

# How Zarathushtra Generated the Gathic Corpus: Inner-textual and Intertextual Composition

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In this article I shall set forth my most recent discoveries concerning the principles of Gathic composition. After summarizing the observations I had made in earlier publications<sup>1</sup> as concerns (I.1) ring-composition, (I.2) proto-poems, and final poems, I shall (I.2) update the latter exposition as to both principles and examples. Then (II) I shall briefly explain the principles of cross-textual recursive composition whereby Zarathushtra generated the sequence of his poems. This will be followed (III.1 and 2) by illustration of these principles with instances involving the etymology of Gathic personal names.

### I.1

Each of the poems of the Gathic corpus belongs to one of three basic patterns of systematic concatenation. These govern relations between concentrically related (a) single stanzas; (b) consecutively paired stanzas; and (c) single stanzas regularly alternating with consecutively paired stanzas. In addition, the central stanza or stanzas of each poem are in some instances concatenated formally, i.e. by words showing the inflected form, or by stems or roots (sometimes the concatenation pertains to a phrase consisting of such words); these features also serve in the consecutive pairing of stanzas in concatenation-types (b) and (c). In other instances, the concatenation consists of semantically, rather than formally, related words. Frequently the concatenations consist of words related by form, and words related by meaning. Rarely, the concatenation is based on paronomasia, e.g. Y(asna) 50.6a' maθra /manθra'ā/ 'mant(h)ra' and Y50.1b"  $m\bar{\partial}.n\bar{a} \theta r\bar{a}t\bar{a}$  /mana  $\theta r\bar{a}t\bar{a}$ / 'my protector'. More than one concatenation is often found between the two related stanzas.

In some poems, the concatenations are throughout formal, whereas in other poems, a few stanzas are concatenated only semantically. However, in all poems in which some stanzas are merely concatenated semantically, there is a long sequence of stanzas (totaling to a comparative majority in the poem) which themselves show the criteria of a completed poem: systematic concatenation of concentrically related stanzas (in these instances, single stanzas), and concatenation of central to first and last stanzas. These instances are to be regarded as proto-poems, i.e. the first stage of poems which were later expanded by the addition of more stanzas to form the final poems of our Gathic canon, each of which has an overall concatenation, whether or not all of the concentrically related stanzas are concatenated formally (as e.g. Y46) or semantically.

### I.2

My list of proto-poems now consists of the following (subsequent expansions are indicated by "+"): Proto-Y28 (yielding Y28.1-8, + 9-11); Proto-Y31 (> Y31.1–18, + 19–22); Proto-Y32 (> Y32.1–13, + 14–16); Proto-Y33 (> Y33.2–10, + 10-14, + 1); Proto-Y34 (> Y34.1-11, + 12-15); Proto-Y43 (> Y43.3-13, + 14-16, + 1-2); Proto-Y44 (> Y44.2-11, + 12-16, + 1); Proto-Y45 (> Y45.1-7, +8-11); Proto-Y46 (> Y46.1-10, +11-19); and Proto-Y49 (> Y49.4–11, + 1–3, + 12). It should now be observed that in all of these instances, the last line of the proto-poem acts as the first line of a second technically complete (i.e. systematically concatenated) poem (see Chart I). By contrast, Y48 consists of two complete poems (1-6 + 7-12) joined without overlap; similarly Y51 (1-11 + 13-22).

All of this shows that formal relatedness is the primary basis of Gathic concatenation with concentrism. The same formality in concatenation holds true for the other Old Avestan Yasna poems, each of which is also concentrically oriented, but where single lines, rather than stanzas, are the compositional unit; thus, on the one hand, the "great prayers" (Y27.14, Y54.1, and probably Y27.15), all of which I attribute to Zarathushtra; and on the other hand, the Yasna Haptanhāiti (Y35–Y41), which I doubt is of Zarathushtra's authorship.<sup>2</sup>

In connection with the term  $hapta\eta h\bar{a}iti$ 'consisting of seven  $h\bar{a}itis$ ', the compound, as well as the term  $h\bar{a}iti$ - for 'complete Old Avestan poem' were canonized in Young Avestan. However, the etymological sense of  $h\bar{a}iti$ - '(poem characterized by) concatenation' is already illustrated by Y32.9b"  $h\bar{a}it\bar{\imath}m$ , which refers to Zarathushtra's inspired speech, and, since it occurs in the second central stanza of the poem, concatenates with the finale, Y32.16c"  $a\eta haii\bar{a}$  \*/ $\bar{a}$  h $\bar{a}yay\bar{a}$ /'I would fetter', which, like  $h\bar{a}iti$ -, comes from  $\sqrt{h\bar{a}i}$  'to tie, chain', whence 'concatenation'.

Y27.13, traditionally reckoned among the "great prayers", is instead the original last (11th) stanza of Y29,3 for which the present Y29.11 is a late substitute by Zarathushtra. One other textual modification, this a matter of transmission after Zarathushtra's lifetime, must also be observed: In order to obtain a systematic set of concatenations, the present Y31.15 should be reckoned as originally Y31.\*13 (and consequently the present Y31.13–14 should be counted as originally Y31.\*14–15).<sup>4</sup>

The concatenating forms of Y31, with stanzas rearranged as suggested, may be stated concisely: 1a" and 22b" vacah- 'word'; 2b" and 20a' āii- 'to come'; 3b' and 21c" uruuat/θ- '(bound by) solemn declaration'; 3b' and 21c' \*vazd- 'solidity, nourishment, (cultic) support'; 4c' and 19b" √xšāi 'to rule'; 5b' and 17b bis √vid 'to know'; 6b' and 18a"  $ma\theta ra$ - 'manthra, poetic formulation'; 7b' and 16a" \*xšaθra-6 'dominion'; 8b" and \*14c' (= 13c') cašman- 'eye'; 9b" and \*15b' (= 14b') dadā- 'to set, give'; 9c' and \*15a" (= 14a')  $\bar{a}i(t)$ - 'come'; 9c" and \*15c" (= 14c") anh- 'to be'; 10a" and \*13c' (= 15c') vāstriia- 'pasturer'. In the central stanzas, 11c"  $(y)a\theta r\bar{a}$  'where' and 12a'  $a\theta r\bar{a}$  in a continuous reference to right and wrong speech; 11c' and 22b" šiiaoθanācā 'and actions'; 12a" and 1a" (-)vacå

The above-suggested reconstructions for Y29 and Y31, based on the exigencies of Gathic ring

structure, are confirmed by details of the crosstextual correlations which result from the compositional process, the basics of which are set forth in II.1.

