

The Theology of the Gathas

Dr. Pallan Ichaporia

(Short summary)

1. The Theology of the Gathas is more abstract and philosophical than that of the later Avesta. It represents the oldest form of the Mazdayasnan religion.
2. The veneration of the more popular divinities such as Mithra and Tishtrya, is unknown to the prophet of the Gathas. The worship of these yazatas was first adopted in a later epoch by a sort of compromise with the popular religion.
3. The Theology of the Gathas is monotheistic. Mazda Ahura is the Godhead per se.
4. This monotheism is in no way interfered with by Ameshaspentas the spiritual entities alluded to in the Gathas, since these Ameshaspentas are only hypostases of abstract conceptions, they are everywhere comprehended in their original import, and stand, moreover, in conformity with their nature under Mazda, being themselves regarded as His creatures.