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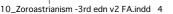
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Introduction to Zoroastrianism

Zoroastrianism is one of the world's oldest monotheistic religions. Historically it had several millions of followers, however presently it is the world's smallest religions with less than two hundred thousand followers worldwide. The religion was founded by prophet Zarathushtra (Greek: Zoroaster) in ancient Iran approximately 3500 years ago. Prophet Zarathushtra had divine revelation from his God - Ahura Mazda - to bring the religion to mankind.

The most important Zoroastrian

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Scripture are the Hymns composed by the Prophet known as the Gathas, meaning songs. They are in an ancient Iranian language known as Avesta. The three basic tenets of the Faith are **Humata** meaning Good Thoughts, **Hukhata** meaning Good Words, and **Hvaresta** meaning Good Deeds.

Zoroastrians believe in afterlife. Their ceremonies and rituals include praying five times a day. They are initiated into the religion between the age of 7 to 15. The initiation ceremony is called Navjote, involves: Ablution, Recitation, the Investiture of sacred shirt called sudreh, and a waist band known

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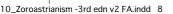


as kusti.

Zoroastrians uphold a moral character, by waging a constant battle against evil. They believe in freedom of choice and assuming responsibility for the choice. On the Judgment Day their deeds are evaluated when the good will go to House of Song, and the bad will fall into House of Deceit.

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60 Quotes of Zoroastrianism

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¹ Turn yourself not away from three best things: Good Thought, Good Word, and Good Deed.

Zoroaster



Doing good to others is not a duty. It is a joy, for it increases your own health and happiness.

Zoroaster

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³ When the Good Mind came to me and told me assuringly,

That a reflective, contented mind is the best possession.

Let not a leader compromise with, or propitiate evil-doers,

For they treat the righteous as enemies.

Ushtavaiti Gatha; Yasna 43, 15



4 Your good thoughts, good words and good deeds alone will be your intercessors. Nothing more will be wanted. They alone will serve you as a safe pilot to the harbour of Heaven, as a safe guide to the gates of paradise.

Zoroaster

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⁵ One good deed is worth a thousand prayers.

Zoroaster

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6 Happiness be the lot of him who works for the happiness of others.

May the Lord grant him health and endurance.

Ushtavaiti Gatha Yasna 43, 1



7 Do not hold grain waiting for higher prices when people are hungry.

Zoroaster



8 Excessive liberty and excessive servitude are equally dangerous, and produce nearly the same effect.

Zoroaster

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9 When we are in doubt whether an action is good or bad, abstain from it.

Zoroaster

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¹⁰ He who teaches others the righteous path of truth and happiness,

Both in the material world and also the spiritual,

The path leading to Thy abode, O Ahura;

He attains an end better than good.

Ushtavaiti Gatha Yasna 43, 3



¹¹ Verily I believed Thee, O Mazda Ahura, to be the Supreme Benevolent Providence.

For I beheld Thee as the primeval source of creation.

For by Thy perfect wisdom Thou shalt render just recompense for all actions,

Good to the good, evil to the evil, At the last turning of creation.

Ushtavaiti Gatha Yasna 43, 5



¹² With Thy Sovereign Power, and with Thy Good Mind,

The Good Mind which brings prosperity to the world.

Right dedication shall teach the Eternal Laws of Thy Wisdom,

The Wisdom which none can deceive.

Ushtavaiti Gatha Yasna 43, 6



13 When the Good Mind came to me and asked:

"What wouldst thou choose?"

Before Thy Fire in veneration, I replied:

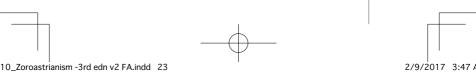
"So far as it is in my power, I shall cherish the gift of Righteousness".

Ushtavaiti Gatha Yasna 43, 9



¹⁴ Beware of lust; it corrupteth both the body and the mind.

Zoroaster





15 Then let none give ear to the words of the evil liar,

The liar bringing woe and destruction to house and clan, to the province and the land.

Resist him, then, with force.

Ahunuvaiti Gatha; Yasna 31, 18



16 Form no covetous desire, so that the demon of greediness may not deceive thee, and the treasure of the world may not be tasteless to thee.

Zoroaster

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¹⁷ He who sows the ground with care and diligence acquires a greater stock of religious merit than he could gain by the repetition of ten thousand prayers.

Zoroaster

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18 When at the time of awarding, men, with the help of Truth shall vanquish the Lie.

Spenta Mainyu Gatha Yasna 48, 1

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¹⁹ The evil-liars feel afflicted, but not so the righteous.

Whether a man's possession be great or small

Let him ever aspire to righteousness and abjure the wicked.

Spenta Mainyu Gatha Yasna 47, 4



One need not scale the heights of the heavens, nor travel along the highways of the world to find Ahura Mazda. With purity of mind and holiness of heart one can find Him in one's own heart.

Zoroaster

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²¹ Do not lose joy in life as you grow old in years. Let not your joie de vivre be crushed under the weight of years.

Zoroaster



22 To the wicked rulers,

To the men of evil deeds, of evil words, of evil thoughts;

Their depraved souls shall go to meet them with that which is foul.

In the House of the Lie, they shall verily find their abode.

Spenta Mainyu Gatha Yasna 49, 11



²³ And thus the liars defrauded humanity of a life of happiness and immortal bliss;

For the Evil One preaches with Evil Mind and Evil Word

Evil actions to the lying soul promising supremacy,

But bringing it to ruin.

Ahunuvaiti Gatha; Yasna 32, 5



24 These sinners, none of them, know the end in store for them.

None of them know of the destruction of evil with the flood of glowing metal.

The final end is indeed known to Thee, O Most Wise Lord!

Ahunuvaiti Gatha; Yasna 32, 7



25 Devotion, like fire, goeth upward.

Zoroaster

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 $^{\rm 26}$ Satisfaction linked with dishonour or with harm to others is a prison for the seeker.

Vahishto-Ishti Gatha; Yasna 53, 6



27 All flows out from the Deity, and all must be absorbed in Him again.

Zoroaster



In the beginning there were two primal spirits,

Twins spontaneously active,

These are the Good and the Evil, in thought, and in word, and in deed.

Between these two, let the wise choose aright.

Be good, not base!

Ahunuvaiti Gatha; Yasna 30, 3



29 And when these Twin Spirits came together at first,

They established Life and the Denial of Life;

And so shall it be till the world will last.

The worst existence shall be the lot of the followers of evil,

And the state of Best-Consciousness be the reward of the righteous.

Ahunuvaiti Gatha; Yasna 30, 4



30 Of these Twin Spirits, the Evil one chooses doing the worst,

> While the most bountiful Holy Spirit of Goodness,

> clothing itself in the imperishable heavens,

> chooses Truth and Righteousness.

And so will those who would please Ahura Mazda

with righteous deeds, performed with faith in Truth.

Ahunuvaiti Gatha; Yasna 30, 5



³¹ Let the evil-doers stand foiled in their wish,

Let them be abandoned to confusion and ruin!

Let those of virtuous principles frustrate them, prevent their harm,

And make way for the advent of happiness and peace on our humble dwellings!

Let the Great Upholder of virtue bring the evil to naught.

And let it be quick!

