

ZOROASTRIANISM

were likely to be communicated by word of mouth, and it is in the field of eschatology, angelology, and demonology that Persian influence on Judaism may most surely be recognised.

Such post-exile Persian or Zoroastrian influence is not easy to prove. Jewish scribes and editors had other objects than that of enlightening the historical students of to-day, and official religious writers were doubtless anxious to check foreign influences, and to conceal the tokens of their existence. Even the protests of official writers, however, are useful to the historical student. The belief in Satan, as we find it in the OT, is thoroughly Jewish, and yet it would hardly have assumed its actual form without the indirect influence of the belief in Abramite against which it became a protest (see SATAN). So too the ancient benediction called *waw or* must have had a potential intention, and yet the custom of reciting it at dawn was no doubt influenced by a similar Zoroastrian usage.

It would somewhat strengthen the case for Persian influence on the Jews if we had other linguistic proofs besides the supposed derivation of ASMODEUS (q.v.) from Arsham-*vān*.

Such proofs, however, are wanting, nor can the generally accepted Zend etymology of *Aṣmodēus* be

22. Later. correspondence of the qualities of the two demons. The question needs examination in connection with the story of Tobit (may we refer in advance to a new explanation of Asmodeus in *Crit. Bibl.* 2?), which seems to have passed through several phases. It is clear, however, that, as time went on, Persian and Babylonian influences in combination were more and more felt by the Jews. Hence it is difficult to say whether the seven evil spirits of Mt. 12:45 are to be traced to Babylon or to Persia, and whether the Book of Revelation (a Jewish even more than a Christian work) strikes us more by its Persian or by its Babylonian affinities.¹ Such a competent authority as E. W. West can see hardly any difference between the Devil of this book and the Zoroastrian Ahriman, whilst the eschatology of the later Zoroastrian books has a most striking resemblance to that of Revelation. The contest of Michael and his angels with the dragon and his angels is closely parallel to the contest between Volhummô 'Good Mind' and the powers of evil, and to the 1000 years' conflict with Azhi Dahaka (the destructive serpent). Nor is the awful 'Lake of fire' waiting in the later Zoroastrian books,

The seven 'men,' *i.e.*, angels, in Ezek. 9²¹, together with the seven archangels of Tobit may supply evidence of an earlier date for Persian influence; though (without here raising the question as to the original setting of the story of Tobit) it may be admitted that the Persian Amshaspands developed out of Babylonian germs. In fact, it is becoming more and more clear that we cannot always draw a sharp distinction between original and imported Persian beliefs. The influence of Babylonia upon Persia must have begun earlier than used to be supposed. The religion of Ahura-mazda, in spite of its primitive Aryan roots, must have been influenced, like the religion of Yahwé, by that of Babylonia. For instance, both the seven chief good spirits and the seven chief evil spirits of Zoroastrianism have indisputable Babylonian affinities. Probably, however, it would be correct to say that Gabriel and Michael and their companions are more directly akin to the Zoroastrian Amesha Spentas or Amsha-pands (whose names are not less significant than to the Igigi, or friendly genii, of the Babylonians. But the seven amshaspands, even if borrowed, were modified Hebraistically. Yahwé, not being (as analogy would have required) one of the seven,² Cf. ANGELS, § 1, n. 1.

¹ Ginkel in his able work (*Schöpf. u. Chaos*) has unduly ignored the Persian elements.

² Cp. Mills, 'Zendavesta' (*SBE*), 3 145.

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It is also not improbable that the belief in guardian angels (Alt 18a; Acts 12:13) was promoted by the astral doctrine of *ziv ha-* (which may also reflect the Jewish belief in the angelic hosts), a doctrine that has its roots in primitive sumerian beliefs.

That the fravashis originally meant the spirits of the (that, names) is certain, but that this conception early gave way to another, that of the heavenly prototypes of all the good creation, which were dignified and regarded as Sibatna or heavenly hosts, even by the Jews is equally clear. The conception of prototypy seems to be of Sumero-Babylonian origin, "my god" or "my goddess" in the Babylonian poetical hymns is to be understood of a guardian equivalent to the worshippers' "better self," or in other words, a "fravashi." (TOP., p. 43.) Cf. Duhm, *Rel.* 16, 163; de la Coste, *Introduction*, ch. viii; Mills, *Zoroastrianism* (S.R.), Cassel's *Philosophy of the Major Asian Religions*, ch. i, note 1; Spiegel, *Eran. Alterthumskund*, Theol. Ch. 12, 24, 135-426.

How early the resurrection-idea appeared among Jews is uncertain (cf. ESKALATION INDEX).

23. Resurrection. possibility of escaping death, certainly implied in the story.

ceremony imposed on the Sabeans; but this story was, even if not unknown, popular before the post-exile period. It appears to have a Babylonian origin (see Eusebius). We are much safer ground when we connect the Jewish eschatology in the resurrection with Zoroastrianism. Zoroastrian eschatology had a profoundly moral import which may have been congenial to the Jews. The leading Jewish religion no doubt adopted the resurrection doctrine long after it had been grasped by individual Christians. They adopted it cautiously, so cautiously that we easily suppose that it arose quite naturally out of necessities felt in their own spiritual life. This was certainly not the case, unless Jewish religion is viewed as a quite exceptional product. In course of time, it was felt that the canon of the earlier books was unnecessary. The resurrection might safely be made general, and the retribution of the wicked made as conspicuous as that of the righteous. The awards of the righteous would only then appear in their full attractiveness when the punishment of the wicked had been made as complete as possible. As time went on, the selectiveness of Jewish orthodoxy became still greater, and it is possible that the Messiah's function of raising the dead (Jn. 5:25-28) was an unconscious copy of the function assigned to the Speshuhyant (the Benevolent One) in the Avesta.¹

The Zoroastrian origin of the doctrine of the regeneration and of the renovation of the world is improbable. It is based almost to a certainty which has proved the late origin of Is. 65 f., which expresses the hope of the new heavens and the earth² (65:17-66:22), and of Is. 21:27, in which not only the promise of the abolition of death if the text be correct, see *Crit. Bibl. ad loc.*), but distinct anticipation of the resurrection of the Israelites³ (26:19). This limitation of the Israelites we may, as suggested above, ascribe to the caution of the religious leaders of the Jews.

¹⁴ Whose name will be the victorious Sashyant, and
name will be Astavarta. He will be Sashyant, because
he will benefit the whole bodily world; he will be Astavita,
who makes the bodily creatures rise up, because as a
creature, and as a living creature, he will stand against
the destruction of the bodily creatures, to withstand the Lie
(Demon) of the bodily brood' (Fazl, 12126, Dornier
transl.). The *Brihadaranyaka*, which is an expansion of gen-
Zoroastrian elements, is much more explicit (See ch. 1).

Zoanthidium elements, is much more explicit (see ch. 10).
2. Dr. Charles Smith's bold pronouncing of the ex-
istence of this hope is an interpolation, perhaps from Mazdean
(*Ecclesiastology*, 1825). The reference in Is. 51:16 to a re-
lief of the heavens and the earth, has been commonly
but merely figurative. This is probable, if Is. 15:7 is
regarded as a part of the Second Isaiah's work. If so,
chaps. 49-55 were appended to chaps. 40-48 in the time
there is fairly a reason for minimising the force

³ Ἡ perhaps gives the hope a wider scope; it rende
ἀραιτητας ει τοις, και ἐγερθεσσας ει τοις μ
See *SBDL*, 1st. 1 Heb. 172.