the wicked destroyers among men.

6. As Thou art truly thus, O Mazda,
   The very Being of Truth and the Good Mind,
   Then give me a sign during this existence of mine,
   That I may approach with confident joy, in veneration,
   singing of Thy glory.
7. Where are those, O Mazda, with authentic enlightenment of the Good Mind, Who even in times of woe Would by Thy treasured doctrines spread the light? None do I know other than Thee; Protect us, then, through Truth.

8. For the evil foes by their hostile actions have spread fear; Misery and ruin have they brought on many. Unmindful of Thy commands, the powerful oppress the weak, O Mazda! They think not, alas, of Truth and Right, From the Good Mind they always remain afar.

9. Those who spurn the bountiful Spirit of Piety Knowing how precious it is to thine initiate, Wicked are they by their ignorance and neglect of the Good Mind; From them Truth turns away, as from us flee the beasts of prey.

10. The man of understanding will call for the deeds of the Good Mind, A fruitful result of a faithful life; He who knows the zeal of Armaity is a creative follower of Truth and Right, Which are indeed the mighty-influences of Thy Kingdom of Heaven, O Mazda.

11. Thy twin Spirits of Perfection and immortality sustain our aspiration. The zealous Armaity with Truth, shall assure the permanence of Thy Kingdom of the Good Mind. By these divine forces, O Mazda, dost Thou bless the foes of Thy foes.
12. What are Thy commandments, and what dost Thou desire, O Mazda?
What of invocation, what of worship?
Speak forth, my Lord, that I may hear Thee!
That I may know what will bestow on us Thy blessed rewards.
Teach me through the Good Mind, the noble path of Truth and Right.

13. It is the Path of the Good Mind which Thou hast manifested to me, O Ahura!
Whereby the well-doers, in accordance with the teaching of the Spiritual Guides, acting in harmony with Truth alone,
Shall pass onward to the assigned reward of which Thou art the bestower, O Mazda!

14. This precious reward of Thine, O Mazda,
Thou givest by way of the Good Mind,
Thou givest to vigorous bodily life of him who works for and tends to Thy Creation,
Who furthers Thy beneficent plan by the power of his understanding,
Guided by Thy Spirit of Truth.

15. Make known to me, O Mazda, the best teachings and actions, Actuated by the Good Mind, and inspired by Truth,
As I express my aspiration in my songs of veneration for Thee.
By Thy Sovereign Authority do Thou regenerate this existence, through Thy gracious Will, O Ahura!
Ushtavaiti Gatha

Yasna 43

1. Happiness be the lot of him who works for the happiness of others. May the Lord grant him health and endurance. For the effort to uphold Truth, I beseech these very gifts from Thee! Mayest Thou, through Armaity, the Spirit of Rightmindedness, Bless me with the perfection of a life guided by the Good Mind!

2. And may we have the Best the Lord bestows; As we strive for enlightened purpose, may we attain it! Through Thy Most Holy Spirit, O Mazda, Inspire us with Truth, revealed through the Good Mind, And bless us with things good, for all the days of a long life!

3. He who teaches others the righteous path of truth and happiness, Both in the material world and also the spiritual, The path leading to Thy abode, O Ahura; He attains an end better than good. A generous and enlightened helper, a faithful worthy of Thee, is he, O Mazda

4. Verily I regard Thee as the Holy and Powerful Benefactor, O Mazda. For Thou bestoweth upon the righteous as well as the wicked their recompense, From the flaming splendour of Thy Fire, mighty through Asha (Truth), The power of the Good Mind comes to me, O Mazda.

5. Verily I believed Thee, O Mazda Ahura, to be the Supreme Benevolent Providence. For I beheld Thee as the primeval source of creation. For by Thy perfect wisdom Thou shalt render just recompense for all actions, Good to the good, evil to the evil, At the last turning of creation.
6. Then at the last, shalt Thou come, with Thy Bountiful Spirit, O Mazda! With Thy Sovereign Power, and with Thy Good Mind, The Good Mind which brings prosperity to the world. Right dedication shall teach the Eternal Laws of Thy Wisdom, The Wisdom which none can deceive.

7. Verily I believed Thee, O Mazda, as the Supreme Benevolent Providence. When the Spirit of the Good Mind came and asked me: Who art Thou? Whose art Thou? How dost Thou propose to enlighten the people and answer their questionings?

8. I replied:—"Firstly, I am Zarathushtra” “A veritable opponent of the evil-doer, but a powerful friend of the good, am I” So long as I can sing my songs of praise for Thee, O Mazda! So long shall I strive to enlighten and awaken all to the realization of Thy Eternal Dominion.”

9. Verily I believed Thee, O Mazda Ahura, to be the Supreme Benevolent Providence. When the Good Mind came to me and asked: “What wouldst thou choose?” Before Thy Fire in veneration, I replied: “So far as it is in my power, I shall cherish the gift of Righteousness.”

