

The Benediction of ritual repast

āfrīn ī myazd

The term *myazda*¹ is used for the solemn food (and wine) that is redistributed to be consumed by the participants. It first denoted the offering of solid food (meat), and later on the offering of fruits (Pers. *bar*). The Myazda ceremony is organized in the seasonal festivals, in the rites of the fourth day, etc.

The *Āfrīn ī myazd* ‘the benediction of ritual repast’ forms a part of the Myazda ceremony different from the Yasna ceremony. “This *Āfrīn* has fallen rather into disuse. It is recited rarely. It seems to have been so called because it was recited with the Myazda (the offerings of fruit, flowers, water, milk, etc.) before it.”² The *Āfrīn ī myazd* bears some resemblance with a banquet speech, the *Āfrīn ī sūr*; one is pronounced in regular (religious) ceremonies, and the other in occasional festivities.

The text recited is in Pāzand. The extant Pārsīg *āfrīn ī myazd* seems to be an attempt at rendering the Pāzand text, and unfortunately it is corrupt at many places.

Text

mādayān

(1) hamāg-zōr <hamāg->ašō bed. hamāg-zōr hamāgnēkīh bed. hamāgzōr ohrmazd ud amehrspondān. hamāgzōr x^varraḥ ī dēn ī mazdesnān. hamāgzōr ādur farrōbay ud ādur gušnasp ud ādur burzēnmihr. hamāg zōr yašt ābān ud ātašān ud yašt hamāg mēnōg veh.

(2) pērōzgar bād [ohrmazd ud amehrspondān] vīspān yazdān, abāg xvaršēd ud māh.

az dāmān ī ohrmazd abāg dāmān ī gētīg az hamāg hušnūd bād.
āfrīn ō dāmān ī gētīg kunād kū hangām ud zamān(ag) nēk bād!

¹ . Pers. *myazd*/ *mīzd* ‘sacrificial repast’ < Av. *myazda*- m. ‘offering of food, sacrificial food’, Skt. *miyédha*- m.; Pers. *mīzdbān* (میزبان) ‘host’. The *myazd*/ *mīzd* also consists of the fruits, flowers, milk, wine, etc., that are arranged in a tray; from it comes the Persian word میز ‘(dinner) table’.

² . J. J. Modi, *The Religious Ceremonies and Customs of the Parsees*, 2nd Edition, Bombay, 1937, 366.

kirbakkar bed cōn ardā fravard. rād bed cōn tištar. carb bed cōn
vārān. hūram bed cōn vahār. vashambār bed cōn zimestān.

ēdōn ašmāh vehān farrox bēd. ud gēhān buland hēd kū kōf, zufr
hēd kū drayā, huzihr hēd kū vargaš, tarr hēd kū vārān, nāmburdār hēd
kū yākind ud murvārīd, hubōyag hēd kū marv ī spēd, ud marv ī
māhveh(ān), ud marv ī ardašērān.

zad ud škast ud vānīd bād dušmen ī ērān šāhr.

ašmāh vehān ped harv kār frārōnīh ō kām rasēd⁶.

(rasād) bād cōn man āfrīnēnīd.

cē az abestāg pēdāg kū āfrīn dāmān zamīgpanhāy ud rōddrahnāy
x^varšēdbālāy ped hamāg gēhān bē rasād. šād ud hūram ud purnēkīh ud
ašō bēd.

aθa jamyāt yaθa āfrīnāmi.

yaθā ahū vairyō (do).

aṣəm vohū (do).

ahmāi raēscā ... dā ... hazaṇrēm ... dā ... kərəbā mazda.

aṣəm vohū (ēk).

Bibliography

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⁶ T 3, SP I, R 115 ; Antia :