



## ARDWAHIŠT YAŠT

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**ARDWAHIŠT (ORDĪBEHEŠT) YAŠT**, the third in the series of Avestan hymns addressed to individual divinities. It is devoted to one of the greatest of the Zoroastrian Aməša Spəntas, Aša Vahišta (see Ardwahišt); yet it appears to be one of those *yašts* composed at a late date, presumably in an attempt to bring the number of these hymns into closer correspondence with the number of the divinities of the month (see *Sīrōza*). The evidence for its lateness is three-fold. First, the *yašt* is not among those listed in the Avestan *nask Bagān Yašt*, according to the summary of this *nask* given in the Pahlavi *Dēnkard* (8.15). Then the language in which it is composed is very degenerate Avestan; and finally the contents are trite and appear to have been patched together. Only the first four verses are devoted to Aša and to a glorification of the prayer in his honor, the *Ašəm vohū* (q.v.). The rest of the hymn consists of repetitive phrases, incantational in effect, in praise of another great prayer, the *Airyāmā īšyō* (see Airyaman išya). This prayer is addressed to the *yazata* of healing, Airyaman (q.v.), who is a helper of Aša, and it is here declared to be the most potent of all utterances against sickness. The *Ardwahišt Yašt* is itself accordingly recited in rituals to cure the sick.



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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(M. Boyce)