10. And grant me Righteousness, for verily I invoke it of Thee! Earnestly I yearn to proceed in life with Armaity the Spirit of Rightmindedness. Teach us how to question Thee, for Thy answers console us, The answers which lend strength to the Leaders in their prayerful wishes.
11. Verily I believed Thee O Mazda Ahura, to be the Supreme Benevolent Providence,
When the Good Mind came to me with enlightenment,
When first I received and became wise with Thy words,
And though the task be difficult, and hardship may come my way,
I shall proclaim Thy message, which Thou declarest to be the best.

12. And when Thou didst instruct me in Righteousness,
Thy command to go forth and proclaim Thy revelation was not unheeded;
Even before the sublime enlightenment coming with Thy messenger Sraosha,
Bringing us the destiny of our appropriate rewards.

13. Verily I believed Thee, O Mazda Ahura, to be the Supreme Benevolent Providence,
When the Good Mind came to me ascertaining the aim of my aspiration,
Grant me, what none has yet obtained from Thee,
The way to a long life of blessed existence for the Good Creation subject to Thy Dominion.

14. As the wise and powerful Lord would give to a friend, so give me Thy bliss-producing wisdom, O Mazda!
Endowed with Thy Authority, with Thy Spirit of Righteousness, I stand with all the followers of Thy teachings To proclaim the message of Thy holy creed.

15. Verily I believed Thee, O Mazda Ahura, to be the Supreme Benevolent Providence,
When the Good Mind came to me and told me assuringly, That a reflective, contented mind is the best possession.
Let not a leader compromise with, or propitiate evil-doers, For they treat the righteous as enemies.
16. Thus prays, O Ahura Mazda, Zarathushtra and those who choose to follow Thy Most Benevolent Spirit; May Righteousness become incarnate in the faithful with enduring vigor! In the resplendence of Thy sun-lit realms may Armaity, the Spirit of Rightmindedness reside! May it grant recompense to the righteous in accordance with their deeds, through the Good Mind.
Yasna 44

1. This I ask Thee, tell me truly, O Ahura;
   In praise of one like Thee, O Mazda, how shall I
   venerate Thee?
   May not one like Thee, teach it to a friend like me?
   And may the friendly help of Asha, the Truth, come
to us through the Good Mind!

2. This I ask Thee, tell me truly, O Ahura;
   What is the source of the Best Existence?
   How shall one who seeks it, receive the blessed
   recompense?
   Surely such a holy one through Righteousness,
   Is a healer of existence, beneficent unto all,
   a genuine friend, O Mazda?

3. This I ask Thee, tell me truly O Ahura;
   In the beginning, who was the father and creator of
   Asha, the Truth?
   Who determined the paths of the sun and the stars?
   Who, but Thee, so arranged the moon to wax and wane?
   This, O Mazda, and much more, I fain would know.

4. This I ask Thee, tell me truly, O Ahura;
   Who so balanced the earth and heavens to keep them apart?
   Who created the waters and the plants?
   Who yoked swiftness to the winds and motion to the clouds?
   Who is the Creator of the Good-Mind, O Mazda?

5. This I ask Thee, tell me truly, O Ahura;
   What great artificer created light and darkness?
   What artificer produced the phenomena of sleep and
   wakeful activity?
   Who made the dawn, noon, and night
   Which call the enlightened to their duties?
6. This I ask Thee, tell me truly, O Ahura;
   Whether what I now announce is verily the truth,
   Doth Armaity, through the benevolence of our
   actions, further the cause of Truth?
   Doth the Kingdom of Heaven rest on the foundation
   of the Good Mind?
   For whom hast Thou created this richly endowed world?

7. This I ask Thee, tell me truly, O Ahura;
   Who established blessed Armaity, the spirit of
   Benevolence, in the exalted dominion?
   Who, with foresight, made the son reverential to the father?
   Thus I seek to comprehend Thee, O Mazda,
   Through the Benevolent Spirit, the Giver of all!

8. This I ask Thee, tell me truly, O Ahura;
   What is Thy message for my enlightenment, O Mazda,
   In the principles which I seek from the Good Mind,
   That I may understand the purpose of existence through Truth?
   How shall my soul rise to the ever greater
   attainment of the Good?

9. This I ask Thee, tell me truly, O Ahura;
   How shall I bring to perfection the insight into the Faith,
   Which Thou, Lord of Supreme Wisdom hast
   instructed me with Thy Authority?
   May it be, that we, Thy followers, dwell with
   Truth and the Good Mind in Thy abode!

