



ĀBĀN MĀH

ĀBĀN MĀH, the eighth month of the Zoroastrian year, dedicated to the Waters, *Ābān*. From the 5th to the beginning of the 11th century A.D., as a result of the second Sasanian calendar reform (see *Calendar*, Zoroastrian), *Ābān Māh* became the twelfth month of the religious “leaping” (*wihēzag*) year, with five epagomenae, the *Gāthā* days, set between it and *Ādar Māh* (q.v.). The last five days of *Ābān Māh* were accordingly celebrated, for this half millennium, as the lesser *Farvardīgān* (q.v.), as *Bīrūnī* noted (*Ātār*, p. 224). The tenth day of every Zoroastrian month is also dedicated to the Waters, and so the tenth day of the eighth month, *Ābān Rūz* of *Ābān Māh*, is their name-day feast, called *Ābānagān* (see *Bīrūnī*, loc. cit.). The veneration of the Waters tended, however, to become identified with the veneration of *Arədvī Sūrā Anāhitā*; and so this feast is also known as *Ābān Ardvīsūr Jašan*, “the feast of *Ardvīsūr* of the Waters” (see K. N. Seervai and B. B. Patel, “Gujarat Parsis,” *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency* IX/2, 1899, p. 216). On this day Zoroastrians go to stream, lake, or sea, pray, and make offerings to the Waters. Among the prayers said are the *Ābān Niyāyeš* and the *Ābān Yašt*, both of which are devoted to *Arədvī Sūrā*. The services solemnized by the priest have the regular dedication (*xšnūman*) of the tenth day, the day of “the good, *Mazdā*-created Waters; of the water *Arədvī Anāhitā* [*sic*], the righteous; of all *Mazdā*-created waters and of all *Mazdā*-created plants” (*Sīrōza* 1.10). *Bīrūnī* (loc. cit.) records two legends by which scholar-priests brought *Ābānagān*, like all other major feasts except *gāhānbārs*, into connection with the Iranian epic tradition. According to one, it was on this day that *Zav*, son of *Tahmurasp*, became king. “He ordered channels to be dug and to be well maintained.” There is at least a



connection between this legend and water; but the association of the second one with Ābānagān seems arbitrary. The latter relates that, on this day, the people of the seven climes heard Frēdōn had fettered Bēvarasp and had assumed authority over the world, reestablishing order everywhere.

See also [ĀB](#), [ĀB-ZŌHR](#), [ĀBĀN](#).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Given in the text.