### Π

Every Gathic poem composed by Zarathushtra (by which I mean not only the seventeen Gathic Yasnas of our corpus, but also the proto-poems on which they are based) may be accounted for according to the following process(es) of serial recursive composition: Beginning with a single complete hāiti-, words from each stanza in forward consecutive order, and then in backward consecutive order from the last stanza to the first, were recast to appear in every stanza, in both directions, in a second poem under construction, which was filled out according to the overall message(s) to be conveyed, and in conformity to ring-composition. The same process was repeated, this time using every stanza, in both directions, of the two completed poems, toward the generation of a third poem. All three completed poems were then subjected to the same process toward the production of a fourth poem, and so on, until the last poem of the corpus was produced. On the basis of this analysis, it is possible (but beyond the scope of this paper) to state the precise order in which the poems were composed, and to produce scores of charts showing the interrelationships between the various poems (as I already have, in the course of my research during the last few months). Suffice it to say for now that I am convinced that Y29 was the first poem composed (its lexical material being, in effect, reflected in all the other poems), and that Y53 was the last poem composed.

The interrelationship between the forms involved in the recasting process is identical to the formal criteria for concatenation within any poem: A word (or phrase) may be recast as another word (or phrase) showing the same inflected form, stem, or root. The one recurrent banal correspondence in the recasting is the phrase *vohu-manah-* 'Good Mind', used only sparingly in the ring-composition. In many instances the recasting is based on paronomasia (even, apparently, at the level of the root).

The lexicological and textual information gained by the charting of the various recastings is great, but must be addressed elsewhere.

### III.1

In illustration of the foregoing compositional principles, we shall now consider the remarkable formal vicissitudes of the name Yima in the Gathas. I have already shown that at Y32.8a"  $v\bar{\imath}uua\eta hu\bar{s}\bar{o}$  . . .  $yimasc\bar{\imath}t$  'Indeed Yima, son of Vīuuaŋ huṅ represents the first element in Zarathushtra's series of pejorative recastings of textual material originally in honor of Haoma in an Old Avestan protoform of Yasnas 9–10.7 My various speculations as to the various Gathic transformation of yima-/yama-/ will now be corroborated through the facts of Gathic recursive composition.

Of my proposals of the various recastings of /yama-/, the most surprising, and thus most in need of corroboration, proceeds from the etymological sense of the antihero's name 'Twin' (of prehistoric origin, in allusion to the Indo-Iranian myth of the twin pair \*Yama and his sister \*Yamī, attested, in radically variant accounts, in the RgVeda and in Pahlavi; for reflexes of this word for 'twin' in later Iranian languages, see de Blois 2003, p. 7). My suspicion that Y32.8 yimascīt (in which the form of the personal name, *yima*-, is due to Young Avestan influence) prompted the application of the word 'twin' in Y30.3, where  $y\bar{\partial}m\bar{a}$  (with  $y\bar{\partial}ma$ - as the expected Gathic realization of /yama-/) refers to the two primordial twin Spirits (mainiiū), one benign and one malign, arose from my discovery that the forward course of Proto-Y32 (Y32.1-13) produced stanza-by-stanza lexical recastings in Y30 (Chart IIA).8 However, the occurrence of  $y\bar{\partial}ma$ - at Y30.3 would be out of order in the forward recasting of lexical material from Y32. The expected location for the correspondence is now seen from the backward recasting (Chart IIB), in which the obligatory lexical correspondence between Y32.8 and Y30.3 is satisfied by Y32.8a" srāuuī yimascīţ 'indeed Yima was heard' vis-à-vis Y30.3a" yāmā ... asruuātam 'the two twinned [Spirits] were heard'.9

I also suggested that, in effecting the obligatory concatenation of the two central stanzas of Y32, Zarathushtra, playing on the etymology of Yima's name ( $\sqrt{yam}$ ), linked Y32.8  $yimasc\bar{\imath}t$  and Y32.9  $ap\bar{o}\ldots apaiiant\bar{a}$  (\*/apa . . . yanta/ < \*/apa . . . yam-ta/) 'robbed'. He thus imparted a pejorative nuance to Yima's name and associated his false claim to divinity with the speech of poetpriests who honored Yima through the Haoma

cult and meant to co-opt Zarathushtra's advocacy of Mazdā, an act paralleled by their patrons' robbery (apaiieitī) of inheritances as per Y32.11, in which apaiieiti- \*/apa-yati-/ 'robbery' repeats /apa √yam/ (cf., for further correlations between Y32.8 and 11, mōrəṇda- 'make go astray', jiiātu-'life, vitality', and vaŋhōuš/vahištāt manaŋhō 'from Good/Best Mind').

Y30.3  $y\bar{a}m\bar{a}$  itself, via the recasting of its lexical material in the backward course of the composition of Y31 (from the final stanza Y31.22 to Y31.12) has the obligatory correspondence of Y32.\*14, with  $\bar{a}\dots(a)iiamait\bar{e}$  'takes (hold of), receives':

Y31.\*14 yā vā kasāuš aēnaŋhō ā mažištam aiiamaitē būjam

'or who, for a minor violation, receives the greatest penalty'.

Here the noun /yama-/ 'twin' and the verb /ā yama-/ 'take' are connected through their root yam (cf. the play at RgVeda 10.14.10 on Yama [yamāya] and ā yamat 'will take [escort]'). The relationship of noun /yama-/ to verb  $\bar{a} \sqrt{yam}$ across our Gathic texts parallels that of /yama-/ to apa  $\sqrt{yam}$  at Y32.8–9. Furthermore, the crosstextual connection is confirmed by the parallelism between the collocation of aēnah- 'violation' and  $\bar{a}$  . . . (a) ii a mait  $\bar{e}$  in Y31.\*14b vis-à-vis the collocation of aenah- and the noun yima- in Y32.8a. The implicit intertextual relationship between the verbs *apō* . . . *apaiiaṇtā* (*apa* √*yam*) and  $\bar{a}$  . . . aiiamait $\bar{e}$  is shown by the reverse recasting of the second half of Proto-Y32 in the second half of Proto-Y31 (Y31.18-10) in reverse (see Chart VI).