10. This I ask Thee, tell me truly, O Ahura;
    The Faith that is the best for all that are,
    That which, based on Truth, should prosper all existence,
    That which establishes Righteous and Just actions
    inspired by Piety,
    And which has for its intelligent aspiration
    Realization of Thee, O Mazda!
11. This I ask Thee, tell me truly, O Ahura;  
To those to whom Thy Faith shall be announced,  
How shall Armaity, the Spirit of Rightmindedness  
come to them?  
I, Thy prophet, from the first was ordained by  
Thee, for this task.  
All others, I see, are of alienated spirit.

12. This I ask Thee, tell me truly, O Ahura;  
Who among those with whom I discourse, is  
righteous and who a liar?  
With which of the two is the malevolent Spirit of Untruth?  
Or is he himself the Unrighteous who opposes Thy blessings?  
How is it that he is not thought to be the harmful Evil-One?

13. This I ask Thee, tell me truly, O Ahura;  
How shall we dispel the Spirit of Untruth from among us?  
Let it be with the unfaithful and the disobedient,  
Who strive not to be the companions of Truth,  
Who care not to listen to the counsels of the Good Mind.

14. This I ask Thee, tell me truly, O Ahura;  
How shall I deliver Evil into the hands of  
Righteousness?  
How shall I render it ineffective through the holy  
words of Thy Teaching?  
How shall I frustrate the followers of Evil, O Mazda,  
That they come to their blind extinction?

15. This I ask Thee, tell me truly, O Ahura;  
If Thou rulest through Truth and mean to protect me,  
When the two hosts, in hostility, shall clashing meet,  
Then, for the Principles which Thou desirest to maintain  
Which of the two will be granted victory?

16. This I ask Thee, tell me truly, O Ahura;  
Who shall be victorious, and  
Shall, through Thy Principles, protect the living?  
Assure me by a vision, whom doest Thou wish to  
be the judge that heals the world,
Then let Sraosha, the Spirit of Obedience, come to him with the Good Mind, O Mazda,
And to all those whom Thou wishest, whosoever they be!

17. This I ask Thee, tell me truly, O Ahura;
How shall I attain my aspiration to reach Thee?
How can I attain Thy Perfection, O Mazda, and make my voice effectual?
Through these divine songs, receiving their guiding light from Truth,
May all be led up to the two gifts of Well-being and Immortality!

18. This I ask Thee, tell me truly, O Ahura;
How, indeed, shall I earn the final reward through Truth and Right?
Shall I obtain ten mares with a stallion and a camel?
How shall I bring to all mankind the gifts of Perfection and Immortality as announced by Thee?

19. This I ask Thee, tell me truly, O Ahura;
He who will not give due recompense to the one who will earn it,
Even unto the Truthful man who fulfils his word and work,
What penalty should he pay first here?
For I know well what he is to receive at the last, hereafter.

20. Have the Daevas ever been good rulers, O Mazda?
Verily, I ask of those who befriend them.
By their aid, the Karpan and Usig, give the world up to violence,
Through them the Kavis grow strong with raid and rapine,
Caring not that the pastures of the world would thrive through Truth’s law of order and progress.
Yasna 45

1. Hearken unto me, O ye who come from near and from far!
   Listen to me, as I speak forth now,
   Ponder over these teachings with care and clear thought.
   Never shall the False Teacher destroy existence a second time,
   For his tongue stands mute, his creed stands exposed.

2. I shall tell you now of the Two Spirits at the
   beginning of Creation.
   The Holier of the two thus speaks to the Evil One:
   “Neither our thoughts nor our teachings,
   Neither intentions nor choices,
   Neither our words nor our deeds,
   Neither our consciences nor our souls ever agree:’

3. I shall tell you now of the First Principle of Life
   which Ahura Mazda, the All-Knowing,
   declared to me.
   Verily, those of you who will not fulfil the
   requirements of the sacred message,
   The holy words as I comprehend and declare them,
   For them shall the end of existence be misery.

4. I shall tell you now of what is best in this life;
   That is to act in consonance with the Spirit of
   Truth, the holy Asha,
   Thereby realizing Mazda who created him,
   Mazda, the father of Vohu-Mana, the ever active Good Mind,
   Mazda, the father of Armaity, of benevolence and zeal;
   The all seeing Lord whom none can deceive.

5. I shall tell you now what the Most Holy declared to me,
   As the word that is best for mortals to hear:
   “To them who shall give heed to Me with dedication,
   I shall come with the blessings of
   Perfection and Immortality for actions of
   their Good Spirit.”
   So said Ahura Mazda.
6. Thus do I announce the Greatest of All,  
   I sing his praise through his Truth, beneficent to all.  
   Let Mazda Ahura hearken unto them with his Holy Spirit,  
   For the Good Mind has instructed me to realize Him.  
   By His Wisdom let Him guide me to the ultimate End.

7. Those who are living, those who have been, and  
   those who are yet to be,  
   Shall attain one of the awards He ordains.  
   In immortality shall the soul of the righteous be ever  
      in splendor.  
   But in misery the soul of the wicked shall surely be.  
   These laws hath Mazda Ahura ordained through His  
      Sovereign Authority.

