

COMMENTARY

Human and Animals Creation in Ancient Persian Myths

We studied the manuscript written by Hemati et al. on Vegetation Place of Human and Animals in Ancient Persian with great interests and found the subject about the emergence of human life on earth according to myths of ancient Persian quite attractive.

According to the authors' findings based on some Sassanid texts, such as Vizidegihaye Zadesparam and Bondaheshn, after Ahouramazda created the universe based on health, the controversy between Ahouraie and Ahrimani forces led to the emergence of diseases. So, Ahouramazda raised plants from mythical cow organs, and Mashya and Mashyaneh, a kind of Ribas plant, grew from Kiomars sperm. The authors considered that, since many myths narrated the Kiomars as the beginning form of human being, so, they discussed that, the creation of human and other animals were first formed from plants¹.

In the history of Iran, ancient Persian belongs to a period of about 1000 years, between 400 BC to 600 AC, which starts from the formation of Maad's dynasty to the end of Sassanid era². In this period of Persian history, we encoun-

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1- Hemmati, 2018; 7(4): 229-236.
2- Pirnia, 2012.



tered different religious and philosophical narrations about the origin of human being³. According to our studies conducted on these texts, it seems that most of them don't believe that human and animals were created from plants. For instance, in Manichaeism creation myths, it is believed that, human was created from Devil⁴; Abolghasempour discussed that, in Manichaeism myths, the first human named "Gahmard" was the son of two evils, "Ashghlun" and "Pisus"⁵.

Additionally, there are some texts which reflect that the nature of Kiomars is related to the earth rather than the plant⁶. In the third book of Dinkard (book of Zoroastrian beliefs and customs), it is written that: " Kiomars was the first soil of king"⁷. Also, according to Shah-Nameh, composed by Ferdowsi, the famous Iranian poet (935-1020 AD), animals and Kiomars were created from the earth.

As above-mentioned points express, it's likely that, during ancient times of Persia, there were some different beliefs of what human and animals were created from. Plant, evil and earth are the most popular elements involved in the human creation myths during ancient Persian era.

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4- Abolghasempour, 2016.
5- Ibid.
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7- Bahar, 1984: 151.