Vahishto-Ishti Gatha Yasna 53, 8



At the last turning of life, To the faithful making the right choice according to His norm, Doth Ahura Mazda, the Lord judge, in His sovereign Power, Bestow an end better than good. But to him who shall not serve the cause of good He giveth an end worse than bad. At the last turning of life.

Vohu-Khshathra Gatha; Yasna 51, 6

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³³ The man of devotion is beneficent to all.

He is beneficent because of his wisdom,

Because of his realization of truth,

Because of the goodness in his thoughts, in his

words, in his acts.

Unto him Ahura Mazda shall grant the Kingdom of

the Good Mind,



And verily, this blessing I too long for!

Vohu-Khshathra Gatha; Yasna 51, 21

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³⁴ Mazda knows best what works have been wrought by the perpetrators of Evil and their followers; And He knows what shall be wrought by them ever hereafter. The Lord, Ahura is, the sole discerner; For us, let it be as He ordains.

Ahunuvaiti Gatha; Yasna 29, 4

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35 The Wrong of the wicked shall perish before the Right of the truthful.

Standing at the Bridge of Judgment, The evil soul beholds the path of the righteous,

But the evil of his actions, the words of his evil tongue, prove to be his fetters,

In fear, he finds that he fails.

Vohu-Khshathra Gatha; Yasna 51, 13



³⁶ Be good, be kind, be humane, and charitable love your fellows console the afflicted pardon those who have done you wrong.

Zoroaster



37 The good deeds that we shall perform as those we have performed,

> The things that are precious to the eye illumined by the Good-Mind,

> The radiance of the sun shimmering down which heralds the day,

> They all, in accord with Truth, testify to Thy glory, O Mazda Ahura!

Spenta Mainyu Gatha Yasna 50, 10



³⁸ Always meet petulance with gentleness and perverseness with kindness. A gentle hand can lead even an elephant by a hair. Reply to thine enemy with gentleness.

Zoroaster

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³⁹ That which is good for all and any one, for whomsoever-that is good for me... What I hold good for self, I should for all. Only Law Universal is true law.

Zoroaster

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40 Taking the first footstep with a good thought, the second with a good word, and the third with a good deed. I entered paradise.

Zoroaster

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41 As you realize not the eternal truths,

and recognize not the better life,

I come to you all to guide you in the right selection

between the two sides

That we may thence live in accordance with Truth and Right.

Ahunuvaiti Gatha; Yasna 31, 2



42 As you hear our prayer, O Lord,

Give us the Truth,

Give us the help of the Divine Spirits,

Give us the blessing of Armaity,

the Spirit of Benevolence,

And through the work of the Best Mind,

give us the mighty Dominion,



That we may overcome, thereby,

the Evil Spirit of Untruth.

Ahunuvaiti Gatha; Yasna 31, 4



43 Do not to others what ye do not wish Done to yourself; and wish for others too. What ye desire and long for, for yourself. This is the whole of righteousness, heed it well.

Zoroaster

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44 In humble adoration, with hands outstretched I pray to Thee, O Mazda! First of all,

> through Thy Holy spirit vouchsafe to me All righteousness of action, all wisdom of the Good Mind, That I may thereby bring joy to the Soul of Creation.

Ahunuvaiti Gatha; Yasna 28, 1

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45 Truth is best (of all that is) good. As desired, what is being desired is truth for him who (represents) the best truth.

Ahunuvaiti Gatha; Yasna 27, 14

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46 Unto Thee, O Lord, the Soul of Creation cried:

"For whom didst Thou create me, and who so fashioned me?

Feuds and fury, violence and the insolence of might have oppressed me;

None have I to protect me save Thee;

Command for me then the blessings of a settled, peace-ful life".

Ahunuvaiti Gatha; Yasna 29, 1



47 Thus to the Lord doth Asha, the Truth, reply:

'No guide is known who can shelter the world from woe,

None who knows what moves and works Thy lofty plans'.

Ahunuvaiti Gatha; Yasna 29, 3



48 O Ahura Mazda, and O Spirit of Truth and Right! Do Ye grant me and my followers such authority and power through Truth, That with the Good Mind, we may bring the world peace and happiness, Of which, Thou, O Lord, art indeed the first possessor.

Ahunuvaiti Gatha; Yasna 29, 10



49 (Zarathushtra:) These words do I address to you maidens who are being married,

> These counsels do I give to you, bridegrooms, Heed them in your minds and lay them to heart. Let each cherish the other with Righteousness. Then surely the reward of a happy life shall be yours.

Vahishto-Ishti Gatha Yasna 53, 5



50 This, indeed is the case, O ye men and women!

No happiness can be yours if the spirit of Falsehood directs your lives.

Cast off from your selves the bonds that chain you to Untruth.

Satisfaction linked with dishonor or with harm to others is a prison for the seeker;

The faithless-evil bring sorrow to others and destroy their own spiritual lives hereafter.

Vahishto-Ishti Gatha Yasna 53, 6



⁵¹ So may we be like those making the world progress toward perfection;

May Mazda and the Divine Spirits help us and guide our efforts through Truth;

For a thinking man is where Wisdom is at home.

Ahunuvaiti Gatha; Yasna 30, 9



52 By Thy perfect Intelligence, O Mazda

> Thou didst first create us having bodies and spiritual consciences,

> And by Thy Thought gave ourselves the power of thought, word, and deed.

> Thus leaving us free to choose our faith at our own will.

Ahunuvaiti Gatha; Yasna 31, 11



⁵³ He who upholds Truth with all the might of his power,

He who upholds Truth the utmost in his word and deed,

He, indeed, is Thy most valued helper, O Mazda Ahura!

Ahunuvaiti Gatha; Yasna 31, 22



54 He who abhors and shuns the light of the Sun,

He who refuses to behold with respect the living creation of God,

He who leads the good to wickedness,

He who makes the meadows waterless and the pastures desolate,

He who lets fly his weapon against the innocent,

An enemy of my faith, a de-



stroyer of Thy principles is he, O Lord!

Ahunuvaiti Gatha; Yasna 32, 10

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55 When the Good Mind came to me with enlightenment,

When first I received and became wise with Thy words,

And though the task be difficult, and hardship may come my way,

I shall proclaim Thy message, which Thou declarest to be the best.

Ushtavaiti Gatha; Yasna 43, 11



56 O Wise Lord, by virtue of the Good Mind, may I reach Thy Presence.

> Grant me the blessings in both worlds, the corporeal and the spiritual, attainable through

> Righteousness; Thy rewards which bring beatific happiness to the faithful blessed with them.

Ahunuvaiti Gatha Yasna 28, 2



57 The resolute one who moved by the principles of Thy Faith

Extends the prosperity of order to his neighbors

And works the land the evil now hold desolate,

Earns through Righteousness, the Blessed Recompense

Thy Good Mind has promised in Thy Kingdom of Heaven.

Spenta Mainyu Gatha; Yasna 50, 3

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Hearken with your ears to these best counsels, Reflect upon them with illumined judgment. Let each one choose his creed with that freedom of choice each must have at great events.

Ahunuvaiti Gatha; Yasna 30, 2

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59 Let those who know how to rule well, and not the evil rulers, rule us!

Let them rule us with wisdom

- rule us with skill O Piety!