8. With my songs of praise and veneration  
   I seek the acceptance of my Lord!  
   For now indeed I see Him in my eyes, as the Lord  
      of the Good Spirit, the Lord of Good Word  
      and Deed.  
   I have realized Him through Truth, He who is  
      Mazda Ahura!  
   Verity I shall render Him homage in the House of Songs.

9. Him with our good mind we seek to propitiate,  
   Who gave us discernment through which we receive  
      weal and woe.  
   May Ahura Mazda through his Sovereign Authority  
      prosper our peasantry, our workmen, and  
      our herds.  
   And the Good Mind establish the rule of the holy  
      law of Truth.

10. Him, with these our songs of devotion, we shall exalt,  
    Him, famed for ever as Mazda Ahura, the Wise Creator!  
    For verily, through his Spirit of Righteousness and  
       the Good Mind, He has ordained,  
    That Perfection and Immortality shall be in His Dominion  
    And vitality in perpetuity in His House!
11. Whoso shuns the evil liar and the mortals who deny the Lord,
   Whoso reveres Him, the Most High, through the
     Holy Faith of His appointed savior,
   To him, O Mazda, shalt Thou be a friend, brother,
      or even father!
Yasna 46

1. To what land shall I turn, and whither turning shall I go? For my kinsmen and my peers have deserted me. Not the people, nor their wicked rulers, favor me. How shall I satisfy Thee, O Ahura Mazda?

2. I know, Mazda, why I am a man foiled in his wish. I have but only a few with me, and scantier still are my means for their support. Behold, my Lord, I address my appeal to Thee, Grant me Thy gracious help, as a friend might give to a friend. Grant me, through Truth, the acquisition of the riches of the Good Mind.

3. When, O Mazda, shall the day dawn for establishing the cause of Truth? When shall the wise Spiritual Guides spread effectively Thy sublime teachings? To whose help will come the wisdom of the Good Mind? For me, indeed, who has chosen Thee as my instructor, O Ahura Mazda!

4. The evil-doer holds back the prosperity of the followers of Truth, Infamous is he, dangerous in his deeds! Whoso drives him from the kingdom, removes him from peoples’ lives, Shall go forth preparing the way for the ideal life.

5. One in a position of power through divine ordinance or human covenant, follower of Truth, Upon encountering a stranger, recognized as a follower of Falsehood, Should reveal to him the noble life of rectitude. Protect him from destruction, O Mazda Ahura!
6. But he who will not help to transform Evil,
   Shall be with those in the abode of the Lie,
   For he who looks upon evil with tolerance is
   no other than evil.
   And indeed righteous is he who supports the righteous.
   These are Thy Laws since the dawn of creation, O Ahura.

7. When evil marks me as the object of its assault,
   Who shall be the protector of one like me,
   Who, but Thy Sacred Fire and Thy Thought.
   Verily through their powerful force shall Truth and
   Righteousness come into their own.
   O Ahura, bring this to full realization!

8. Should one be intent upon bringing harm to that which is ours,
   May not the form of such devastation reach us!
   But back upon him, let the harm recoil.
   The evil of his actions shall keep him far from the Good Life,
   But not from ill, O Mazda.

9. Where is the faithful man who heeds me as the first to teach
   That, verily, Thou art the Highest to invoke,
   In very deed, the Bountiful Providence, The Holy Lord!
   Who will hear, through the Good Mind
   What Truth made known to me,
   The Truth revealed by the Creator Supreme!

10. Whoever, man or woman, does what Thou, O
    Mazda Ahura, knowest to be the best in Life.
    Whoever does right for the sake of Right,
    Whoever in authority, governs with the aid of the Good Mind;
    I shall bring all these to join in songs of Thy Praise,
    Forth, shall I with them cross the Bridge of Judgment.

11. The Karpans and the Kavis have tyrannized over humanity,
    Their evil actions are destructive of Life.
    Verily, the conscience of such a one shall torment his soul.
    And thus, when they shall come to the Bridge of Judgment,
    Their abode, for endless ages, shall be in the House of the Lie.
12. When among the kinsmen and descendants of the renowned Turanian, Fryana, Right arises, When through the spiritual zeal of Armaity, they further the welfare of the country, Then shall Ahura Mazda bring them the illumination of the Good Mind, And show them the path of Regeneration.

13. He who shall please Spitama Zarathushtra, by his noble actions, He indeed is worthy himself to proclaim the doctrines of Thy Faith, O Ahura! Him shall Ahura Mazda bless with Good Life, He shall flourish through the Good Mind, Verily, he is a faithful friend of Thine, O Truth!


