

Haptōiringa

The 7 stars of the constellation Ursa Major

چو شیرین گوش کرد آن پندِ چون نوش
نهاد آن پند را چون حلقه در گوش.
دلش با آن سخن همداستان بود
که او را نیز در خاطر همان بود.
به هفتورنگِ روشن خورد سوگند
به روشن نامهء گیتی خداوند
که: گر خون گریم از عشقِ جمالش
نه خواهیم شد مگر جفتِ حلالش!^۱

- Av. *haptō.iringa*- adj. 'having seven marks', pl. m. (with *star*- m.) ; Pers. *haftōring*, هفتورنگ.^۲

Haptōiringa, the star divinity, is the circumpolar constellation Ursa Major.^۳ He is *mazdadāta* 'established by Mazdā' and *x^varənaŋ^vhaŋt* 'endowed by X^varənah', and shares with the star divinity Tištrya the epithet *baēšazya* 'healing'.^۴ He is, like the Peg in the center of the sky, of the nature of the earth.^۵ He is appointed to the northern direction, and is the General of the North^۶, and as the hell is supposed to be in the north, he moves around hell, and with the help of 99 999 Fravaši of the Truthful , controls the gate and passage of hell, for withstanding the 99 999 Daēva and Druj and Pairikā and Yātu. He also controls the regular turning of the twelve houses (signs) of the zodiac.

^۱ . نظامی، دیوان (خسرو و شیرین)، تهران، ۱۳۵۵، ۱۶۲-۱۶۳.

^۲ . بیرونی، التفهیم لاولئل صناعة التنجیم، ج. همای، تهران، ۱۳۵۳، ۹۹-۱۰۰؛ شهرمدان بن ابی الحیر رازی،

روضه المنعمین، ج. احوان زنجانی، تهران، ۱۳۶۸، ۴۳۳.

^۳ . It bears two names in the RV: Rkṣāḥ 'the bears' (RV I, 24, 10 *amī yá ḥkṣā nīhitāsa uccā náktam dádr̥sre kúha cid díveyuh*); Saptarṣi 'the seven Rṣi/ sages' (RV X, 82, 2 *téśām ištāni sám iṣā madanti yátrā (yátra) saptarṣín parā (parāḥ) ékam āhúḥ*) [See also Khot. *hauda rimchānu* 'of the seven sages']. The Iliad also calls the Great Bear by two names, ἄρκτος 'bear' and ἄμαξα 'chariot' (Lat. *Arctos* and *Vrsa*; Syr. ܐܪܩܬܘܫ and ܐܡܘܨܐ).

^۴ . Sr 1.13 *aoe (ave Yt 12.28) stārō yōi haptōiringa mazdadāta x^varənaŋ^vhaŋta baēšazya*.

^۵ . Bd 72 *hān ī zamīgcihr haftōring ud mēx ī meyān asmān, avēšān zamīgsardagān*. 'The (stars) of the nature of the earth: Haptōiringa and the Peg in the center of the sky. They are of the species of the earth.'

^۶ . Bd 27 *haftōring abāxtar spāhbed ... u-š haftōring ped kustag ī abāxtar ānōh kū ka ebgad andar dvāred dušox baved gumārd*. 'Haptōiringa is the General of the North. He appointed Haptōiringa to the northern direction where the hell was to be when the aggressor entered.'