Spenta Mainyu Gatha; Yasna 48, 5



60 A righteous government is of all the most to be wished for,

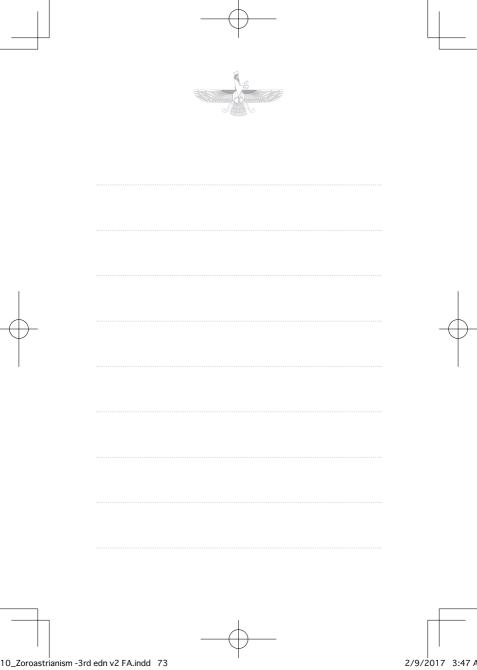
Bearing of blessing and good fortune in the highest.

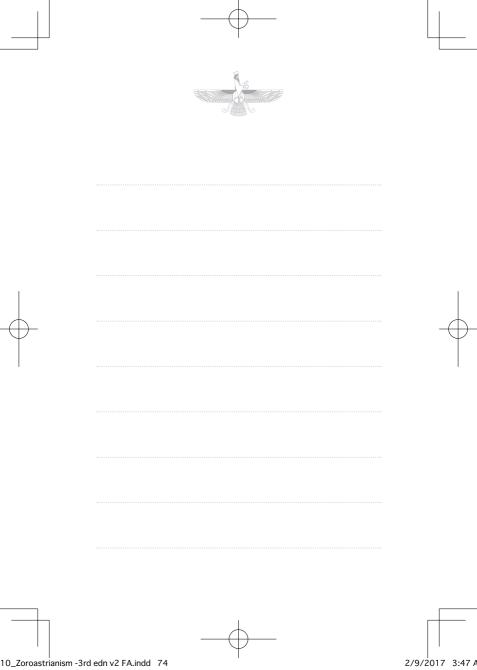
Guided by the law of Truth, supported by dedication and zeal,

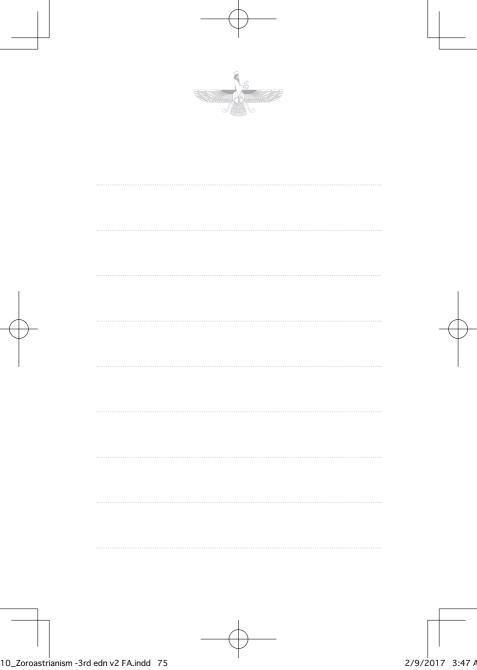
It blossoms into the Best of Order, a Kingdom of Heaven!

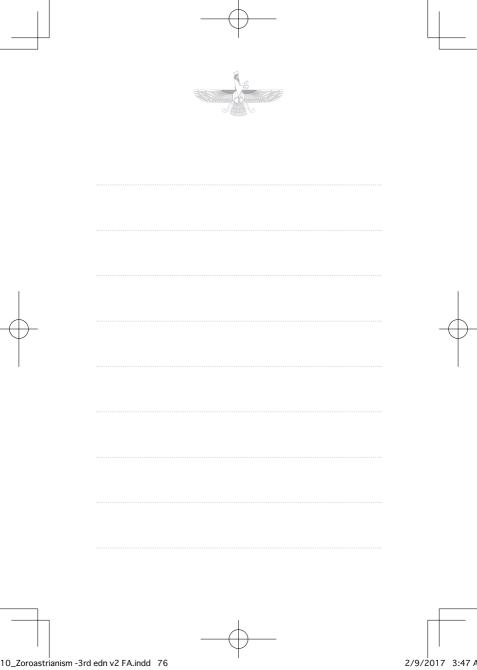
To effect this I shall work now and ever more.

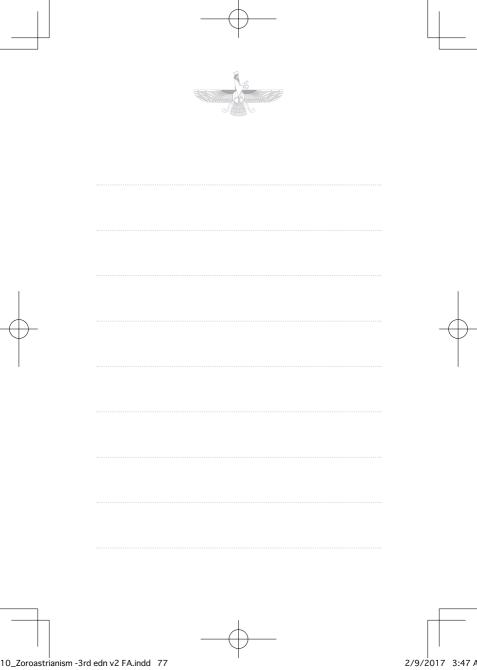
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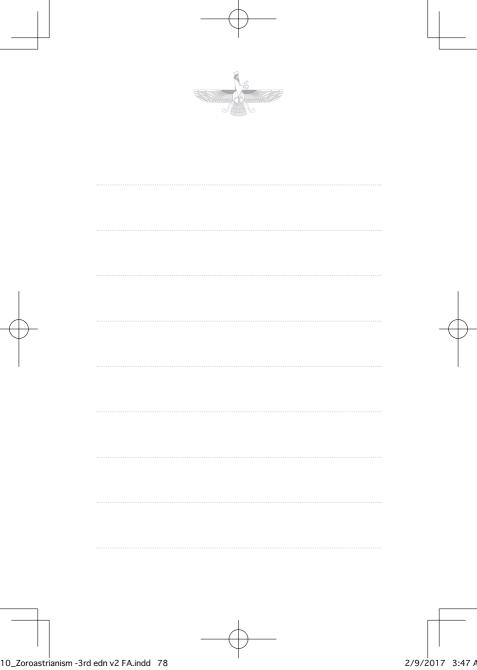