In addition, via the recasting of Y30.1–10 in Y53 backwards (see Chart IV), we have the correspondence Y30.3a"  $y\bar{\sigma}m\bar{a}$  'the two twins': Y53.6c"  $\bar{a}iies\bar{e}$  'I will take' from  $\bar{a}$   $\sqrt{y}am$ . Finally, via the reverse recasting of Y32 in Y53, it is Y32.8a"  $yimasc\bar{\imath}t$ , i.e. the name Yima, which has as its correspondent Y53.6c"  $\bar{a}iies\bar{e}$ . This is the final corroboration for the concatenation of  $yimasc\bar{\imath}t$  with  $ap\bar{o}\ldots(apa)iiant\bar{a}$  at Y32.8–9, whereby Yima's name is etymologically pejorized through association with robbery.

This pejoration may have other resonances in Y53.6b–c. Y53.6c  $\bar{a}iies\bar{e}$  \* $h\bar{o}i^{10}$   $pi\theta\bar{a}$  tanuu $\bar{o}$   $par\bar{a}$  'I shall take his protections away from \*his person/body' must be construed as continuing Y53.6b  $dr\bar{u}j\bar{o}$   $hac\bar{a}$   $r\bar{a}\theta\partial\bar{m}\bar{o}$   $y\bar{\partial}m\partial$   $spašu\theta\bar{a}$   $fr\bar{a}id\bar{a}m$ 

'he whom you see as prospering(?) is an adherence of Wrong'. The somewhat syntactically unusual yōmo 'whom' (with an exceptional spelling in -∂) is quite possibly a paronomastic recasting of Y32.8 yimascīţ (for \*yōmascīţ), so that the latter form would be doubly represented in Y53.6.

I had also proposed that Yima's patronymic at Y32.8, vīuuanhušō is a pejorative neologism, formed as though an -a-stem adjectival derivative from a perfect stem in Indo-Iranian \*-vans- (of the type nom. Vedic *vidvān*, Av. *vīduuå*, obl. Vedic vidus-, Av. vīduš-), as against the stem in \*-vantin Vedic vívasvant-, Y9.3-5 viuuan hant-, the latter form therefore having occurred in the text of the OAv. Haoma hymn. I explained vīuuaŋhušaas a wordplay from *vī*- privative (as in YAv. *vījuua*-'without life, not living') and vanhuša-'earning something good' (cf. Vedic paśu-sá- 'winning cattle'); thus vīuuanhusa- as a pejorative pun 'not earning anything good', referring to Yima himself. This interpretation was grounded in the fact that the mention of Yima's violation (aēnah-) in Y32.8 prefaced at Y32.6 by Mazda being addressed as hātā.marānē (\*/hātāmarnai/) 'accounter of things earned/deserved' specifically in reference to 'the many, countless, violations (aēnah-)' committed for the sake of gaining fame (srāuuahiieitī). Here hātā- 'things earned/deserved' is from  $\sqrt{han}$  'to earn, merit' (whence - $\delta a$ in \*vanhuša-, cf. Vedic -sá-  $\langle \sqrt{san^i} \rangle$ , similarly hāiti- 'merit, earning' in Y32.9, in the context of misdirected attributions of fame (srauuå): apō . . . apaiiantā . . . hāitīm 'robs merit'. I concluded that through the substitution of the pejorative adjective vīuuaņhuša- for Yima's traditional designation \*vīuuan<sup>v</sup>ata- 'Son of Viuuan<sup>v</sup>hant-', Zarathushtra, as throughout the Gathas, avoided calling a denizen of Wrong by the real name. For hāiti- also as 'concatenation, poetry', see p. 54,

My interpretation of  $v\bar{\imath}uua\eta hu\bar{s}a$ - is now confirmed by the relationship between Y32.8a"  $v\bar{\imath}uua\eta hu\bar{s}\bar{o}$  and Y53.5d" 'may you win  $(v\bar{\imath}uua\eta hat\bar{u}, \sqrt{van})$  each other with Rightness, for that will be its good earning  $(hu\bar{s}\bar{o}n\bar{\sigma}m)$ " (see Chart V). Here, in a context of contrast, the phonic and semantic elements of  $v\bar{\imath}uu\bar{\sigma}\eta ghat\bar{u}$  and  $hu\bar{s}\bar{o}n\bar{\sigma}m$  are equivalent to those of  $v\bar{\imath}uua\eta hu\bar{s}\bar{o}$ . The words  $v\bar{\imath}uua\eta hu\bar{s}\bar{o}$  and  $v\bar{\imath}uua\eta hat\bar{u}$  phonically share [viva(N)h-], and both  $v\bar{\imath}uua\eta hu\bar{s}\bar{o}$  and  $hu\bar{s}\bar{\sigma}n\bar{\sigma}m$  are parallel as compounds with  $v\bar{\imath}uua\eta hu\bar{s}\bar{o}$  and  $v\bar{\imath}uua\eta hu\bar{s}\bar{o}$ 

#### III.2

The Gathic cross-textual correspondence of a name to forms of its constituent elements, as seen for both yimascīt and vīuuanhušō, has numerous parallels. A simple instance is Y53.2c" fərašaoštrascā, where the etymology of fərašaoštra-, 'having splendid (fəraša-) camels (uštra-), correlates with Y30.9a" fərašām (see Chart IV). The name of Zarathushtra's daughter, pouru.cistā 'much (pouru-) insightful (cista-)' at Y53.3a' correlates with Y30.9c" cistiš 'insight' in establishing the obligatory correspondence between Y53.3 and Y30.9 in the backwards recasting of lexical material of Y30 in the forward course of Y53.11 The same attestation of pourucistā also corresponds to a cognate of cista-(i.e. another derivative of  $\sqrt{cit}$  'to perceive'),  $ci\theta ra$ -'bright, clear, visible' in the compound Y34.4b" ciθrā.auuaŋhəm 'having visible help'.<sup>12</sup>

The name *maidiiōi.måŋha-*, attested in the vocative Y51.19a' *maidiiōi.måŋhā*, is a thematic adjective 'pertaining (by birth) to the midmonth' from *maidiia-* 'middle' and *māh-* 'moon, month'. The name corresponds to Y44.3d' *må* 'moon' (nominative of *māh-*) via the lexical recasting of Y44.1–12 in the backwards course of the second half of Y51 (Y51.12–22).

