

Mazdaki religion and Sassanian religious kingdom

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Abstract: Mazdakian revolution started after years of famine, defeat and chaos in Sassanian society. The main idea of mazdakian religion was a change in economy and society, so lots of people interested in and joint it and help it. Mazdak was a reformer Zartosht clergyman, so he saw universe and world in a Zartosht way but a simple difference. Ghobad supports the mazdakian religion but other clergies of Zartosht and nobles worried about the danger of mazdakian for their place in society. In the late of ghobad and because of motivations of Anoshirvan, mazdakian revolution defeated badly. But killing mazdakian high clergies wouldn't end it and they continued it in secret and because of it we see mazdakians effects on Islamic era after Iranians defeated Arabs.

Key words: *Mazdak; Sassanian; Ghobad; Anoshirvan; Clergy; Noble*

1. Introduction

Mazdakian religion whatever had an color of religion because of connection with thoughts of zartosht clergy, but it was actually about facing Sassanian society with matter of bad economy and scirtly and helping it grow. According of historical stories if his thoughts were too harsh he never could attracted king and supports of that times king and spreaded it among people who believed in their fathers religions. But by the way his thoughts spearded and Sassanian government had to do something about it.

2. Mazdak

Who was Mazdak, founder of Mazdakian religion? Our knowledge about Mazdak and the religion he was spreading is too low .According on Dinevari, Mazdak burnt in Istakhr (Dinevari, 1992), but we can say the history guess Tabriz or Istakhr and didn't know the exact location (Christensen, 2000). According to Aghae in all eastern and western scrolls there is no name of Mazdak and all the information about him can be gathered in one or two pages. Historians who lived in his era didn't mention any name about him, but most of their reports are about someone named "boundos" who lived before Ghobad. Descriptions about Mazdak came from Islamic books. According to those books Mazdak was Bamdad's son. Bamdad was an evil person who started chaos in famine, set some rules, some rules was based on zartosht and some was against it (Aghae, 2001).

2.1. Mazdakian religion

Mazdakian religion was nothing new against Zartosht, but it was more about being good and bad and was some kind of religion in mazdistan (Zarrinkoub, 2009). According to Ehsan Yarshater mazdakian resources come in 3 groups:

1. Resources that was in Sassanian era like Syriac and Byzantine and it's not useful.
2. Arabic resources, Persian and middle Persian who don't tell us much.
3. Mazdaknameh that was written in middle Persian language, and in book there is lots of stories that are more like legend and none of them are true (Yarshater, 1983).

Mazdak get his religion from Mani beliefs. as Mani hi said that there is two basis .one light and other is darkness. But light is more attractive and intelligent .but darkness is stupid and blind .light and darkness made by tree elements, water, fire and dust. Light came from good parts and darkness came from bad parts. Mazdak thought that spiritual world would be like this. God sits on his throne like kings and four elements like mind, memory, clean and happiness stand beneath it. This elements rule the world with seven ministers. The minister are chieftain, steward, champion, resourceful, order and child. These ministers are moving in twelve spiritual creatures. These creatures are singer, generous, thief, winner, runner, killer, hitter, doing, future and listener. Shahrestani even talked about another creature named payande (Shahrestani, 2008). In every human being this creatures are gathered and make his destiny. In every person is an evil site and mazdak rised to destroy them. in his point of view the basis of darkness was women and money .for defeating them he said that men should have equal share of women and money like water, fire and wind (Huart, 2011).

Mashkour believes in that Mazdak son of Bamdad, started a new religion based on Mani, Zartosht and Plato theories in Republic book. This

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religion based on some kind of communism. His social theory was based on equal amount of everything for all people. He said money, power and women should be shared in equal amounts (Mashkour, 1984).

Some researchers believe that we can't separate Mazdak from Mani and Mazdak religion somehow followed Mani religion. It's true that their religion is really close but in fact Mazdak was into Hindu beliefs. What separate him from Mani is not only his lifestyle but it's his workings on Zartosht theories and falling down from skies to earth to defeat the darkness. As we saw Mani thinks that universe and all human being are evil and came from Ahriman and for being good again they had to purify all the darkness and start light in themselves. For building Mani world we have to destroy our world and start a new world. Mazdak think that for making human lives better we don't need to change the world, but we can change the world from equableness to equal and with returning of equality we can save the world from bad kings and their ministers because they are masters of darkness that made from humans and they die with changing it (Parto, 1994.).

2.2. Mazdak, Ghobad and Anoshirvan

Most researchers believe that Ghobad accepted Mazdakian religion for two reasons: first decreasing the power of Zartosht clergyman because they were the true kings and rejected any new idea and second was to help people and put nobles on their places. As Tabari said Mazdakians encouraged Ghobad to their religion and take him to a place that no one had access to it (Tabari, 1996). However it became a reason for high Zartosht clergies and in the end they took him and put his brother Jamasp on throne and jailed him in Anoshbord castle or forgotten palace. But after returning to the throne he changed his way with Mazdakians and that's because of high clergies and nobles who take a lot of pressure on him. And another reason is that Anoshirvan son of Ghobad, hated Mazdak and get closed to his father and cheated him to hate Mazdakian. When Ghobad sat on throne for second time he was old and would want to sit his son on the throne but Mazdakian wouldn't agree with it and they chose Kavuos –who actually was a Mazdakian– for the throne. Because of that Anoshirvan hold grudges of them. But in the end Anoshirvan take place of his father with help of high clergies (Tajbakhsh, 2002).

Khosro found out about all the tricks Mazdak done and show them to his father. He asked for the wise man of Goor city (Firouz Abad) to help him and invited him to the palace. Then he hold a court for all Mazdakian and their high clergies he thought that Mazdakian and Kavuos stool his right for leading people and he tried with all his power to hit them very hard (Christensen, 2000).

Some days after this event Anoshirvan invited all high clergies of Mazdak to party in a garden and told them that he want to accept Mazdak religion in front of everyone. When Mazdakian entered to the garden,

some huge thugs got them and throw them in some hole and because of that Mazdakian and Mazdak religion destroyed with Anoshirvan moves. We don't know true number of dead Mazdakian. The number that Persian and Arab historian brought is not true but all we know is that all their bosses died in this move. But killing the high clergies of Mazdakian didn't end the religion but they continued in secret. After that Mazdakian started to change social and religion and that's the basis of many Iranian changed Arab Caliphs (Frye, 2007).

3. Conclusion

What we get from Mazdak, is that he tried to get the power from nobles and rich people and help the poor side of society. We can name some of his moves like, dividing the big lands, equal share of production, and setting social communities.

Mazdak wanted to change the society in clergies and wanted people follow what he thought true Zartosht. So it's not true that we think his religion followed Mani religion. In fact Mazdak was a poison that Iranian society made to destroy the way that Sasanian ruled. But when the king tasted the poison, he throw his blade and destroy the Mazdakian society. Taken from the Thesis of Master's.

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