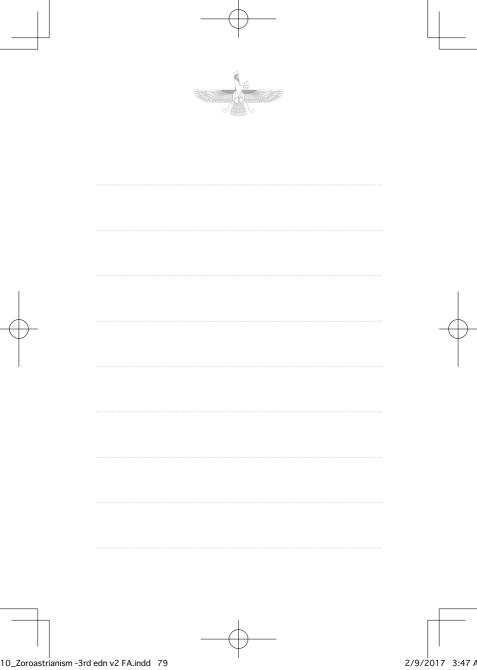


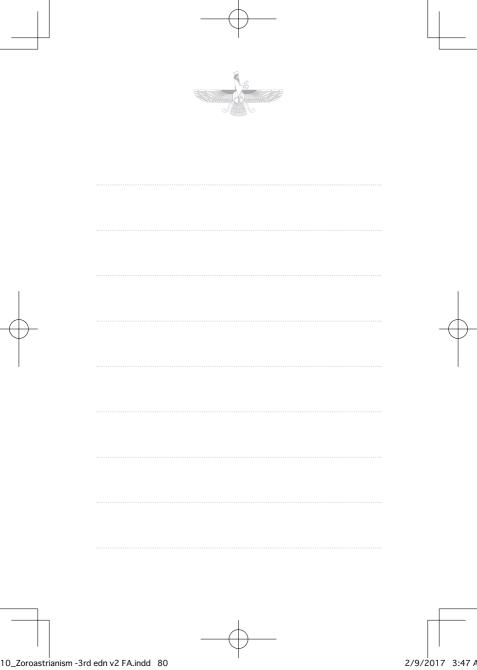


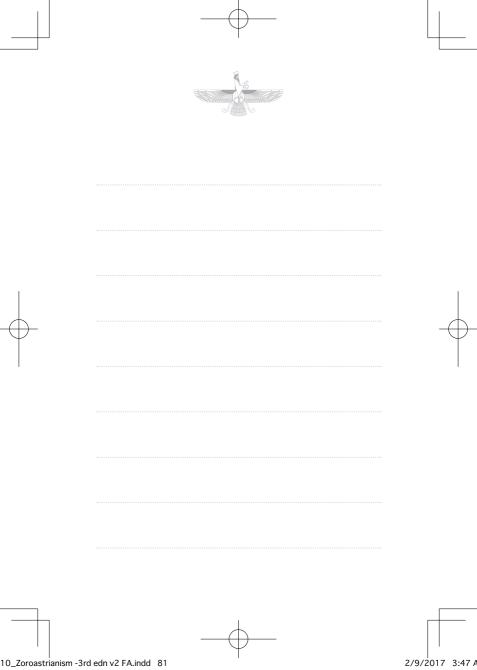


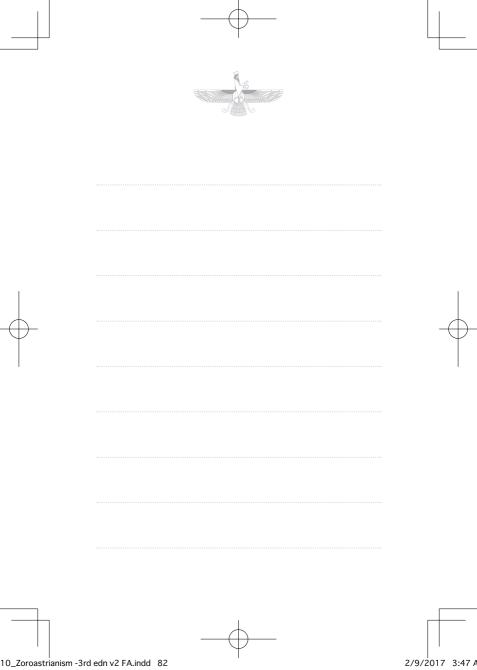


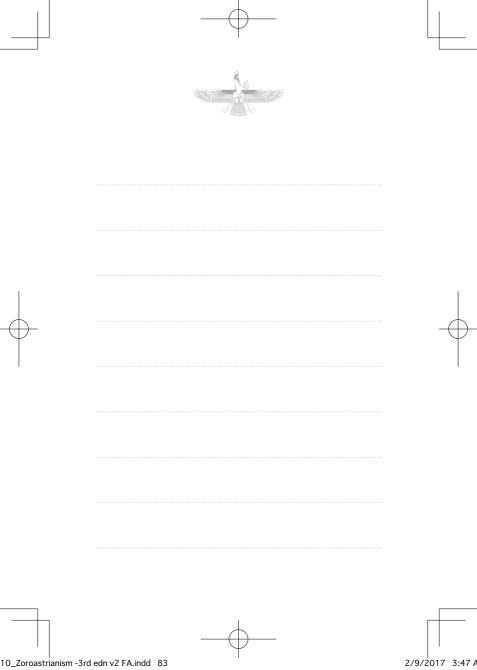


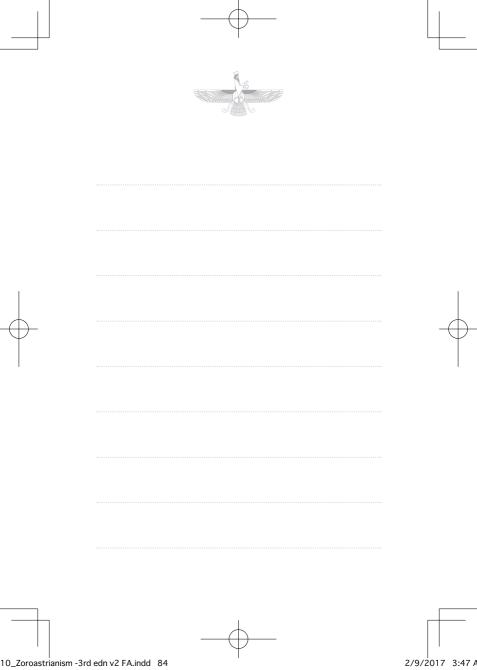


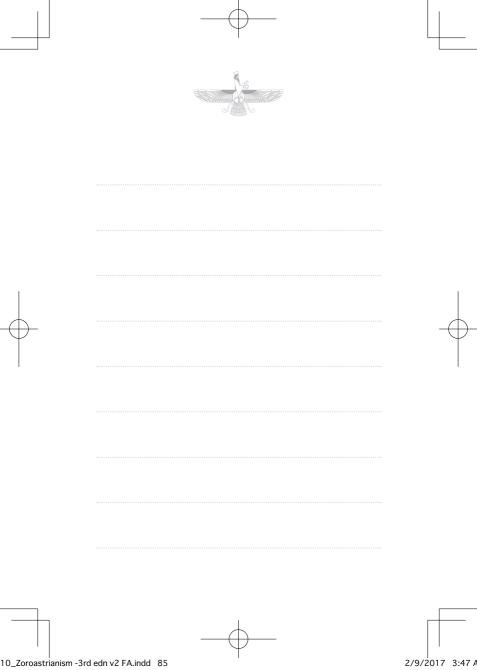


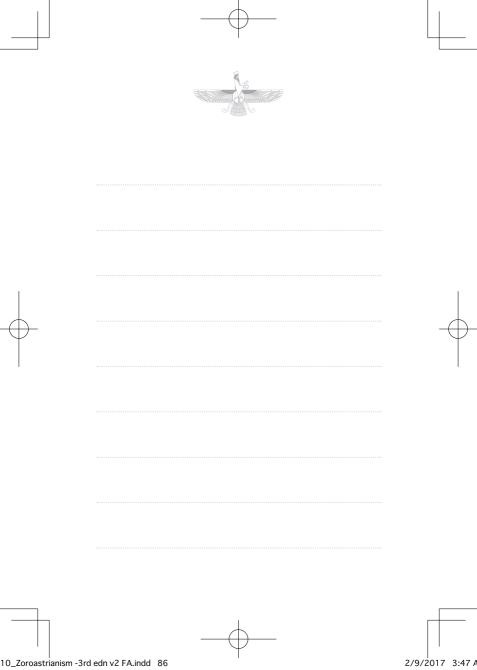


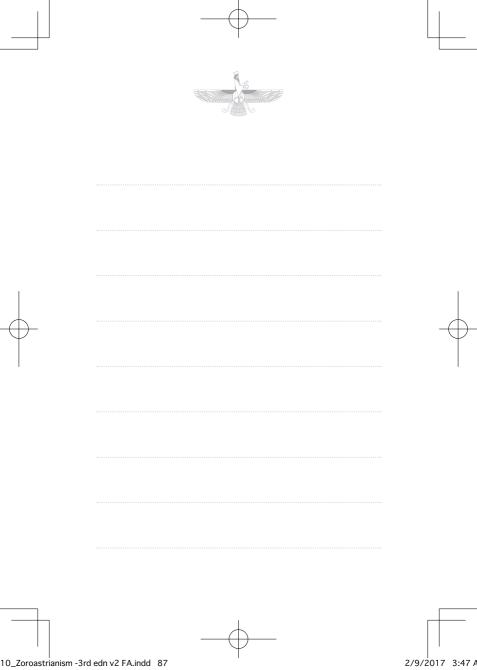


