



## ĀXŠTI

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**ĀXŠTI** (Avestan) “Peace, contract of peace.” The existence of a late Avestan divinity Āxšti (fem.) is doubtful. The common noun, “peace,” occurs several times (Yt. 10.29, 11.14; Y. 60.5; Pursišnihā 26) but personified only in the Young Avestan litanies, in which a large number of abstract notions are personified: as direct object of yaz- “to revere” (yazamaidē, “we revere,” Yt. 11.15; [ispe]r[ed] 7.1: S[irōza] 2.2; and yazāi “I shall revere,” Yt. 15.1), or of āvaē’ayamahī (“we invite,” Vr. 11.16), and associated with Vohu Manah (S. 1.18, 2.2). In Middle Persian literature there seems to be no trace of a divinity Āštih “Peace.” In the Avestan litanies āxšti is accompanied by ḥam.vaintī which Bartholomae (*AirWb.*, col. 311) took as an adjective “victorious” (conceivably by haplology from the present participle \*ḥam.vanaintī) but which is more likely to be the substantive “victory” (with an unusual full grade of the root before the suffix -ti).

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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*AirWb.*, col., 311.

Gray, *Foundations*, pp. 138ff.



E. Benveniste and L. Renou, *Vṛtra et Vṛθragna*, Paris, 1934, pp. 54ff.

H.-P. Schmidt, *Vedish vratá und awestisch urvata*, Hamburg, 1958, p. 137 n. 67  
(with criticism of Benveniste and Renou).

On *hqm-vaintī* see also K. F. Geldner, *Studien zum Avesta*, Strasburg, 1882, p. 119.

S. Wikander, *Vayu*, Lund, 1942, pp. 16ff.

J. Kellens, *Les noms-racines de l'Avesta*, Wiesbaden, 1974, pp. 44ff.

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