15. O ye Spitamas, descendants of Haechataspa, I declare to you: With wisdom distinguish well between Right and Wrong. Let your deeds advance the Right, In conformity with the primeval laws of Ahura Mazda.

16. O Frashaoshtra, of the clan of Hvogva, Go thou with those faithful whom we both have chosen for the world’s illumination, Where Devotion and Zeal shall be united with Truth, Where the Good Mind holds the power of Sovereignty, There, where the splendor of Lord Mazda abides.
17. I shall announce in verse, rather than prose, O Jamaspa Hvogya,
He who renders prayers and deeds in perfect obedience
Shall, from Mazda Ahura and the Spirit of Truth,
receive protection,
When the just are separated from the unjust.

18. He who is with me in our highest aspiration,
On him shall I bestow, through the Good Mind, the best in my power;
But torment shall be upon him who to us is a tormenting oppressor.
O Lord Mazda and O Spirit of Truth, striving thus to accomplish Your wish,
Is the decision of my understanding.
And thus do I will.

19. He, who following Truth, shall work for me, Zarathushtra,
To bring us toward the Great Renovation, in accordance with Thy purpose,
For him shall be all honor and content in this world,
And a fitting state in the life beyond.
As, verily, Thou hast revealed to me, O All-knowing Mazda!
Spenta Mainyu Gatha

Yasna 47

1. For the Best Mind, and for the Best word and deed actuated by Truth,
   From the Bountiful spirit of the Lord Mazda,
   May He in Sovereign Authority and through the spirit of Right-mindedness
   Bestow upon us His two great blessings,
   Perfecting integrity here and Immortality hereafter.

2. The best work of this Bountiful spirit, he fulfils
   Endowed with the Good Mind, speaks word of wisdom,
   Works with his hands as prompted by active Benevolence,
   Inspired by the insight that Thou, O Mazda, art the Father of Truth.

3. Thou art the Holy Lord of this Blessed spirit, O Mazda!
   For in consultation with the Good Mind,
   Thou hast created this world for our satisfaction,
   And provided the protection of Armaity’s benevolence to bring us peace.

4. By this Bountiful spirit, O Mazda,
   The evil-liars feel afflicted, but not so the righteous.
   Whether a man’s possession be great or small
   Let him ever aspire to righteousness and abjure the wicked.

5. By this Bountiful spirit of Thine, O Mazda,
   Thou hast assigned all that is best to the good;
   But far from Thy Grace shall the evil have his portion,
   The Liar, abiding, by his own deeds, in the home of the Evil Mind.

6. By this Bountiful spirit of Thine, O Mazda
   And through Thy Holy Fire,
   Thou shalt apportion good and evil to the two contending parties,
   With Truth and Right-minded justice standing by Thy side,
   Verily, this shall cause many to hear Thy Message.
Yasna 48

1. When at the time of awarding, men, with the help of Truth shall vanquish the Lie; When deceptions and untruths, for long decried, of false gods and baser men stand exposed, Then, at the time of salvation, there shall be full adoration of Thy Glory!

2. Tell me, O Ahura, for Thou art the all-knowing, Shall the righteous overcome the evil foe, Even before the great crisis overtakes us? For that were indeed a blessed event for the world’s regeneration.

3. O Benevolent, Omniscient Mazda! To the man understanding Thy Message Thou dost bestow the profound treasure of Thy Teachings; That which Thou hast established through Truth! With an intelligence inspired by the Good Mind, Verily, one becomes worthy of Thee, O Mazda!

4. Those whose minds move to uplifting thoughts And those others whose minds turn to what is base, Their words and deeds will reflect their thoughts; For their choices will follow their sentiments. Their ends will be different, as Thy Wisdom declares.

5. Let those who know how to rule well, and not the evil rulers, rule us! Let them rule us with wisdom — rule us with skill O Piety! O Thou, bring humanity to perfection, and give hallowed blessing for its future life! Let man be active, zealously caring for his land and creatures so that they may flourish.

6. For Armaity, the holy spirit of Rightmindedness, with the power of determined thought, Shall bless us with peace, prosperity and vigor of spirit. For her, did Ahura Mazda make the plants grow,
through Truth’s law of Nature,
At the time of the origination of Life.

7. O ye, who would be bound by the Good Mind, and
strive to spread the Truth,
O ye, who desire to sustain the Holy Cause,
Suppress all anger and violence,
Abandon all ill-will and strife!
Such benevolent men shall be in Thy Abode, O Ahura.

8. Will the joy of Thy good kingdom of Heaven,
Be the blessed state appointed for me, O Ahura!
What manifestation of Thy Truth shall be welcomed
by the pious
And inspire them to strive for the great deeds of the
Good Spirit?

9. When shall I know, O Mazda, how dost Thou
rule with truth and justice,
Over those who oppress and cast me in fear and doubt?
Let the scheme of Good Thought be made known to me,
Should not the savior-to-be know what the blessed
outcome shall be?