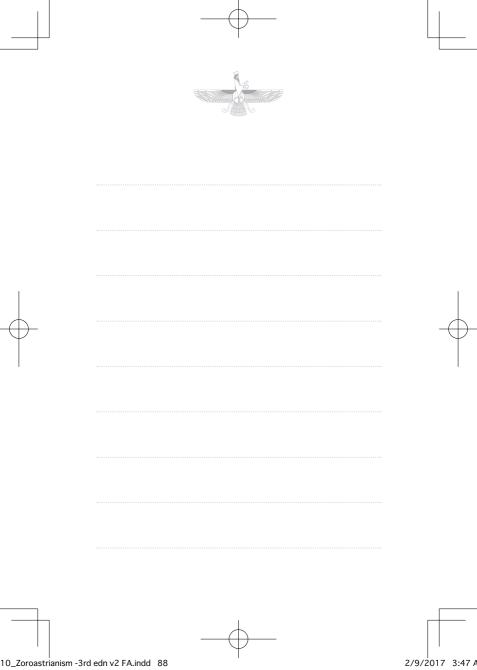


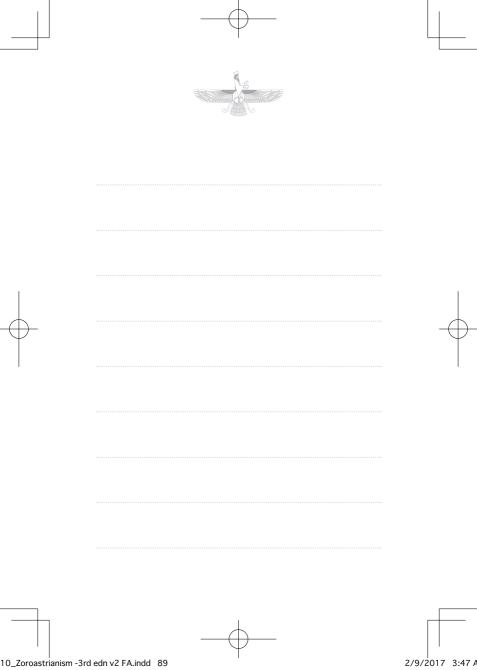


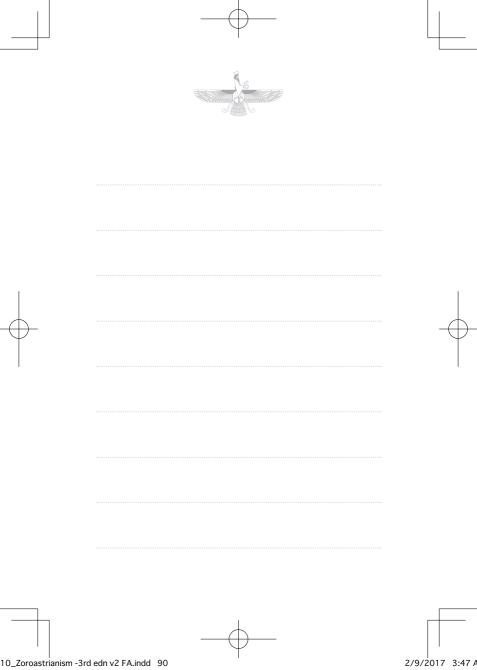


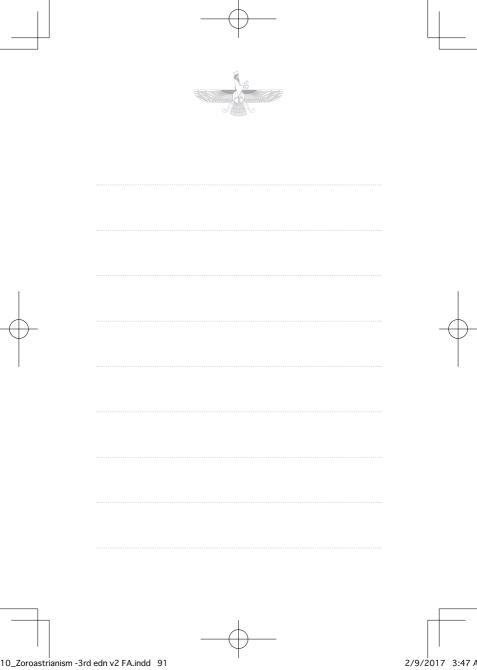


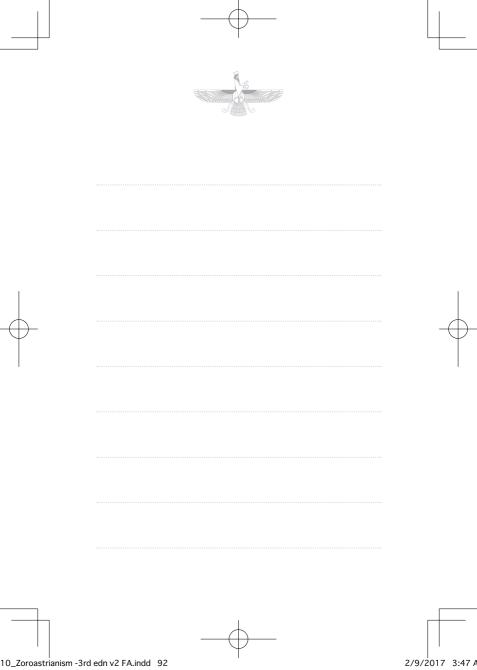


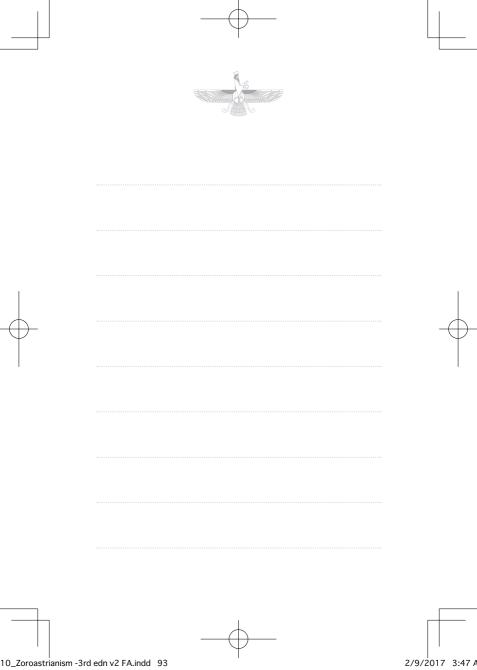


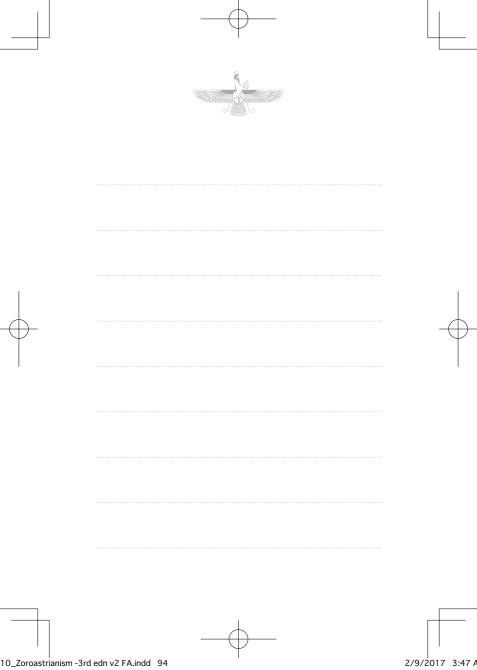


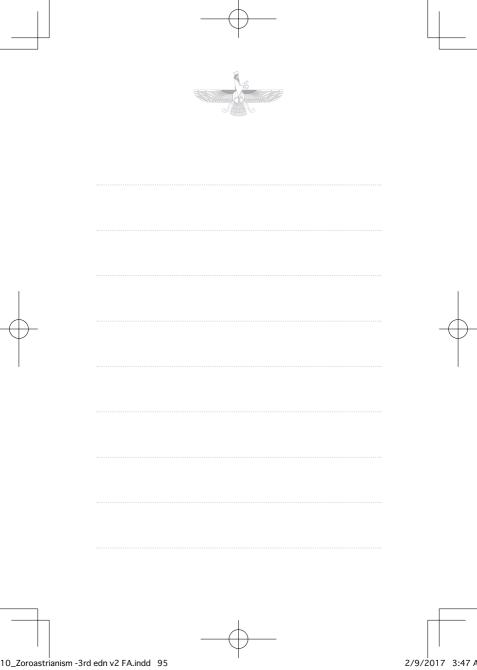


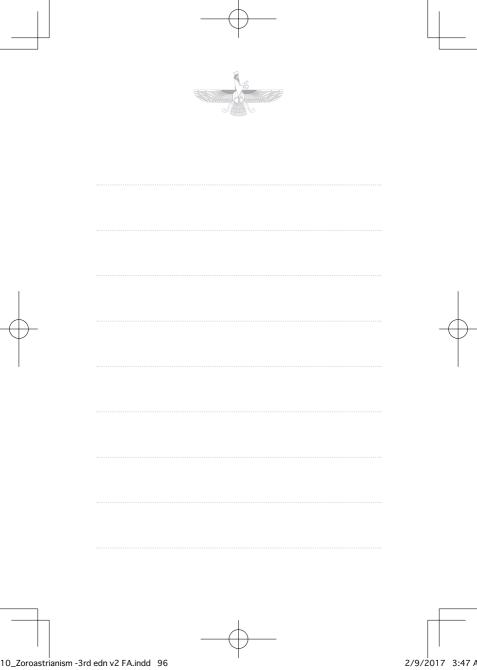


