

AHURA MAZDA AS PHYSICALLY MANIFEST IN CREATION

When that "Priest of Nature", Wordsworth, exhorted making to look up "from Nature unto Nature's God", he was unwittingly propounding the religion of Zarathushtra. God manifests Himself in all forms of Creation, the elements of Nature being the most inspiring of them. In the Nyaishes and the Yashts, we worship the golden orb we call the Sun, Meher Yazata who spreads, all over the Universe, Cosmic Light which comes from outer space; we worship the beautiful Moon which transforms into soft silver and reflects the Sun's light for us at night; we worship the stars that stud the sky, the flowing Waters pure, the wonderful plant-world, and above all the sacred Fire. Fire is the ultimate source of all energy, a fact which modern science recognises. Light, or radiant energy is, therefore, the basic principle of Creation. Fire and Light cannot be divorced from each other. It is impossible to conceive of the one without the other, for where there is fire, there is bound to be some form of light; and where there is light there is bound to be some form of fire somewhere from which it emanates. Light was the first creation through which Ahura Mazda manifested Himself and has been called "the radiant manifestation God" with which Creation started, one which preceded all other forms of Creation, the first activity of the Divine Mind. It is for that reason that Fire is referred to throughout the prayer

called "Atash Nyaish" as the son of Ahura Mazda His true representative on earth, His first manifestation or Creation, the first offspring of Ahura Mazda. It is regarded as the most venerable and worshipful of all physical creation, and our sublime religion enjoins us to worship "Ahura Mazda" through the worship of fire. Even according to modern atomic science, every particle of matter is charged or impregnated with energy and, as stated above, the ultimate source of that energy is fire. Fire may be called the activity of the Divine Mind which operates in the Universe in various aspects of physical energy and which has not only created the Universe, but has also set it working, and keeps it going. It is through fire that we establish contact with Ahura Mazda. Ahura Mazda is described at some places in our religion as the "Boundless Light". Indeed, if one conceives Ahura Mazda as Boundless Light, fire is the physical manifestation of God and to worship fire is in a sense, symbolically, to worship Ahura Mazda Himself. In the Gathas, Zarathushtra speaks of Fire as a bright and powerful creation of Ahura Mazda and prefers it, as a symbol of divinity, to idols and other objects. It is much more ennobling to worship Ahura Mazda through a wonderful creation of His like fire than to worship Him through any object designed by the hand of man.

- Jal R. Vimadalal