The recasting of Y46.1–13 in the second half of Y51 (Y51.12–22) contains the correspondence of Y46.4b' gå 'bovines', e' frō.gå 'leading-bovines' and Y51.14b" gauuōi 'cow' (dat.).<sup>13</sup> In addition, in the recasting of Y46 in the backwards course of Y51,<sup>14</sup> Y46.17b" huuō.guuā (vocative of the family name huuō.guua- /hauguva-/ 'having good bovines', with -guva- thematic adj. from gau- 'bovine, cow') has as correspondence Y51.7a' gam 'cow' (acc.). A parallel correspondence is found in the ring composition of Y46, where the obligatory concatenation between stanzas 4 and 17 is only supplied by Y46.4b' gå 'bovines', e' frō.gå 'the leading bovines' and the name Y46.17b" huuō.guuā. The same series of correspondences is seen for Y44.6e" gam (accusative of gau-) 'cow' and Y51.18a" huuō.guuā.15 The same words are found in an identical relationship for Y46.16b" huuō.guuā vis-à-vis Y51.5a" in the recasting of lexical material from Y46 backwards in the forward composition of the first half of Y51.16

The name  $t\bar{u}ra$ -  $frii\bar{a}na$ - 'Tura, of the Friiana family/clan' ( $frii\bar{a}na$ - 'descended from Friia-) is attested in the genitive Y46.12b  $t\bar{u}rahii\bar{a}$  . . .  $frii\bar{a}nahii\bar{a}$ . By backwards recasting of Y46,

Y46.19–7 yields lexical material in the forward composition of the first half of Y51 (Y51.1–11) whereby Y46.12b'  $t\bar{u}rahii\bar{a}$  has as its correspondent Y51.7c"  $t \ni uu\bar{\imath} \bar{s}\bar{\imath}$  'strengths' (dual), from  $\sqrt{t}\bar{u}$  (PIE  $\sqrt{teuH}$ ) 'be strong, be able'. Thus we recover for Iranian an adj. \* $t\bar{u}ra$ - 'strong', the equivalent of Vedic  $tur\acute{a}$ - (with u from cmpd. form tuvi- (\*tuHi-) alongside  $tav\bar{\imath}yas$ - 'stronger' etc. (Bthl. s.v.  $t\bar{u}ra$ - cites Kurd. " $t\bar{u}r$ " for t'o $\acute{r}$  etc. 'wild', which however is from Arab.  $t\bar{u}r$ ,  $t\bar{u}r\bar{\imath}$ ).

As for *friiāna*-, the etymon *friia*- 'intimate, dear' is represented through the verbal root *frī* 'be/make intimate' = 'propitiate' in the correspondence Y46.12b" *friiānahiiā*: Y49.12c" *frīnāi* 'I shall propitiate' at the end of the forwards recasting of Y46.1–11 in Y49(1–12).<sup>17</sup>

Several proper names are attested in the last five stanzas of Y46, which in its backward course (Y46.19-14) supplied lexical material in the reverse course of the stanzas which were added to Proto-Y32 to finalize the poem (Y32.16-14): In addition to the non-onomastic correlations, 18 we have Y46.15a' haēcat.aspā, voc. pl. 'descendents of \*hicat.aspa-', the latter name = 'who moistens horses (in grooming)', cf. RV 4.43.6 siñcad áśvān. The first element, \*hicat-, represents the participle of the attested stem *hica-* (= Vedic *sicá-*) 'to pour, moisten'. The fem. equivalent of haēcat. aspa- is Y53.3a" haēcat.aspanā, which corresponds to Y46.15a' via the reverse recasting of Y46 (Y46.19–8) in the progressive course of Y53 (Y53.1–9). Just as Y46.15a' haēcat aspā has as its correspondent Y32.14b' hīcā, instr. of \*hic- 'a pouring (of haoma)', so corresponding to this  $h\bar{i}c\bar{a}$ is Y53.3a" haēcat aspanā, the latter via the backward recasting of Y32 in the forward course of Y53 (see Chart V). These data confirm Geldner's reading in Y32.14b' two separate words, varəcā *hīcā*, which has received independent support from Vedic comparisons by Gippert. 19 The name \*hicat.aspa- was proposed by Kellens and Pirart 1988, p. 8.

For Y46.14c, the title plus name Kauui Vīštā-spa (nom. *kauuā vīštāspō*) each has a correlation in the corresponding stanza Y32.14. Y32.14a" *kāuuaiiascīt* 'the *kauuis*' (here as throughout in the pl., a pejorized collective) matches the inherited title *kauuā*-. Following Szemerényi, etymologists have taken *vīštāspa*- as a hippological compound with *vīšta*- = Vedic *víṣita*- 'untied, unharnessed', with *áśva*- 'horses', RV 6.6.4, 3.33.1, whereby Av. *vīštāspa*- could represent an Indo-Iranian name 'he who has unrestrained (i.e.