10. When shall good men come to understand and
spread Thy Wisdom, O Mazda?
When shall they remove the filthy evil of intoxication?
The evil by which the wicked sacrificers and the evil
lords of the lands
Make desolate the world!

11. When, O Mazda, shall Piety come with Truth in our lands,
When shall happy life in peaceful pastures come to
us through good rule?
Who shall bring peace to us from cruel and wicked men?
To whom shall the wisdom of the Good Mind come?

12. Such are the saviors of the earth,
Who, inspired by the Good Mind, cause betterment,
By actions in tune with the laws of Truth and justice.
They are indeed appointed by Thee to dispel
violence, O Mazda!
Yasna 49

1. To me who has endeavored to win over the
disaffected to the cause of Truth,
   To me, the opposing Bandva has been a stubborn foe!
   Come to me with Thy gift of helpful grace, O Mazda!
   Through Thy Good-Mind inspire us to overcome this evil!

2. The teachings of this evil Bandva has long hindered
   me in my work.
   This harmful man has fallen away from Truth and Right!
   He cares not that Armaity’s right-mindedness brings prosperity,
   Impervious is he to the influence of the Good Mind!

3. According to Thy Faith, O Mazda, the choice of
   Righteousness is its own vindication,
   The choice of evil, its own undoing;
   Hence do I seek and strive for the fellowship of
      Good Thought,
   And renounce all association with the follower of Evil.

4. Those who by their evil tongue increase discord,
   And those with ill purpose who spread violence and dissolution,
   Those who seek to work with evil-doers and not with the good,
   Verily, they would establish the heresy of Untruth,
      the perverted system of the evil!

5. But he who cherishes Thy Way with the Good Mind
   Is himself a promoter of abundance and prosperity,
   A follower of the wisdom of Truth, an intimate of
      Piety is he, O Mazda!
   Verily, he shall be in Thy Kingdom of Heaven, with
      all that is within, O Ahura!

6. I beseech Thee, O Mazda, reveal Thy Holy Plan,
   Let Truth declare Thy Divine Wisdom,
   So that we may ever choose and act aright
   And make the truths of Thy Faith widely known.
7. Do thou listen to this, O Ahura!
   Let him also listen who is endowed with the Good Mind,
   Let him hear too who is inspired by the Spirit of Truth.
   Who among my kinsman, who among my friends,
   shall live by Thy Laws
   And bring recognition of Thy Faith among the people?

8. Do thou bestow on Frashaoshtra a beneficent
   alliance with Truth,
   Verily, this I too ask of Thee, O Mazda Ahura,
   And to us, bestow Thou the Good in Thy Holy Kingdom,
   May we be, for all time, Thy inspired messengers!

9. Let the preceptor born to bring deliverance hear this
   ordinance.
   The man of Truth shall not work or rule in fellowship
   with the evil-liar.
   Souls partaking of Right, shall receive the excellent reward
   At the judgment, O Jamaspa!

10. And this, O Mazda, rest in Thy care -
    The good-minded and the souls of the righteous
    with the spirit of Piety and veneration,
    Protected in Thy great Dominion with undying power.

11. To the wicked rulers,
    To the men of evil deeds, of evil words, of evil thoughts;
    Their depraved souls shall go to meet them with that
    which is foul.
    In the House of the Lie, they shall verily find their abode.

12. How wilt Thou come to my help O Truth,
    To Zarathushtra who am invoking Thee?
    What hast Thou for me, O Good Mind?
    And on me, who with songs of praise has been in
    Thy grace O Mazda Ahura,
    Bestow that which is the Best.
Yasna 50

1. On whom can I count for help?
   On whom can I depend to protect my possessions?
   On whom but on Thy Truth,
   And on Thyself, O Mazda Ahura, when invoked
   with the Enlightened Mind!

2. Tell me, O Mazda, how should they act and work
   Who care for this joy-giving world with its pastures?
   Living upright lives under the recurring splendor of
   the sun, apart from the repudiators,
   Living ordered lives in harmony with the law of Truth,
   These shall reap the Blessed Reward!

3. The resolute one who moved by the principles of Thy Faith
   Extends the prosperity of order to his neighbors
   And works the land the evil now hold desolate,
   Earns through Righteousness, the Blessed Recompense
   Thy Good Mind has promised in Thy Kingdom of Heaven.

4. With Truth moving my heart,
   With Best Thought inspiring my mind,
   With all the might of spiritual force within me,
   I venerate Thee, O Mazda, with songs of Thy praise!
   And at the Last, when I shall stand at Thy gate
   I shall hear the echo of my prayers from Thy Abode of Songs.

5. To Thy Prophet inspired by Thy Truth, O Mazda,
   To Thy Prophet revealing Thy Message in hymns,
   Do Thou come with Thy Grace, O Lord!
   Do Thou give him Thy hand of manifest help,
   That he may bring enlightenment and bliss.

