

## ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY ISSUES IN THE AVESTA

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### ABSTRACT:

**The article provides detailed scientific information on the religion of Zoroastrianism and its holy book "Avesto" on the environment, nature, conservation of wildlife, in general, the ecological views of ancient peoples.**

**KEYWORDS:** Avesto, Zoroastrianism, Zoroaster, Ahuramazda, ecology, ecological education, fire, mazdoparast, fire, philosophical wisdom, love and respect for the blessings of contemplation.

### INTRODUCTION:

From time immemorial, ecological culture has been a characteristic feature of the peoples of Central Asia. This is evidenced by ancient manuscripts and the works of our great scholars. They contain valuable insights into water, nature, plants, creatures, and their interactions, relationships, and more with the environment.

Although ecology was not formed as a science at that time, but at that time it was emphasized that nature and its natural balance, the importance of cleanliness, flora and fauna, the need to respect nature. They even considered nature, water, fire, wind, and other elements sacred. They were worshiped.

For example, the Avesto describes seventeen different types of water. It is said that the accumulation of all water ensures the existence of the body. Of course, each era had its own customs. One of the customs of the Zoroastrian period is the custom of "Sidranushlik". According to the custom, girls were sworn in at the age of 15 and boys at the

age of 17 in a specially sewn silk white dress of the believers. They swore by the name of their one god, Ahuramazda, next to Water and Fire. Those who took the oath in this case were never arrogant and did not betray their neighbor's trust. So, in Zoroastrianism, water, like fire, was a symbol of light, purity, life, growth.

They understood that the main task of God was to protect the water from impurities and to ensure its constant flow. That is why in their hotels there are frequent calls to keep nature and water clean, to preserve it, to save it. It reads: "A person is obliged to keep water, fire, earth, air, in general, everything in the world, the oil of purity, clean and tidy ... Anyone who violates the rules of respect for land, water, fire and air is sentenced to 400 lashes." will be done. "

Not only that, the monument has a lot of items that encourage the cleanliness, care and protection of water resources. In particular, in Vendidad, special attention is paid to the cleanliness of canals, ditches and pools. It is recommended to plant only protective shrubs on the banks of ditches, pools and wells, where drinking water flows, and the cultivation of fruit trees is strictly prohibited. Spitting in water, throwing weeds or leaves is a strong stain. If something dirty falls into a pool or well, it is recommended to resin it by filling it several times with clean water or rainwater. Only then was drinking allowed. Water sources are not allowed to wash various fabrics on or around the lips, to feed cattle, to tie camels and horses, to wash. If a mirab catches sight of someone taking water from a pool, well, or ditch with an unclean vessel, he is punished

with "25 lashes." Because water is sacred, it is not allowed to rob animals. For example, if a seagull is killed, there will be such a drought that the pastures will turn into barren deserts, and prosperity will be lost. Such a person is told in Vendidad that Zoroaster's dialogue with God - a question and answer - will be fined 18 points. "O Ahuramazda! What is the sin of the one who kills the seagull and what is the punishment for him ?!

Ahuramazda replied:

He must be beaten with a thousand lashes. Ten thousand gardens of firewood must be prepared for the campfire. Ten thousand pests can wash away their guilt by killing a snake. "

It is also a great sin to catch fish, which are always purifying the water, and to catch individual aquatic animals.

In some fargards, the definition of fire water is quite strong, urging them to be careful when given side by side. "Zoroaster asked:

"Is it permissible for a Mazda worshiper to wash away his sins if he throws something polluting into water or fire?"

Ahuramazda replied:

No, the sin of such a person cannot be cleansed by anything, he will remain impure and sinful forever. Such a person is from Hell. He wants a boom in the coast, which will kill mosquitoes and locusts. "

It is known that the Avesto is not only a sacred book of Zoroastrianism, but also a source of philosophical-social and natural-scientific ideas that serve the interests of all mankind. The great ideas and philosophical wisdoms expressed in this eternal book amaze us even today with their vital meaning.

Avesto's environmental ideas are one such viable idea. These ideas attest to the fact that the thinking of our distant ancestors was so high that the blessings of this thinking had a strong influence on the specificity of the

relationship between man and society. The ideas put forward in the book, including environmental teachings, still educate people today in the spirit of loving and respecting beautiful nature and its blessings.