impetuous) horses', with O1r. Ø alongside OInd. *i* from\**H*. If this is so, the ptc. \**vīšHta*- would have been replaced in Avestan by \**vīšāta*- (cf. Av. hāiti- 'concatenation', MPers. wišād 'open(ed)', but Av. hita- 'tied, attached' [e.g. pn. hitāspa-!] from \*sHita-, cf. Av. haēθa- 'trap'; thus Vedic víṣita- < vísHita, not vísHta-?) so that vīštawould be prone to association with  $\sqrt{vis}$ . Indeed, for the name *vīštāspa*- we now have Zarathushtra's own etymology, via Y32.14b" vīsəntā 'they ready themselves'; vīštāspa- is to be understood as 'having ready (vīšta-) horses (aspa-)'. This correlation is not accidental, as shown by Y53.2c' kauuācā vīštāspō 'and Kauui Vīštāspa' corresponding respectively to Y32.15a" kouuītāscīt 'indeed, the kauuidom' and Y32.14b" vīsəntā 'ready themselves'. The name *vīštāspa*- was taken as an OAv. compound, with the past participle preserving the active voice of  $\sqrt{vis}$ , which is prominent in the Vedic cognate viśáti, viṣṭá-, against the generalization of the middle voice for  $\sqrt{vis}$  in Avestan. From the basic active mg. 'enter' (Vedic *viśáti*), Iranian developed the mg. 'be ready', whence middle voice mg. 'to ready oneself, position oneself for'. The older situation may be found in Yt10.46, in which vīsaiti  $(mi\theta r\bar{o})$ , paralleled by  $(mi\theta r\bar{o} ...)$  jasaiti, '(M.) comes', thus need not be emended to vīsaite. The persistence of the active form in Old Avestan is implicit in Zarathushtra's etymological connection of *vīštāspō* and *vīsəṇtā*. [A reinterpretation of *vīštāspa*- as 'having ready horses' < 'having horses let loose' would be easy semantically; as Garcia Ramon (2006, p. 83) on vīštāspa-< \*višHta-), Vedic vísita- áśva-, stresses, "le cheval est relâché pour se mettre à la course".]

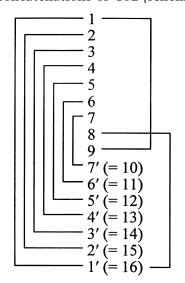
Finally, we come to the name  $zara\theta u \check{s}tra$ -itself. I had long ago suggested<sup>20</sup> that in the richly and intricately linked stanzas Y44.17–18, Y44.17b" zar am 'old age' and Y44.18c"  $u \check{s}tr am c \check{a}$  'and a camel' refer to the elements of the name  $zara\theta u \check{s}tra$ - 'having old (\*zarat- from \*zarant-,  $\sqrt{zar}$ ) camels ( $u \check{s}tra$ -)'. This is now proven by the lexical correspondence between the aforecited forms at Y44.17b"–Y44.18c", and Y46.19b"  $zara\theta u \check{s}tr \bar{a}$ .<sup>21</sup>

### IV

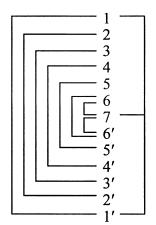
It is difficult at present to say why Zarathushtra chose such a complex means of generating his corpus. Parallels are yet to be sought in ancient literature (e.g. in the Vedic poems). For modern

### Chart I

Concatenations of Y32 (schema)<sup>22</sup>



Proto-Y32



Y32 Finalizing Coda



The Concentric Concatenations of Proto-Y32 (32.1-13)

- 1.  $d\bar{u}ta$  'messenger' and 'smoke'  $(d\bar{u}t\bar{a}\eta h\bar{o})$ ;  $\sqrt{a}h$  'to be';  $\theta\beta a$  'Thy'
- 2. *aēibiiō mazdā . . . (paiti.)mraot 'Mazdā speaks (back) . . . to those'; √var 'to choose' (varəmaidī); xšaθra- 'Dominion'*
- 3.  $\sqrt{cit}$  'perceive' ( $ci\theta ra$ -); maz- 'great' ( $ma\check{s}$ )
- 4. acišta- 'worst';  $\sqrt{d\bar{a}}$  'to establish, make'  $(dant\bar{o})$
- 5. (hu-)jiiātōiš 'from (good) life'; mainiiu- 'spirit'; √vac 'to speak' (vacaņhā)
- 6. aēnah- 'violations' (aēnā̇); √sru 'hear' (srāuuahiieitī); √sanh- 'to proclaim' (sōṇghō); √vid 'to know' (vōistā); θβahmī 'in Thy'
- 7. aēnah- 'violations' (aēšam aēnaŋha̞m); √sru 'hear'; √sanh- 'to proclaim' (sōṇghaitē); √vid 'to know' (vīduuå, vaēdištō); √han 'to earn' and √hāi 'to tie'; √ah 'to be' (ahī)
- 8.  $a\bar{e}nah$  'violations' ( $a\bar{e}\check{s}am\ a\bar{e}na\eta ham$ );  $\sqrt{sru}$  'to hear' ( $sr\bar{a}uu\bar{\imath}$ );  $\theta\beta ahm\bar{\imath}$  'in Thy';  $\sqrt{a}h$  'to be' ( $ahm\bar{\imath}$ )
- 9. (huuō) jiiātāuš '(he . . .) from/of life'; mainiiu- 'spirit';  $\sqrt{vac}$  'to speak' ( $ux\delta\bar{a}$ )
- 10. acišta- 'worst'; √dā (dadāt) 'establish, make'
- 11.  $\sqrt{cit}$  'to perceive' ( $cik\bar{o}it\bar{\sigma}r\bar{\sigma}s$ ); maz- 'great' ( $mazb\bar{i}s$ )
- 12.  $a\bar{e}ibii\bar{o} \, mazd\mathring{a} \dots mrao\underline{t}$  'Mazd $\bar{a}$  speaks . . . to those';  $\sqrt{var}$  'to choose' ( $varat\bar{a}$ );  $x\check{s}a\theta ra$  'domin(at)ion'
- 13.  $d\bar{u}ta$  'messenger' and 'smoke'  $(d\bar{u}t\bar{\partial}m)$ ;  $\theta\beta a$  'Thy'

### Proto-Y32, Ties from Central to Outer Stanzas

- 1. √ah 'to be' (åŋhāmā)
- 7.  $\sqrt{ah}$  'to be'  $(ah\bar{i})$
- 7. tū 'Thee'; vahišta- 'best'
- 13. θβahiiā 'of Thy'; acišta- 'worst'

