

A Cosmographical treatise in Gujarati

There exists a compilation of different fragments, written in Gujarati with interlinear Persian versions, on cosmography. The text of the treatise is found in the end of one manuscript of the *Xth ardag Abestāg*.¹ In the table of contents it is said about this text thus:

અનિ સાતે ગરહિ કાંઠાં છિ તેની હકીકત લખી છે ત
ફરેશ્તાઉનીવાત ત સતારઉનીવાત આશમાંનની વાત
ત બેહેશ્ત ૭ નીવાત ત અઠાવીશ નખેતરની વાત ત
ચાંદ ધરણ ત શૂરજ ધરણની વાત ખુરશેદ ફૂગેચ
આથમિચ નીવાત ત ૧૨ બરુજનીવાત લખી છે.

“A treatise about the whereabouts of the seven planets; about the angels, the stars, the sky, the seven heavens, twenty-eight lunar mansions, the eclipse of the moon and the eclipse of the sun, the rising of the sun and the setting of the sun, and the twelve signs of the zodiac.”

We do not know the name of the compiler, but we find this colophon at the end of the text:

સંવત ૧૭૯૫નાં વરખે રોજ જમીઆદ માહ
શહેરેવર ચઇતર શૂદ ૧૦ વાર શનફૂ લખતંગ આ.
રુશતમજી ગૂ. ફૂઠાજી નવરોજજી તિહિમૂલ ખુરશેદ
નરશંગ મોવદ જેશંગ એ પોથી નિઆવિશત ત
ઇઅશત માંઇનાં શંઘાતે ઇણિ પોતિ પોતાનાં જંન
ફરજંદ નિવાશતિ લખીછિ એ પોથીમાં કોઇ બીજાનુ
દાવુ દખલ નહી જે કોઇ એ પોથી પર દાવુ કરિ તે
જરથુશ્તની દીનનુ નહી.

“(It was completed) on the day Zamyād of the month Šahrever, in the year (*samvat*) 1795 (Caitra, Śud 10) [viz., 1108 A. Y., 1739 A. D.] by the copyist

¹. B(ibliothèque) N(ationale de) F(rance), Supplément persan 43, 186-198 (368-393).

A(ndhīārū) Rustamjī, son of the late ȚhūȚhājī Navrojī Tihimul Khuršed Naršang Mobed Ješaᅅg this book of litanies and prayers (*niyāyišn ud yašt*) with translation for his own (possession) and for his descendants; and none else has any right to it, and if anyone else lays a claim to it, he is not of the religion of Zaraθuštra.”

The text consists of fourteen fragments:

One. About the four chief stars which are entrusted, with the task of watching, to the four quarters of the sky, and their corresponding planets:

East: Satavaēsa; Saturn and Venus	South: Vanant; Mars and Moon
West: Tištrya; Jupiter and Mercury	North: Haptōiringa; Sun

Two. About the four chief stars of the celestial sphere which are accompanied by a great number of big and small stars: Satavaēsa, the leader (or chief guard) of the east, is at the head of 6 400 big stars and 80 000 small stars. Vanant, the chieftain of the south, is at the head of 6 400 big stars and 8(0) 000 small stars. Tištrya, the chieftain of the west, is at the head of 6 400 big stars and 8(0) 000 small stars. Haptōiringa, the chieftain of the north, is at the head of 6 400 big stars and 8(0) 000 small stars.

Three. About the creation of seven planets by Aᅅra Mainyu with the help of Time (*jamāno*); the assault of Aᅅra Minyu upon the world; the battle of Aᅅra Mainyu for ninety days –at the end, he is bound in hell, and the seven Daēva are brought up to the heavenly spheres and bound there.

The name of the Daēva: Zairica, Taurvi, Nāᅅhaiθya, Tarō.maiti, Iᅅyejah, Haēcah.

The name of the Daēva when they are in the custody of the Amēša spənta: Kēvān, Ohrmazd, Vahrām, Šēd, Anāhīd, Tīr, Māh.

7th sphere: Saturn, treasurer, impure
(Mex ī gāh); Spəntā Ārmaiti
6th sphere: Jupiter, judge, good
Vanant; Ahura Mazdā
5th sphere: Mars, kotwal (/ castellan), sanguinary
(Haptōiringa); Aša Vahišta
4th sphere: Sun, king
Hvarə.xšaēta; Xšaθra Vairya
3rd sphere: Venus, minstrel

Satavaēsa; Amərətāt
2nd sphere: Mercury, scribe
Tištrya (Tīra); Haurvatāt
1st sphere: Moon, provider (of daily bread) and witness (of good deed and sin)
Māh; Vohu Manah

About the ascending and descending nodes, Rāhu (Pers. Sar) and Ketu (Pers. Dumb).

Four. About the distribution of the planets between Ahura Mazdā, Time and Aṅra Mainyu: Sun and Moon and Mars and Mercury and Jupiter belong to Ahura Mazdā and Time (2 ½ to the one, 2 ½ to the other); Venus and Saturn belong to Aṅra Mainyu.

About the creation of a planet by Aṅra Mainyu. Miθra, with his sword, beheaded that planet created by Aṅra Mainyu; for this reason it is called Rās (Pers. Sar, Guj.-Skt. Rāhu).²

Five. About 28 lunar mansions (𐬰𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎, Skt. *nakṣatra*, Pers. *x^vardag*), their divine nature, and the affairs of the world are referred to them.

Six. About the human form of the planets (except the planet Gōzihr).³

Seven. About the heavenly stations, the distance between them: From the world (Earth) to Hamestagān, there are 33 000 parasang; from Hamestagān to the star-station, there are 33 000 parasang; from the star-station to the moon-station, there are 33 000 parasang; from the moon-station to the sun-station, there are 33 000 parasang; from the sun-station to Garō.nmāna, there are 33 000 parasang; from Garō.nmāna to Pašum Ax^vān (Av. *vahišta aṅhu*), there are 33 000 parasang; and from Pašum Ax^vān to the Endless Lights (Av. *anayra raocâ*), there are 33 000 parasang.

The thickness of the sky is 900 parasang.

The size (length and width) of the sun is 400 parasang. The size of the moon is 200 parasang. The size of the moon is 200 parasang. The size of a star of large magnitude is 33 “gaz”⁴; the size of a star of

² . Cf. *Zurvān in the last texts of the Magi*, V. In the Gujarati version Mars and Venus have changed their places.

³ . From the Persian Rivāyāt :

آن هفت ستاره به جز راس و کید هر هفت را اورمزد خدا به شکل مردمان کرده است و نور به این طرز داده است؛ از آن می تابند، اما به شکل مانند فریشتگان اند.

⁴ . 𐬰𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬎.

planet may be removed; it is not permitted to give alms in the name of Aṅra Mainyu.

Fourteen. About the direction of the stars:

East: Venus and Saturn

South: Moon and Mars

(West: Jupiter and Mercury)

North: Sun

About the figure of the twelve signs of the zodiac (the sequel of the twelfth fragment).

(Raham Asha)