

A Mazdayacnian According To Pahlavi Dinkard

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The Dinkard says that one can be termed 'Mazdayacnian' only from the concatenation of the parental seed of Mazdayacnians. The Pahlavi passage runs thus: -

"You must know that one who is of Mazdayacnian religion is said to be of the Mazdayacnian religion by virtue of one's continuing the thought of the Mazdayacnian religion. This means that just as every species is known by its name on account of the seed within it, in the same way a religious person is said to belong to the Mazdayacnian religion on account of his leading himself by the original connected thought of the religion."

This teaching of the Dinkard Book VI helps us to understand the idea explained above in the Confession of Faith formula (Yacna. Ha 12).

The question why aliens cannot be invested with the sacred shirt and girdle and why only the children of Parsi parents can be allowed to undergo initiation ceremony is solved by both the Pahlavi Dinkard teaching and by the Avesta confession of Faith.

There is no separate form of confession given for the investiture of an alien with Sudreh and Kushtih and the absence of such a confession proves absence of the idea of proselytism from the Zoroastrian scriptures, for the Yacna Ha 12 Confession of Faith is not at all appropriate for an alien under going conversion inasmuch as he has to regard himself as the descendant by seed of Mazdayacnian parents, and such declaration is quite false in his case, and false declarations are not allowed by Zoroastrianism.

Then there is a direct reference in the second book of the Pahlavi Dinkard about Sterility resulting from the meeting of seeds of different human species. The passage in Pahlavi reads as under-

"Just as the offspring born of a fleet Arab horse and a country mare are neither fleet-runners like the Arab horse nor long-standing like the country one, so is the mule born by the meeting of a horse and an ass an unworthy creature, and does not resemble either of the two, and in this way the seed is cut off, and the generation does not proceed further ; for this reason a good deal of benefit accrues from the preservation of the seed-essential."

Here we have a scientific explanation of the double disadvantage arising from an incongruous union of different species of seeds.

The offspring or issue in the first place is very inferior in kind to either parent, and in the second place the power of reproduction is extinguished in either parent, the male becoming imbecile, the female becoming barren, on account of such unnatural mating. Thus an important biological principle based on the subtle protoplasmic laws is explained in the Pahlavi Dinkard though summarily yet very effectively. The entire Zoroastrian religion which is based on all the laws of nature, physical and ultra-physical, and in no sphere of the creative laws does Zoroastrian religion contradict the genuine teachings of modern science. The fusion of blood and seed for procreation is a subject for biological science as well as for Zoroastrian religion, and Zoroastrianism will never preach proselytism, which goes against a cardinal law of nature in the realms of the science of procreation.