#### The Concentric Concatenations of the Finalizing Coda of Y32

- 13.  $\sqrt{hai}$  'to tie' ( $h\bar{i}$ sasa $\underline{t}$ );  $d\partial man\bar{e}$  'in the house';  $\sqrt{x}$ s $a\bar{i}$  'rule' (xsa $\theta$ ra-)
- 14. √hāi 'to tie' (hōiθōi); drəguuant- 'wrongsome'
- 15. dəmānē 'in the house'; √xšāi 'to rule' (xšaiiamnōng)
- 16. √hāi 'to tie' (aηhaiiā); √xšāi 'to rule' (xšaiias); drəguuant- 'wrongsome'

# Chart II

### A Proto-Y32 (forwards) > Y30

32.1c′	uruuāzəmā	30.1c′	uruuāzā	√ <i>uruuāz</i> '(have) bliss'
32.2c"	varəmaidī	30.2b	ā-uuarənå	√var 'choose'
32.3b'	maš	30.2c	mazā	maz- 'great'
32.3c'	asrūdūm	30.3a"	asruuātəm	<i>a-√sru</i> 'to have been heard'
32.3c'	śiiaoman	30.3b"	šiiaoθanōi	'action'
32.4a'	acišta-	30.4c'	acišta-	'worst'
32.5a''	(hu-)jiiati-	30.4b′	(a-)jiiāti-	ʻlife'
32.5b"	mainiiuš	30.5b′	mainiiuš	'spirit'
32.5a'	dəbənaotā	30.6a"	dəbaomā	√dbu 'deceive'
32.5a'	mašīm (*/martiyam/)	30.6c"	marətānō	'mortal(s)'
32.5c"	daēuua-	30.6a''	daēuua-	'demons'
32.6b"	manah-	30.6b"	manah-	'mind'
32.6c'	xšaθra-	30.7a′	xšaθra-	'dominion'
32.7b"	aiiaŋhā	30.7c"	aiiaŋhā	'by metal'
32.8a''	aēšam aēnaŋham	30.8a	aēšam aēnaŋham	'of those violations'
32.9c''	(duš-)sastiš	30.8c′	sastē	'proclaiming'
32.9c''	aṣ̃āi(-cā)	30.8c"	aṣāi	'to Rightness'
32.10b"	dada-	30.8c"	dada-	'establish, put'
32.11a	taē(-cīṯ) yōi	30.9a	tōi yōi	'those who'
32.11a"	cikōitərəš	30.9c"	cistiš	√ <i>cit</i> 'perceive'
32.12a′	srauuah-	30.10c"	srauuah-	'*being heard' = 'fame'
32.12a"	marətānō	30.11a"	mašiiåŋhō	'mortals'

### B Proto-Y32 (backwards) > Y30

# Chart III

### Proto-Y32 (backwards) > Proto-Y31 (second half, backwards)

32.13c"	mąθrānō	31.18a"	$m$ $ extit{q}$ θ $ extit{r}$ $ extit{g}$ s $ extit{c}$ $ extit{a}$	'manthra'
32.12c	ašāţ drujəm	31.17a	ašauuā vā drəguuå vā	'Right(-)' vs. 'Wrong(-)'
32.12c	varətā	31.16c"	vərənuuaitē	$\sqrt{var}$ 'opt for, believe'
32.12a"	śiiaoθanāţ	31.*15b"	(yā.)šiiaoθanascā	'action'
32.11c′	ašaonō	31.*15b"	ašaonō	'righteous' (acc. pl.)
32.11a"	drəguuaṇtō	31.*15c′	drəguuō.dəbiiō	'wrongsome' (pl.)
32.10a′	vaēnaŋ́hē	31.*14c"	(aibī.)vaēnahī	'see'
32.9b	(apa)iiaṇtā	31.*14b"	(a)iiamaitē	√yam 'takes'
32.9a′	jiiāt <b>ā</b> uš	31.*13b"	jiiōtūm	ʻlife'
32.8a'	aēnaŋhạm	31.*13b′	aēnaŋhō	'violation'
32.7b"	vīduuā̇́	31.12b′	vīduuå	'knowing'
32.6c"	sāṇghō	31.11c′	sāṇghạscā	'proclamation'
32.6b′	(hātā.)marānē	31.10c"	(hu)mərətōiš	$\sqrt{m(a)}r$ 'to account'

# Chart IV

### Y30 > Y53 (backwards)

30.1a' 30.2b' 30.2c' 30.3a' 30.3a' 30.4b'' 30.5a' 30.6b' 30.7b'' 30.8c''	išāṇtō tanuiiē (ā)uuarənå mazā mainiiū yāmā aŋhaṭ aŋhuš varətā vərənātā ārmaitiš dadāṭ dadən	53.9b' aēšasā 53.9b'' (pəṣō.)tanuuō 53.9a' (duž)uuarənāiš 53.8d'' mazištō 53.7b'' mainiiuš 53.6c' (ā)iiesē 53.5d' aŋhaṭ 53.5c'' ahūm 53.4a' (ni)uuarānī 53.3d'' varəšuuā 53.3d'' ārmatōiš 53.2d'' dadāṭ 53.2d' dåŋhō	√iš 'to seek, *crave' 'body' 'choice' 'great(est)' 'spirit' √yam *'clasp; take' 'will be' 'existence' 'choose' 'choose' 'Regular Thought' 'gives' √dā 'deliver, give'
30.9a"	fərašām	53.2c" fəraša(oštrascā)	'splendid'
30.10c"	vaŋhāu srauuahī	53.1a′ vahištā srāuuī	'good(+)' + *'hear'

### Chart V

32.16c"	išiiāṇg	53.1a′	īštiš	√iš 'send/seek'
32.16a'	vahištā(-cīţ)	53.1a′	vahištā	'best'
32.15a"	kāuuītås(-cīţ)	53.2c′	kauuā(-cā)	kauui- 'feudal ruler'
32.14b"	vīsāṇtā	53.2c′	*višta- (in name vīštāspō)	√vis 'ready (oneself)'
32.14a"	(nī) dadāţ	53.2d'''	dadāţ	'put, establish'
32.14b'	hicā	53.3a"	haēcaţ.aspanā	$\sqrt{hic}$ 'pour (on)'
32.14a"	xratu-	53.3ď	xratu-	'intelligence'
	_		_	