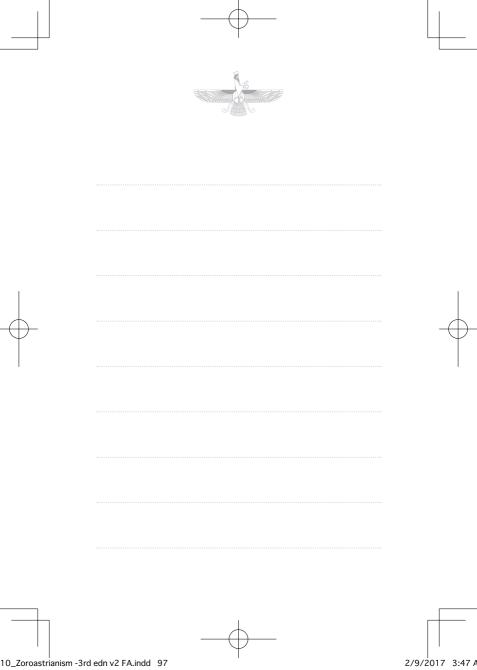


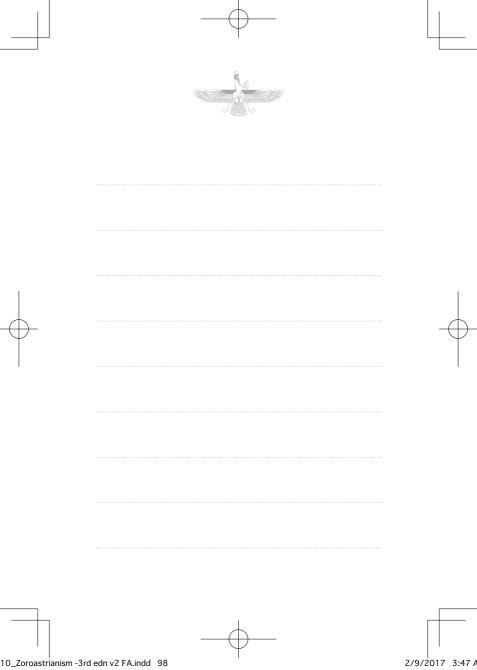


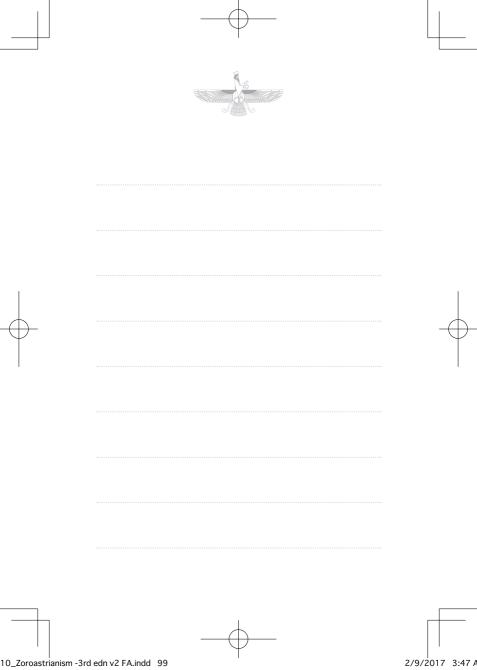




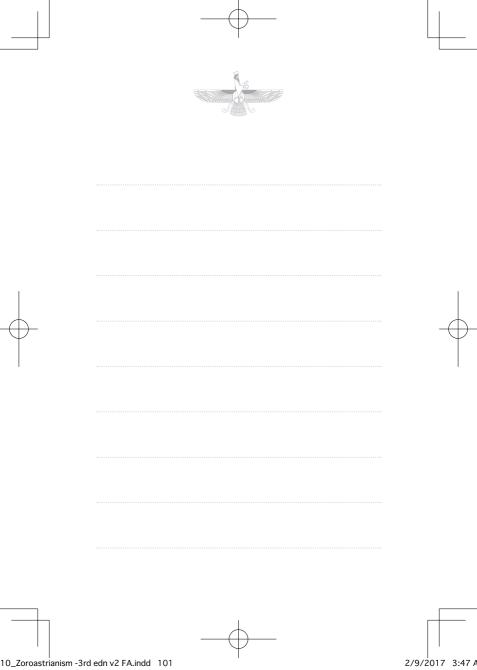








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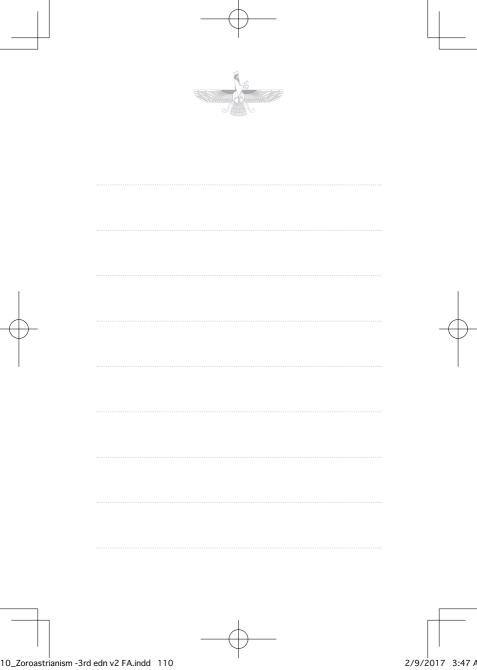
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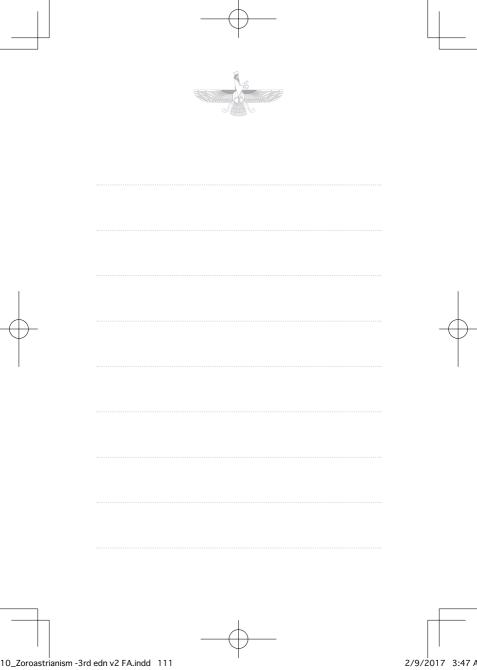
