

Table of Contents

Abbreviations.....	9
Transcriptions of Persian and Arabic Alphabets.....	11
Manuscripts	13
Acknowledgements.....	15
Introduction	17
CHAPTER ONE	21
1. Ferdowsī and the Šāhnāmeh.....	21
1.1. Ferdowsī	21
1.2. The Šāhnāmeh.....	23
1.3. Daqīqī	26
1.4. Ferdowsī’s sources in composing the Šāhnāmeh	28
CHAPTER TWO	37
2. The appearance of Zoroaster	37
2.1. The appearance of Zoroaster in the Šāhnāmeh	37
2.2. The religious war of Iran and Tūrān.....	46
2.3. Zoroaster and his followers.....	54
2.4. Zoroaster and Abraham	54
2.5. The cypress of Kašmar	58
2.6. The Avesta.....	59
2.7. The good and pure religion.....	65
CHAPTER THREE.....	71
3. Zoroastrian beliefs	71
3.1. The concept of God.....	71
3.1.1. The term Ourmazd	76
3.2. Amesha Spentas	79
3.3. Sorūš (Srōš)	82
3.4. Ahriman.....	92
3.4.1. Ahrimanic people (people who obey Ahriman).....	97
3.4.2. Ahriman uses Deception.....	98

3.5. Dīv (demon).....	102
3.5.1. The dīvs of Māzandarān	107
3.5.2. The physical appearance of dīvs	110
3.5.3. Dīvs use deception	111
3.5.4. The dīvs in the Šāhnāmeh.....	113
3.5.4.1. Āz and Niyāz (greed and need).....	116
3.6. Creation of the world and humans	121
3.6.1. Geyūmart, the first human or the first king?.....	124
3.7. Magic (Jādū).....	125
3.8. Fairies (Pari)	128
3.9. Farreh (Glory).....	130
3.9.1. Keyān glory or royal glory.....	130
3.9.1.1. Visibility of the glory	135
3.9.1.2. Divine glory deflects magic.....	136
3.9.2. Heroes have glory	136
3.9.3. The glory of Zoroastrian religion.....	137
3.9.4. The glory of mobeds.....	137
3.9.5. The glory of the Iranians	138
3.10. Wisdom and knowledge	138
3.10.1. The praise of wisdom and the wise.....	141
3.10.2. Religious obedience versus wisdom	143
3.10.3. Knowledge.....	145
3.11. Water	146
3.12. Happiness and Delight.....	149
3.13. Oppression and injustice.....	150
3.14. Truth and lies	153
3.15. The tripartite principles of Zoroastrianism (Zoroastrian ethics)	155
3.15.1. Good thoughts.....	155
3.15.2. Good words.....	156
3.15.3. Good deeds	156
3.16. The use of sacred numbers and their multiples	157
3.17. Revenge as a divine duty	159
3.18. Death	162
3.18.1. Seeking a remedy for death	165
3.18.2. Činwad Bridge.....	166
3.18.3. Heaven and Hell.....	167
CHAPTER FOUR.....	173
4. Zoroastrian rituals and practices.....	173

4.1. Ablution.....	173
4.2. Āfrīnagān.....	175
4.3. Bāž and Barsam	176
4.4. Dakmeh.....	184
4.4.1. Preparing the corpse to be put into <i>dakmah</i>	189
4.4.2. Mourning and Lamentation	190
4.5. Fire	191
4.5.1. The holiness of Fire and donation to it.....	191
4.5.2. Ātaš Niyāyeš.....	194
4.5.3. Fire as qibla.....	195
4.5.4. The term ātaš-parast (fire worshipper and fire attendant).....	197
4.5.5. Giving of sweet-smelling wood (incense) to the fire	198
4.5.6. The Fire temples.....	198
4.6. Kostī (girdle).....	208
4.7. Marriage	210
4.7.1. Xwēdōdah (next-of-kin marriage).....	211
4.8. Mobedān (priests).....	213
4.9. Niyāyeš (praise of God).....	221
4.10. Nowrūz, Mehregān and Sadeh feasts	225
4.10.1. The Nowrūz feast	226
4.10.2. The Mehregān feast.....	231
4.10.3. The Sadeh feast.....	232
4.11. Swearing Oaths and its Objects.....	234
4.11.1. Beings and objects sworn by	237
4.11.2. Contract breaking and its consequences	237
Conclusions	243
Bibliography	249
Index.....	263