32.13a" manaŋhō 53.4c" manaŋhō 'of/from . . . Mind'
32.12b' mraoʊ 53.5a' mraomī √mrū 'speak'
32.11c" vaēdəm 53.5c' vaēdō.dūm √vid 'possess'
32.11c (aŋ⁰hīš-cā) aŋhauuas-cā 53.5c" ahūm pun: ahu- 'milord'/'existence'

32.10c" yas-cā vadarā 53.5b' (xšmaib)iiācā vadəmnō paronomasia: vadar/n-

'weapon'; vadəmna- 'addressing' 32.9b" vaŋhōuš manŋhō 53.5c" vaŋhōuš manaŋhō 'of Good Mind' 32.8a" vīuuaŋhušō 53.5d" vīuuānghatū hušōnəm paronomasia; puns √han 'earn';

(vo)hu- 'good' 32.8a" yimas-cīt 53.6b" yāma . . . āiiesē paronomasia: \*yəm(-) 'whom'/

32.8b"  $x^v \bar{a} r \partial m \bar{o}$  53.6d"  $(du \check{s}.) x^v a r \partial \partial m$  'twin',  $\sqrt{y} a m$  'clasp' paronomasia:  $(/x^v a r /)$  'swear'/'eat'

32.7c"  $ah\bar{\imath}$  53.7a'  $a\eta ha\bar{\imath}$   $\sqrt{a}h$  'be' 32.6c'  $v\bar{\imath}$  ( $mazd\bar{a}$ ) 53.7a'  $v\bar{\imath}$  ( $mi\bar{z}d\bar{\imath}$ ) 'you' + paronomasia: 'Mazdā'/ 'prize'

32.5b" mainiiuš 53.7c" mainiiuš 'spirit' 53.7c" drəguuant-32.5c" drəguuant-'wrongsome' 53.7c"' anasat 32.4c" 'go astray' nasiiantō 32.3b' maš 53.8d" mazištō maz- 'great' 53.9a' (duž-)uuarənāiš 32.2c" varəmaidī √var 'choose'

32.1b"-c'  $mazd\mathring{a}$   $\theta\beta\bar{o}i$  53.9d'  $mazd\tilde{a}$   $tauu\tilde{a}$  'Mazd $\tilde{a}$  to Thee'/'Thy'

### Chart VI

### Y30 (backwards) > Y31 (second half, backwards)

Y32 (backwards) > Y53

20.11 //	1	21.00 //	1	/ 11 1 /	
30.11c''	aŋhaitī	31.22c"	aŋhaitī	'will be'	
30.11a''	uruuātā	31.21c′	$uruua hetaar{o}$	'commitment(-)'	
30.10b'	vaŋhāuš manaŋhō	31.21c′	vaŋhāuš manaŋhō	'Good Mind'	
30.9a"	ahūm	31.20c′	ahūm	'existence'	
30.8b"	vōi.vīdāitī	31.19c"	vīdātā	vi √dā 'allot'	
30.7c"	ādānāiš	31.18b	$ar{a}\ldots(ar{a})dar{a}$ t	$\bar{a} \sqrt{d\bar{a}}$ 'give over, consign'	
30.6a''	dəbaomā	31.17c′	dābāuuaiiaţ	√dbu 'deceive, deceit'	
30.5c"	šiiaoθanāiš	31.16c′	šiiaoθanāsca	'action'	
30.4a''	dazdē	31.*15b′	dadəṇtē	'bring about'	
30.3a"	yāmā	31.*14b"	ā (a)iiamaitē	√yam 'clasp, take'	
30.2b"	narām narəm	31.*13b"	hanarə (as though ha-nar 'a	nar- 'man'	
man singly'?; but = Vedic sanutás					
'separately')					
30.1a"	vīdušē	31.12b"	vīduuā	'knowing'	

literature, one is reminded of the Oulipo, a French group of authors who endeavor to produce literary works through artificial constraints and mechanical means. Apart from the recursive means of poetic production endowing the corpus of interconnected poems with an overall unity and constancy, this technique of composition may be regarded as yet another aspect of Zarathushtra's crypticism of style.

### Notes

- 1. See Schwartz 2003a, pp. 196–99 et passim, with bibliography 196, n. 2.
- 2. Schwartz 2006a. [For ring composition in general, see Mary Douglas, "Thinking in Circles" (Yale University Press, December, 2006), pp. 483–89.]
  - 3. Schwartz 2003a, pp. 199 seq.
  - 4. Y31, like Y44, shows concatenation-type (c).
- 5. Y31.3b' \*vazdōŋhuuadəbiiō in place of cazdōŋhuuadəbiiō, confirming an independent suggestion by Werba. (See Werba 1986.) Note also that in the backwards recasting of Y45 in the forwards course of Y31, Y31.3 cazdōŋhuuadəbiiō corresponds to Y49.10 vazdanhā.
- 6. For the reading Y31.7b' \* $x \dot{s} a \theta r \bar{a}$  for mss.  $x r a \theta \beta \bar{a}$ , cf. the parallel Y45.7e with Y45.8b, Y31.8b–c', and Y45.4b"–c. Probable influence of Y31.9a"–b  $x r a t u \dot{s}$ , as at Y31.7 with  $m a i n i u \cdot a n d m a z d \bar{a}$ .
- 7. See Schwartz 2006 for all aspects of the relationship of Y32 to the Haoma hymn.
- 8. Cf. Schwartz 2004, pp. 16–17; 2003b, p. 389, with Schwartz, 2006a.
- 9. For Zarathushtra's heuristic application of 'twin' to the two Spirits, and their origin in a single, problematically ambiguous term *mainiiu*-, see Schwartz 2004, pp. 15–16. The eventual equation of Mazdā Ahura with Spəṇta Mainiiu set the stage for the Sasanian Zurvanite myth of Ohrmazd and Ahriman as (twin) brothers within the womb of a single parent Time. See Schwartz 2004, pp. 15–16. For the meaning of *mainiiu* in the Gathas, see Shaked 2003, esp. pp. 392–95 for Y30.3 and the 'twin' Spirits, *contra* Kellens' interpretations (note also pp. 395–96, on  $x\bar{s}a\theta ra- and \sqrt{d\bar{a}}$ ).
- 10. Mss.  $h\bar{o}i\dot{s}$ . Emendation as  $*h\bar{o}i$   $\bar{i}\dot{s}$  would introduce a problematic plural object. I suggest that the - $\dot{s}$  of  $h\bar{o}i\dot{s}$  has incorporated Pahlavi 3rd pers. sg. enclitic - $\dot{s}$ , a gloss of Av.  $h\bar{o}i$ .
- 11. The other correspondences are: Y30.11a' and Y53.1d' saśa-; Y30.10b" and Y53.2a' manaŋhā; Y30.8b" and Y53.4c" manah- + vohu-; Y30.7c" and Y53.5d" aŋhaṭ; Y30.6c" and Y53.6e" ahūm; Y30.5b'