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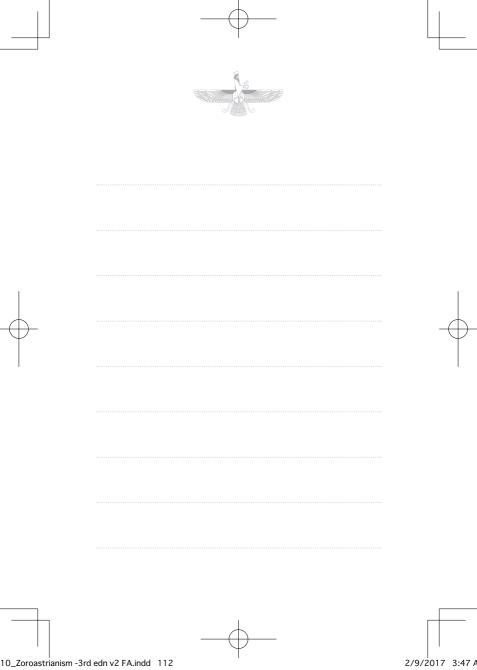
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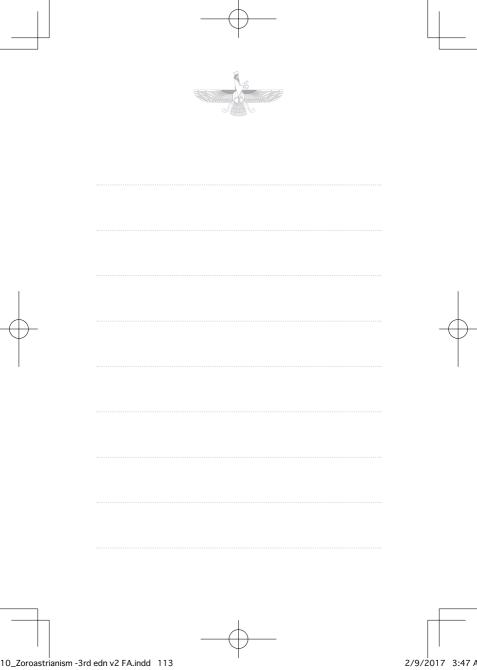
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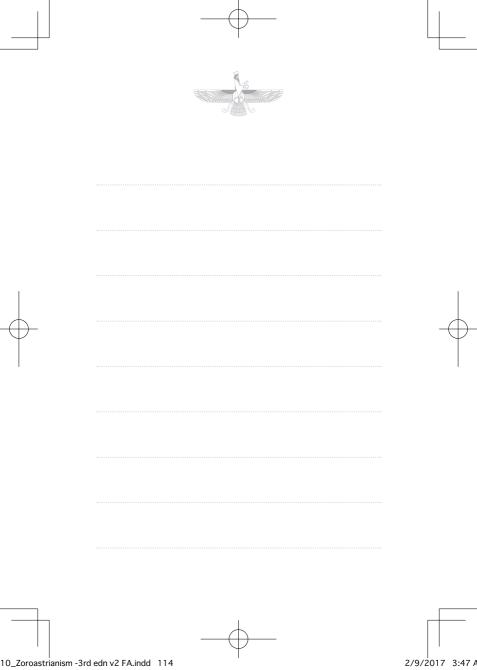
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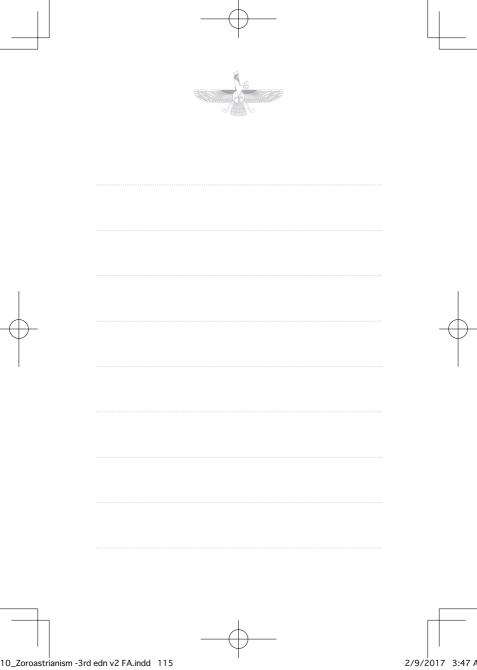




