



The Zend-Avesta, Vol. 1 (Classic Reprint)

James Darmesteter

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THIS chapter is an enumeration of sixteen lands created by Ahura Mazda, and of as many plagues created in opposition by Angra Mainyu. Many attempts have been made, not only to identify these sixteen lands, but also to draw historical conclusions from their order of succession, as representing the actual order of the migrations and settlements of the old Iranian tribes 1. But there is nothing in the text that would authorise us to look to it even for legendary records, much less for real history. We have here nothing more than a geographical description of Iran, such as might be expected in a religious work like the Vendidad, that is to say, one that contains mythical lands as well as real countries. It is not easy to decide with perfect certainty, in every case, whether we have to do with a land of the former or of the latter kind, owing partly to our deficient knowledge of the geography of ancient Iran, partly to the fact that names, originally belo

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION; CHAPTER I THE DISCOVERY OF THE ZEND-AVESTA XI; "; "; "; "; II THE INTERPRETATION OF THE ZEND-AVESTA; III THE FORMATION OF THE ZEND-AVESTA xxx; I vi; Ixxxiii; IV THE ORIGIN OF THE AVESTA RELIGION"; V THE VMMIDAD; TRANSLATION OF THE VENDIDAD; F ARGARD I AN ENUMERATION OF SIXTEEN LANDS CREATED; BY AHURA MAZDA, AND OF AS MANY PLAGUE~; CREATED IN OPPOSITION BY ANGRA IIAINVU; F ARGARD II MYTHS OF YIMA 10; FARGARD III THE EARTH 21; I (1-6) The five places where the Earth feels most joy 22; IT (7-1 I) The five places where the Earth feels most; sorrow; III (12-35) The five things which most rejoice the Earth; IV (36-42) Corpses ought not to be buried in the Earth; F ARCARD IY CONTRACTS AND OUTRAGES; I (I); 1 I a (2) Classification of contracts; I I b (3-4) Damages for breach of contract; II c (5-10) Kinsmen responsible; II d (0-16) Penalties

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