- and Y53.7c" mainiiuš; Y30.4c' and Y53.7c" draguuat-; Y30.4b" and Y53.7d"' aŋh(a)t(ī) apāmam; Y30.3b' and Y53.7d"' vacah-; Y30.2b" and Y53.8c' (-)narVm (-)narVm; see Chart I for rest.
- 12. The other correspondences are: Y34.1a' and Y53.1d'' *šiiaoθanā*; Y34.2a'' and Y53.2b'' *yasna*; Y34.3c'' and Y53.2c''' *saošiiaṇtō*; Y34.5c'' and Y53.3c'' *vaŋhōuš* . . . *manaŋhō*; Y34.5c'' and Y53.3c'' *dāt(ā)*; Y34.6b'' and Y53.4d'' *vīspā*-; Y34.7c' and Y53.5d' *ainiiōm/ainīm*; Y34.8c'' and Y53.6e'' *manah*-; Y34.9c' and Y53.7b' *yauuaṭ*; Y34.9c' and Y53.8d'' *maz*-; Y34.10c' and Y53.9d' \**tu* ('thee/thy') + *xšaθra*-.
- 13. Other correspondences: Y46.1a' and Y51.12a''  $n\bar{o}it$  ...  $x\bar{s}n\bar{a}u\bar{s}$ ; Y46.1d'' and Y51.13b'  $dr\bar{o}guua(n)t\bar{o}$ ; Y46.2a'', b'' and Y51.13b''  $\sqrt{a}h$ ; Y46.3c' and Y51.14b''  $s\bar{o}ngh\bar{a}i\bar{s}$ ; Y46.3e'' and Y51.14c'  $\sqrt{s}anh$  or  $\sqrt{s}and$ ; Y46.4c'' and Y51.14b''  $x^V\bar{a}i\bar{s}$   $\sin a\theta an\bar{a}i\bar{s}$ ; Y46.5a'' and Y51.14c''  $\bar{a}\sqrt{d}a$ , etc. down to Y46.13 and Y51.22a'  $a\bar{s}a+\sqrt{h}ac$ . Note Y46.8b''  $fr\bar{o}sii\bar{a}t$  and Y51.16a'' nasat, attesting  $\sqrt{a}s$  and  $\sqrt{n}as$  'to reach' as variant outcomes of PIE \*Henk and \*Hnek.
- 14. For this recasting, cf. Part of I, on the role of paronomasia.

- 17. The other correspondences are: Y46.1 and Y49.1  $\sqrt{x} \delta n(a) u$ ; Y46.2d' and Y49.1c"  $\sqrt{r} ap$ ; Y46.3b' and Y49.2c'  $\sqrt{d} ar$ ; Y46.3e" and Y49.3a"  $\sqrt{v} (V) r n V i / (\sqrt{v} ar)$ ; 46.4a' and Y49.4d"  $\sqrt{d} ar \delta u a n u a$

18. Y46.19a' and Y32.16b" ma-; Y46.18a" and Y32.16a'  $vahi\check{s}t\bar{a}$ ; Y46.17e" and 32.16a"  $\sqrt{danh}$ ; Y46.16d" and Y32.15b"  $\sqrt{x}\tilde{s}ai$ .

- 19. Gippert 2002, pp. 184–86.
- 20. Schwartz 1986, pp. 375-79.

21. The surrounding correlations are Y46.19d" and Y44.20b' gau-; Y46.19d' and Y44.19e'  $\sqrt{vid}$ -; Y46.19c and Y44.19b, 18b"  $m\bar{\imath}zd\sigma m\ han$ -; Y46.18d" and Y44.17c'  $x\bar{s}m\bar{a}ka$ -; Y46.17c" and Y44.16d"  $s\bar{\sigma}rao\bar{s}a$ -; Y46.17a" and Y44.16b"  $s\bar{\sigma}ngha$ -. The further correlations, which include notably Y46.9b" and Y44.7c'  $uz\sigma ma$ -, end in the series Y46.5b" and Y44.4b' \*/dr( $\bar{\imath}$ )ta/, Y46.4a" and Y44.3b"  $a\bar{s}ahii\bar{a}$ ; Y46.3b" and Y44.2c'  $\sqrt{s}\bar{u}$ ; Y46.3b' and Y44.2b'  $a\eta h\bar{\sigma}u\bar{s}$ ; Y46.2d' and Y44.1c'—d"  $frii\bar{a}i$  . . friia-  $\sqrt{d}\bar{a}$ ; and finally the phonically similar Y46.1a  $n\bar{\sigma}m\bar{o}i$  ( $zqm\ ku\theta r\bar{a}$ )  $n\bar{\sigma}m\bar{o}i$  and Y44.1b'  $n\bar{\sigma}ma\eta h\bar{o}$  ( $\bar{a}\ ya\theta\bar{a}$ )  $n\bar{\sigma}m\bar{\sigma}$ .

22. For the details, see Schwartz 1998, pp. 133–34, to which add Y32.7b" and 10a''\*/(-)vaina-/ 'see, sight'. The evidence for relocation of Y32.7c" *irixtom* to Y32.6, in concatention with Y32.11b"  $ra\bar{e}xon\mathring{a}\eta h\bar{o}$  (both  $\sqrt{ric}$  'to leave over') will be discussed elsewhere.

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# s с н w a r z: How Zarathushtra Generated the Gathic Corpus

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