MX 49. 15-21 *ud stārag ī haftōiring abāg nōh ud navad ud nōhsad ud nōhhazār ud nōhbēvar fravahr ī ahlavān ped dar ud vidarg ī dušox gumārd ēsted ped abāz dāštan ī hān nōh ud navad ud nōhsad ud nōhhazār ud nōhbēvar dēvān ud druzān ud perīgān ud jādūgān ī (ped) hamēstārīh ī spihr ud axtarān hend. u-š ravišn pērāmōn ī dušox, u-š māyagvar kār ēn, cōn dvāzdah kadag ī axtarān ped dast dāred, ped drust šudan ud āmadan, ud avēšān-z dvāzdah axtarān hamgōnag ped nirōg ud ayyārīh ī haftōiring ravend; ud harv axtar-ē ka ped harburz andar āyed, pušt ō haftōiring kuned (dāred), ud panāh az haftōiring xvāhed.*

‘And the star Haptōiriṅga, with 99 999 Fravaši of the Truthful⁷, is appointed to the gate and passage of hell, for withstanding the 99 999 Daēva and Druj and Pairikā and Yātu, who are in opposition to the celestial sphere and constellations. Its motion is round about hell. And as it holds the twelve houses of the constellations by the hand, its work essentially consists of (watching over) the correct going and coming (of the constellations). Those twelve constellations also move in like manner by the power and assistance of Haptōiriṅga. Each constellation, at the time of coming in at Harā Bərəzaitī, relies on Haptōiriṅga, and seeks shelter from Haptōiriṅga.’

Another text also describes the assistance provided by the Fravaši of the truthful to Haptōiriṅga:

جوابش چنین داد پس کردگار	که گویم به تو یک به یک گوش دار
که: مینو سپردم ابا فرودین	فروهر اشوان به دستش یقین
که او خود نگهبانِ فروهر اشوست	بهشتِ برین هم نگهدار اوست.
ابر هفتورنگ او نگهبان بود	فروهر اشو پاسبانی کند. ^۸

HDV 21-23 *guft: az hān ī ohrmazd andarōn dušox kas nē gumārd ēsted bē vēnišn ī yazdān tištar ud sadvēs ud vanand ud haftōiring.*

ēn-z gōbed kū: avēšān vēnišn ōn tēz kū hān ī arganttum dušox ōn vēnend cōn mard-ē kē cašm abēr vēnāg andar āyēnag nigerē tan ī xvēš vēnē, avēšān-z veh abērdar vēnend. ud ka nē pānāgīh avēšān rāy hē, ahrmen ud višūdagān hāmōyēn ruvān ī durvandān andar dušox bē marnzēnd hē.

⁷ . Cf. Yt 13.60

^۸ . کتاب وصف امشاسفندان از زندِ جددیوداد (روایات داراب هرمزدیار، ۲، ۱۸۶)

‘He said: On behalf of Ahura Mazdā no one is appointed in hell, but (it is under) the sight (/ surveillance) of the Yazata, Tištrya and Satavaēsa and Vanant and Haptōiringa.

This also he said that: Their sight is so sharp that they see the most horrible hell like a man with clear-sighted eye who looks in a mirror and sees his body, they even see better and more.

And if there were not their protection, Anra Mainyu and the abortions would be destroying all the souls of the lieful.’

Cod. Zend. 55 (Munich Staatsbibliothek), 6^r:

ونت و هفتورنگ و تشتر و ستوش و قطب این همه ستارگان بر سر دوزخ پاسبان
دوزخیان هستند.

The stellar Dog (Av. *span-/ spaka-*, Pers. *sag*) in the northern side is near Haptōiringa. It probably designates the constellation Ursa Minor.⁹ In later times, the Persian astronomers called the constellation of Ursa major *Haftōring mahēn*, and that of Ursa minor *Haftōring kahēn*.¹⁰

Bd 97 *sag rāy gōbed kū az starpāyag, kū az hān kustag ī star ī haftōring.*

‘As regards the dog it says: He is from the Star station, that is, from the direction of the star Haptōiringa.’

The seven parts of the earth are bound by seven bonds of wind to Haptōiringa.

