



JAMŠID

JAMŠID (or JAM), mythical king of Iran; Middle Persian Jam, Jamšēd, Avestan Yima (Old Indic Yama), with the epithet *xšaēta* (Elamite Persepolis tablets Yamak-šedda; Benveniste, 1966, p. 96; Hallock, p. 771; Hinz, p. 273). The common noun, meaning “twin,” is attested once in Old Avestan in the dual (*yāmā*, see below) and in Old Indic from the *Rigveda* on (singular, dual, plural), and is used to denote one of a pair of twins, twin brothers or sisters, or several individual twins. On the name, see also Mayrhofer, I, no. 406. This entry is divided into two sections.

i. Myth of Jamšid

ii. Jamšid in Persian Literature