The reader of the Avesto will be amazed by the songs praising the earth, nature and being. They are repeatedly told that the land is a great wealth, the essence of its fertility. It is noteworthy that the book states that if the land is not cultivated, if it is not "fed" and not irrigated, it will remain at its potential (as an opportunity). The Avesto emphasizes the need to maintain the potential of irrigation, fertilizers and tillage. "A land that has not been planted for a long time and has not been plowed is unfortunate," the book says. - He dreams of a hammer. Such a ground is a beautiful girl who has entered puberty. She wants to have a baby and a good pillow. "

The interpretation of the doctrine through artistic means, that is, the likening of a fertile land to a beautiful girl and a farmer to an alpine young man, serves to strengthen the interest in the idea, to deepen man's understanding of the value of the land. "Whoever plows the land ... the land will bring him prosperity. She looks like a beautiful and pure girl. This girl goes into the husband's house and gives birth to children on her honest pillow in her bed. The earth also bears much fruit. "

The Uzbek people's appreciation of the land and the creation of proverbs about it may be influenced by such ideas of Avesto. "Mother Earth", "husband + wealth", "The young man does not sell the land", "If the husband feeds the land, the husband feeds you". The roots of such blessings of the people's thinking go back to the Avesto. It is no exaggeration to say that the current level of agricultural culture of the Uzbek people is the result of the ability of our

ancestors to know the language of the land and use it wisely.

The Avesto calls on people to be faithful to the land, to consider water sacred, and to use knowledge to increase soil fertility. In particular, the teachings of the book on respecting the soil, keeping it clean, and using it wisely have preserved the community in our time. "For Zoroastrianism, polluting the soil is the worst evil. The earth was considered sacred. Therefore, the body was not allowed to be buried in the ground. The corpse was placed on special planks made of stone in places far away from the dwellings. It was eaten by dead birds in 2-3 days, the bones were left and it was thrown into a pit under a special tower called assuariy (bone) and covered with stone. They are a kind of tomb, called the Tower of Silence.

The Avesto also gives rules for where to build cemeteries and what trees to plant there. It was required to grow only shade trees in the cemetery, and to plant fruit trees at least 50 meters away.

In the sacred book of Zoroastrianism, water is interpreted as the source of life. In the "Khurshid Yasht" part of the book, water is described as equal to the sun. "O blessed waters! He exclaims. "We call on you for help. You are an example of mothers, caregivers like dairy cows, and you are better and happier than all the food."

In the Avesto, there are opinions about the differences between rivers, lakes, seas and springs. It is said that water is a healing drink that washes the creature and purifies it. The book contains the following inspiring verses about water:

Flowing waters are sacred,  
The springs are also sacred.  
Lakes and seas,  
All waters are sacred.

The ideas in these lines have educated people in the spirit of appreciating water and keeping rivers and canals clean.

Land, water and air pollution are prohibited in Avesto. Those who throw rubbish, garbage, or dead animals into the water are punishable by 100 to 200 lashes or large fines.

In the Vendidad section of the Avesto, the cause of various diseases in the human body is interpreted as pollution of the air, water, soil, and the spread of microbes. Therefore, people were required to keep and keep: pets, water, air, soil, food, fruits and vegetables, clothing, household items, shelters clean and tidy. Garbage and mosquitoes have been shown to be a source of microbial transmission. It was required to cover the litter with soil or sand and kill mosquitoes and water beetles. Those who adhered to such requirements were rewarded. Those who did not comply were punished.

The Avesto sets out the rules for keeping and caring for animals. For example, the person who killed a hunting dog was required to give 10,000 barsum (a unit of weight) of a plant leaf that lifts the human spirit.

Therefore, in the Zoroastrian book "Avesto" a lot of ideas about ecological education are put forward. For almost three thousand years, they have served the purpose of preserving, appreciating and keeping nature clean, in modern parlance, ecological education.

The ecological ideas of the Avesto were widespread among the peoples of ancient Greece, Rome, the Middle East and the Volga region in BC, and effectively influenced the development of scientific and religious ideas. The ideas of the book have left their mark on the traditions and ceremonies of our people's life. Some of them have survived to the present day. For example, in today's Uzbeks, sweeping

the yard and streets in the mornings and evenings during the summer months and sprinkling water is an expression of Avesto's commitment to keeping the land clean. The courtyards and streets, which are swept and watered in the morning, look beautiful, the mood of the person who sees such a scene rises, the spirit of the girl and the bride who swept and sprinkled water is thanked. Or another example: spreading fabrics given to women in cold ceremonies at home, lighting lamps for 40 days in rooms where babies are born, brides are taken, corpses are washed, the tradition of lighting fires at weddings is an expression of Zoroastrian ideas of killing germs and protecting human health.

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