

STUDY

UNITY

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LANGAT SINGH COLLEGE

NAAC Grade – 'A'

(A Constituent unit of B.R.A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur)

Department Of Persian



-.: ONLINE CLASS E-CONTENT :-

Topic :- Old Persian Language & Literature "AVESTA"

M. A 4th Semester (Persian)

Course No & title :- Per 101

History Of Persian Language & Literature Of Iran Prior To Advent Of Islam

By

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OLD PERSIAN LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

Avestan



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Bodleian_J2_fol_175_Y_28_1.jpg

i) AVESTA:
Among the Old Iranian languages-the Avestan (most probably a language of eastern Iran) was the religious language of the Zoroastrians.

It retained its status for several centuries among the priests and followers of this religion.



xšāyathiya
"king"



būmiš
"earth"



dahyāuš
"country"



haya
"god"



Auramazdā
Ahuramazda



The Avesta, the sacred book of ancient Iran, contains the oldest documents of the prose and poetry of Iran.

It is a collection of prayers and religious teachings of the Zarathushtra, the celebrated Prophet of Iran, who, as it is guessed, lived during the 7th century B. C.



The Avesta
in its present
form is the only
remnant of a
sacred
literature
of a
considerable
extant.



The other portions of the
original
scripture, which were not purely
religious but some what
encyclopaedic in character, were
destroyed by the cruel bands
of time.

There is a third part of the Avesta
viz the Vendidad.

Lastly,
there are some
miscellaneous fragments,
which are known
as the Khurda Avesta.



The language in which the Avesta is written is called Avestan, then current is ancient Iran. It is similar to old Persian and Sanskrit and is mostly allied to the Sanskrit.

The actual Avesta consists of several parts, the most important being.

(1) The Yasnas.

(2) The Yashts.

This language existed in Iran before the advent of the Achaemenian Dynasty and was spoken in Eastern parts of the country.

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