



AHRIŠWANG

AHRIŠWANG, a learned transcription of the Avestan nominative *Ašiš vaṇuhī*, the goddess “Good Recompense.” In the Gathas the word *aši-* denotes “due recompense” as well as its personification. According to M. Boyce (*Zoroastrianism* I, p. 226) in YAv. *Aši vaṇuhī* the epithet *vaṇuhī* “good” underlines the Zoroastrian nature of the goddess “in distinction presumably to the amoral pagan concept.” But the existence of personifications of that type outside Zoroastrianism is a conclusion not supported directly by texts. The word *aši-* developed normally to Middle and New Persian *Ard* (cf. Man. Mid. Pers. *ʾyrd*). The goddess *Ard* exists beside the theological-philological Avestan loan *Ahrišwang*. The passages in the Pahlavi literature where *Ahrišwang* is mentioned (Gray, *Foundations*, p. 63) add some new traits and new epithets not known from the Avesta. Some of them may be old, especially those in *Dēnkard* 8 and 9, which go back to lost *nasks* of the Avesta. But on the whole they show no significant development or extension of the grandiose picture of the goddess given in the *Ard Yašt* of the Avesta (*Yt.* 17).

See also [Aši](#).