Sr 2.13 *aoe strē^s yazamaide yōi hapta haptōiringa mazdadāta x^v arəna^v haṇta baēšazya paitištātē yāθβqm pairikanqmca*

Z avēšān starān yazem kē haft hafōring ī ohrmazddād ī x^v arrahumand ī bēšāzēnīdār ped abāz-ēstišnīh jādūgān perīgān. [haftōring ped abāxtarān nēmag ebgad pedyārag az dušox bē nē hištan rāy. u-šān az harv kišvar bann-ē aviš bast ēsted. ka ēn

⁹ . Notice that *Canis minor* was called, by ancient Greeks, Κυνόσουρα, ‘dog’s tail’ (Lat. *Cynosura*, *Canis cauda*).

ابوالفضل الميداني، كتاب السامی فی الاسامی، ۱۸۵۶، ۹۰.

بنات النعش الكبرى هفتورنگ مهين وقد جاء في الشعر بنوعش بنات نعش الصغرى هفتورنگ كهين و اين هر يك هفت ستاره باشد، سه را بنات گویند و چهار را نعش. الفرقدان دو برادران، و آن دو ستاره پیشین از هفتورنگ كهين. الجدى ستاره واپسین از هفتورنگ كهين كه قبله بدان به دانند. السهى ستاره خرد نزدیک هفتورنگ مهين، روشنی چشم بدان امتحان کنند.

zamīg azēr ud azabar bē nē baved ped rāh ī ōy. hān rāy star hamāg x^v arrahumand bēšāzēnīdār.]

‘We worship those stars that are seven in number, Haptōiriṅga, created by Mazdā, fortunate and healing, in order to withstand the Yātu and the Pairikā. [Haptōiriṅga is on the northern side in order to not let loose the aggressor, the adversary, from hell. And a band from every region is attached to those (seven stars). If this earth is not turned upside down, it is on account of it. For this reason all stars are fortunate and healing.]’

Bd 27 az haft kišvar az harv kišvar-ē bann-ē aviš peyvast ēsted vinārdārīh ī kišvarān andar gumēzišn rāy –ped hān cim haftōiring x^v ānīhed.

‘A bond attaches each of the seven regions to Haptōiriṅga, for the establishment of the regions, during the mixture (period) –for that reason, it is called Haptōiriṅga.’

OPH 15 zamīg ped vād vinārd ..., u-š frāz vād ō axtar ī haftōiring bast.

‘The earth is established through the wind, ... and the wind is bound to the constellation of Haptōiriṅga.’

According to the Bundahišn Haptōiriṅga opposes the planet Ohrmazd (viz., Jupiter)¹¹; but according to another tradition, it opposes the planet Varhrām (viz., Mars).¹²

A ritual formula is dedicated to Haptōiriṅga¹³, and a solemn ceremony for him used to be performed on the 13th day (Tištrya/ Tīra) of the month. The kidneys of the sacrificial animal belongs to him.

ŠnŠ 11.4 gōspend ka kušt ud pārag judāg kird ā-š ... gund vanand star ud gurdag haftōiring ...

‘When a sheep is slaughtered and divided into pieces, ... then the testicles are the Vanant’s, and the kidneys are Haptōiriṅga’s.’¹⁴

¹¹ . Bd 50 *ohrmazd ī abāxtarīg ō haftōiring* ‘Jupiter (came to oppose) Haptōiriṅga.’ Notice that Skt. *saptarṣija* is the name of the planet Jupiter.

¹² . Bd III *varhrām abāxtar ō haftōiring*. Cf. also Persian and Gujarati fragments.

¹³ . The Āfrīnagān ī Haftōiring (R 115, 249-251).

¹⁴ . See also RP 59.

According to the Jāmāspīg, one of the signs of the time of the coming of Uxšyaṭərəta is this that Haptō.iriṅga will leave his own (northern) position and turn to the direction of the East.¹⁵

Raham Asha

¹⁵ . J 18 *gāh ī ušīdar pēdāg būd(an) abāyed ēn and nišān ped gēhān pēdāg baved: ... didīgar ēn kū haftōring gāh bē hiled, ud ō xvarāsān rōn (sōg) varded.*