



## ĀBTĪN

---

**ĀBTĪN** (in poetry, ĀBETĪN), father of the mythical king **Ferīdūn** (Av. Thraētaona) of the Pišdādī dynasty. The name appears in the Avesta (Y. 9.7) as *āθwya-*, equivalent to Skt. *āptya-*. From it is derived the adjective *āθwyānay-*, applied to the family of Ferīdūn. In Pahlavi literature the latter appears as the name of Ferīdūn's father in the form *Āswiān* or *Āsbīān* (written 'spyd'n or 'spyk'n; *Dēnkard*, pp. 319.19, 438.15; *Zātspram*, p. 53.12). In Islamic texts the same form is rendered *Ātfiān* (Ṭabarī, I, p. 205; Bīrūnī, *Ātār al-bāqīa*, p. 104; Ḥamza Eṣfahānī, *Senī molūk al-arż*, Beirut, 1961, pp. 17, 27; *Moǰmal*, pp. 13, 26, 27). A Pahlavi variant, *Ātbīn*, is also recorded as the name of Ferīdūn's father (*Pahl. Texts*, p. 23.8); and this, metathesized to *Ābtīn*, has come down in the *Šāhnāma* (Moscow, I, p. 57. 117f. ) and the *Moǰmal* (p. 25). In this latter work (pp. 25, 27) the name of *Ātfiān's* father is given as *Homāyūn* (variant: \**Nunak, nwnk*). However, this genealogy does not occur in the older sources.

The *Bundahišn* (*Bd.*, p. 229.4; ms TD<sub>1</sub>, ed. P. Anklesaria, Tehran, 1349 Š./1970, fol. 98r.3) states that there are ten generations from Jamšīd to Ferīdūn in addition to *Asbīān-e Porgāv* (the name given to Ferīdūn's father); but it actually names only eight persons. According to this tradition, each of the ten ancestors lived for 100 years; and the span of their lives coincided with *Žahḥāk's* thousand year reign. *Zātspram* (p. 54.1) also preserves the tradition of these ten generations, while the names of all ten ancestors are provided in the *Dēnkard* (p. 613.16), Ṭabarī (I, pp. 227f. ), and the *Fārsnāma* of Ebn al-Balkī (p. 11). Bīrūnī's *Ātār al-bāqīa* (p. 104) names only eight. By a comparison of these various lists, Ferīdūn's genealogy can be readily reconstructed. It



follows, in reverse order, the forms in Ṭabarī coming first, those in the *Dēnkard* and *Bundahišn* in parenthesis. Each name is preceded by the patronymic Aṭfiān: 1. Aṭfiān Porgāv (Asbīān or Aswīān Porgāv), 2. Aṭfiān Nēkgāv or Nēvgāv (Nēkgāv Asbīān, only in the *Dk.*), 3. Aṭfiān Sōgāv (Asbīān Sōggāv), 4. Aṭfiān Bōrgāv (Asbīān Bōrgāv), 5. Aṭfiān Aḳšīngāv (*Dk.* only, Kerdārgāv Asbīān; *Fārsnāma*: Gōrgāv), 6. Aṭfiān Sīāhgāv (Asbīān Sīāgāv), 7. Aṭfiān Esbēdgāv, also written Esbādgāv and pronounced with the *emāla* (Asbīān Spēdgāv), 8. Aṭfiān Kabargāv, for Dabrgāv (Asbīān Dabrgāv), 9. Aṭfiān Ramēngāv, for Ramakgāv (Asbīān Ramakgāv), 10. Aṭfiān Banfrawešn (Asbīān Wanfrawišn), 11. Asbīān, son of Jamšīd. This last name occurs only in the *Bundahišn*, and is very likely a spurious, late addition to the traditional genealogy.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

---

See also Justi, *Namenbuch*, pp. 49-50.