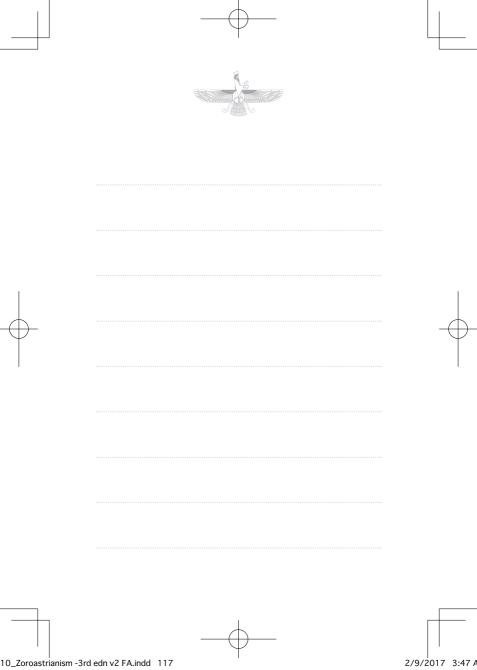


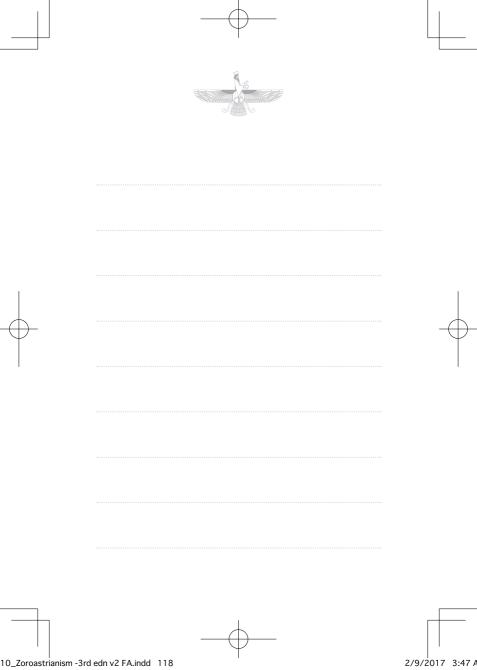






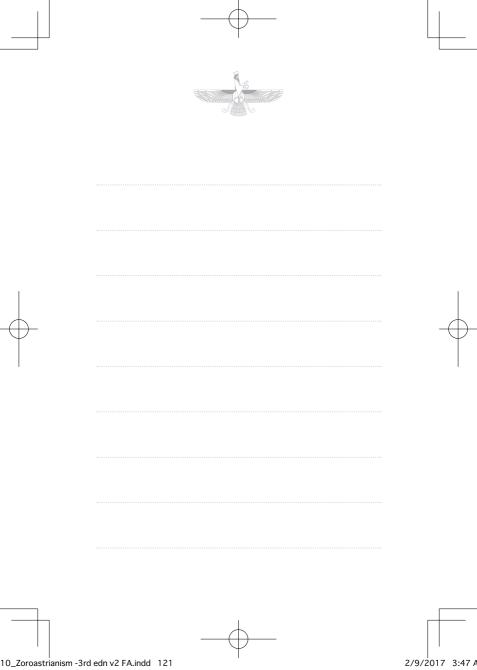
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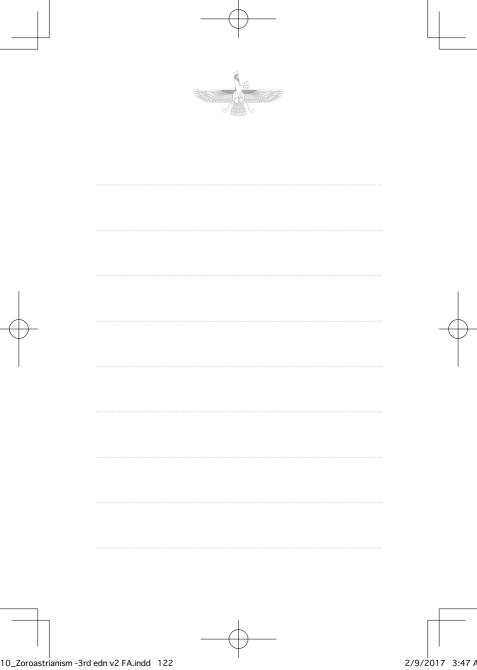


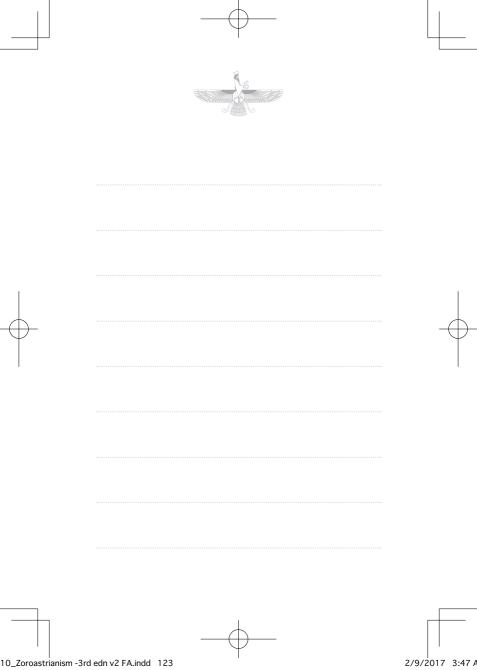


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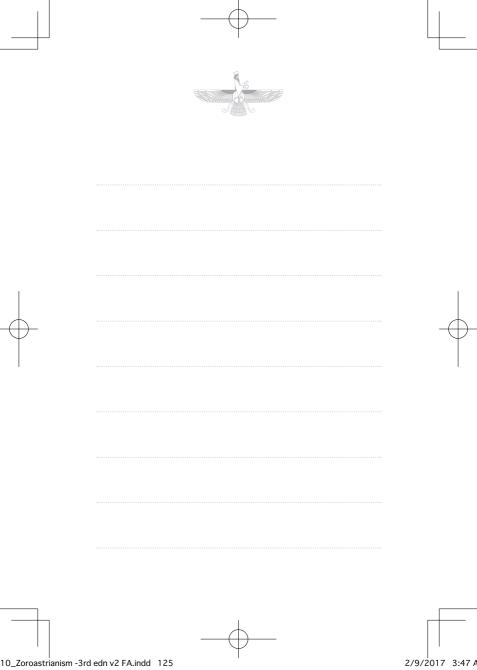
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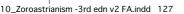




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