6. As I lift my voice in songs of Thy veneration,
   Actuated by Truth to direct my speech to the right
   path of wisdom;
   Give to Zarathushtra, O Mazda, the inspiration of
   the Good Mind to enunciate Thy ordinance.
7. Yoked are the ardent steeds of Thy veneration,
   As we approach Thy realm, O Mazda,
   Come, Great Power, unto me with Thy spirit of
   Truth and Thy Good Mind,
   Hasten thus unto my help!

8. Singing hymns of Thy praise, O Lord,
   And with hands outstretched shall I approach Thee.
   In adoration, with enlightenment from Truth and the
   Good Mind
   I shall verily reach Thy Presence, O Mazda!

9. With these hymns shall I come to Thee, O Lord!
   To Thy Truth, aided by the deeds of the Good Mind,
   Seeking earnestly the reward of the beneficent, and
   receiving it,
   I shall be master of my own destiny.

10. The good deeds that we shall perform as those we
    have performed,
    The things that are precious to the eye illumined by
    the Good-Mind,
    The radiance of the sun shimmering down which
    heralds the day,
    They all, in accord with Truth, testify to Thy glory,
    O Mazda Ahura!

11. The poet of Thy praise, I call myself, O Mazda!
    And so shall I remain, O Truth, as long as my
    power lasts,
    Let the World-Creator help me through the Good Mind,
    Through His Grace let that be done which shall
    most promote the Great Cause!
Vohu-Khshathra Gatha

Yasna 51

1. A righteous government is of all the most to be wished for,
Bearing of blessing and good fortune in the highest.
Guided by the law of Truth, supported by
dedication and zeal,
It blossoms into the Best of Order, a Kingdom of Heaven!
To effect this I shall work now and ever more.

2. Grant Thou to me, O Mazda, Thy Rule of Righteousness
Which from the beginning has been Thine.
And Thou, O spirit of Rightmindedness, grant me
the power of will,
And vouchsafe Thy blessings on him who realizes
Thee in ever serving with the Good Mind.

3. All these, indeed, gather unto Thee, O Mazda,
They who have done Thy work,
Whose actions accord with the Truth,
Whose words proceed from the Good Mind,
Whose Inspirer art Thou from the very beginning!

4. Where shall we find security from threat of harm?
Where, compassion for our precarious state?
When shall Truth come into its own?
Where is the power of Holy Benevolence?
Where is the illumination of the Good Mind?
And whither, O Mazda, is Thy Dominion?

5. All these questions do we ask,
That receiving guidance from Truth, we may work
for the welfare of creation,
Ever wise in dedication,
Ever upright in action,
Acknowledging the Teacher of Truth appointed for
the just well-being of the people.

6. At the last turning of life,
To the faithful making the right choice according to
His norm,
Doth Ahura Mazda, the Lord judge, in His sovereign Power,
Bestow an end better than good.
But to him who shall not serve the cause of good
He giveth an end worse than bad.
At the last turning of life.

7. O Fashioner of the World! O Creator of the waters and plants!
Grant Thou to me Thy blessings of Perfection and Immortality!
O Most Bountiful Spirit, grant me the strength
enduring to bring to realization Thy
announced purpose,
With the help of the Good Mind.

8. On Thy behalf then shall I speak forth, O Mazda,
As one that knows to those who would know:
“Evil is the portion of the wicked,
But bliss for the one who stands by Righteousness,”
Let this message be announced with joy to the wise!

9. With what understanding shalt Thou, O Mazda,
give judgment to the two contending sides,
Through Thy fire, a token of the final molten test?
Let there be a sign of the separation:
The destruction of the evil, from the blessedness of
the righteous,

10. He who strives to destroy me, O Mazda,
Without cause and without justice,
An offspring of evil is he, maleficient to all that live.
Here I invoke the spirit of Truth
To come to me with Thy noble reward, O Mazda!

11. Where is the man, O Mazda
Who shall come as friend of Spitama Zarathushtra,
Who shall take counsel with Truth,
Who endowed with the zeal of Bounteous Armaiti,
Who inspired by the Good Mind,
Shall be fit for the spread of the Great Cause?
12. On this bridge of transient earthly life
   No followers of the wicked lords have pleased
   Zarathushtra Spitama;
   Thy servant aspiring for lofty attainment
   Will seek with sincerity to repel their efforts.

13. The Wrong of the wicked shall perish before the
    Right of the truthful.
    Standing at the Bridge of Judgment,
    The evil soul beholds the path of the righteous,
    But the evil of his actions, the words of his evil
    tongue, prove to be his fetters,
    In fear, he finds that he fails.

14. The evil Karpans do not preach the laws of settled
    and peaceful life.
    They cause suffering to the earth and its creatures,
    Their deeds and their doctrines shall consign them at
    last to the House of the Lie.

15. The Abode of Songs where Ahura Mazda was the
    first presence,
    Is the Blessed Reward, designated by me,
    Zarathushtra,
    For the supporters of the Great Cause!
    It shall be bestowed upon you
    If you accept the enlightenment of the Good Mind,
    If you tread the path of Truth.

16. The King Vishtaspa, through righteous power,
    has attained the grasp of the Great Cause.
    The inspired Wisdom of the doctrine has reached him,
    The Wisdom of the Good Faith which Holy Ahura
    Mazda devised through the Universal Law
    of Truth.
    Let thus, the hail of salvation be proclaimed.

17. To me, has Frashaoshtra Hvogva manifested the
    dedication of himself to the Cause.
    May Mazda Ahura bestow on him the profoundest
    truths of the good Faith,
May Mazda grant him the Will to promulgate the Cause of Truths.

18. Jamaspa Hvogva aspiring to enlightened power through Truth,
Has chosen for himself the Wisdom of Thy Faith;
And so choosing, does he attain the Kingdom of the Good Mind.
Grant O Lord, that we may so teach people
As ever to seek their protection in Thee.

19. O Maidyomaha of the Spitama family, even as you,
The man who with wisdom, achieving insight into the Faith,
Shall dedicate his life through fruitful deeds to a better existence for all,
And instruct them in the Laws of Truth and Right,
ordained by Mazda;
That man has indeed served the Great Cause!

20. O ye all, working with one will,
Let Truth, Good Thought and Rightmindedness,
Through which you progress to perfection,
Bring to you the wished-for happiness!
O Mazda, awaiting this Bliss from Thee,
Our reverent homage we offer unto Thee!

21. The man of devotion is beneficent to all.
He is beneficent because of his wisdom,
Because of his realization of truth,
Because of the goodness in his thoughts, in his words, in his acts.
Unto him Ahura Mazda shall grant the Kingdom of the Good Mind,
And verily, this blessing I too long for!

22. The good persons of righteous worship,
Those who have been before and those who exist now,
Whom Ahura Mazda knowest well,
I invoke them in my prayers by their names,
And shall approach them with deep reverence.
Vahishto-Ishti Gatha

Yasna 53

1. The highest aspirations of Zarathushtra Spitama
attain fruition, O Mazda,
When thou dost grant him for his righteousness
Blissful existence enduring for all times;
When all, at last, turn to him
To accept and practice the principles of the Good Religion!

2. Let them advance in thought, word, and deed
Toward the satisfaction of Mazda with reverential worship,
King Vishtaspa, Frashaoshtra, and the successors of
Zarathushtra Spitama.
May they teach all to keep to the established straight path,
Announced by the spiritual preceptors, and ordained by Ahura,

3. To Pouruchista, scion of the clans of Haechataspa and Spitama,
Youngest of the daughters of Zarathushtra,
Grant the constant aid of the Good Mind,
The strong support of Thy Truth,
That she may take counsel with enlightened understanding,
And with devotion act well as wisdom may direct!

4. (Pouruchista:)
Verily have I, as a righteous one, chosen him,
And shall honor father and husband,
And be righteous to nobles and peasants.
For righteousness let our heritage be the radiance of
the Good Mind,
May Mazda Ahura grant the blessing of the Good
Faith for all time!

5. (Zarathushtra:)
These words do I address to you maidens who are
being married,
These counsels do I give to you, bridegrooms,
Heed them in your minds and lay them to heart.
Let each cherish the other with Righteousness.
Then surely the reward of a happy life shall be yours.

6. This, indeed is the case, O ye men and women!
No happiness can be yours if the spirit of Falsehood directs your lives.
Cast off from your selves the bonds that chain you to Untruth.
Satisfaction linked with dishonor or with harm to others is a prison for the seeker;
The faithless-evil bring sorrow to others and destroy their own spiritual lives hereafter.

7. O ye, men and women!
When faithful zeal inspires your life,
When tainted thoughts and intentions are rooted out,
When the evil within you is destroyed for ever,
Then shall the Blessed Reward be yours for the Good Work.
And if you fail, “Alas, Alas” shall be your final words!

8. Let the evil-doers stand foiled in their wish,
Let them be abandoned to confusion and ruin!
Let those of virtuous principles frustrate them, prevent their harm,
And make way for the advent of happiness and peace on our humble dwellings!
Let the Great Upholder of virtue bring the evil to naught.
And let it be quick!

9. The men of evil creed torment Thy followers, O Lord!
They set themselves to condemn the worthy, to despise the good.
Where is the righteous lordship that will smite them and deprive them of their freedom?
O Mazda, Thine is the sovereign Power
Whereby Thou shalt give the right-living and needy their ultimate better portion!