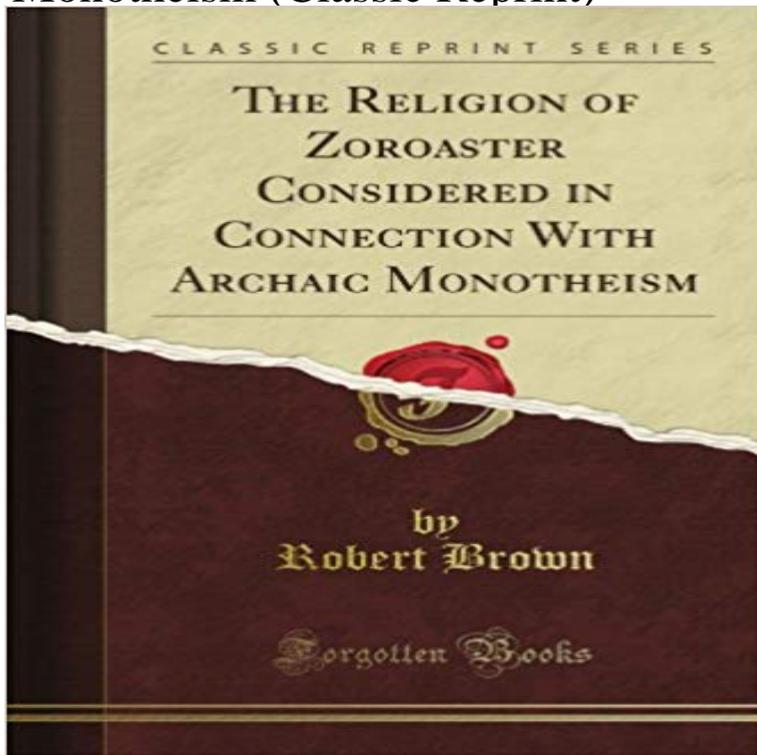


The Religion of Zoroaster Considered in Connection With Archaic Monotheism (Classic Reprint)



Darius; and the historian adds that whenever he lived he was the Persian prophet and master of the magic rites. Pliny has preserved several traditional incidents connected with Zoroaster, such as praise of a mysterious stone called A striotes, the Star-like; fthat he laughed on the day of his birth, Ja circumstance which those who connect him with natural phenomena would probably regard as indicating the joyousness of the bright heaven or the dread exultation of the thunder-god ;and that he lived on cheese with great austerity for twenty years, a statement which reminds us of the traditional and mythical austerities of Hindu saints and divinities. After referring to the general consent of authorities that he was the inventor of magic, which Pliny judiciously observes was doubtless originally connected with the healing art, the Roman writer states that Eudoxos and Aristotle placed Zoroaster 6,000 years before the time of Plato; whilst Hermippos the philosopher, B.C. 250, who, of all the Greeks, most deeply studied Zoroastrianism, and who wrote a work upon it, now lost, entitled Peri Magon, placed the age of Zoroaster 5,000 years before the Trojan War.f With this date Plutarch, in, perhaps, his most valuable tractate, agrees when referring to Zoroastris the Magian. Masudi, the Arabian historian, A.D. 950, assigns Zoroaster a date about B.C. 600, a computation probably connected with the view that places him in the period of the later Hystaspes. From these different opinions we gain at least one important fact, that in comparatively late times the people of the country in or near which he was said to have lived still connected him with an Hystaspes (V ishtaspa), who, in reality, was the Kava Vishtaspa, a friend of Zoroaster, who is mentioned in the Gdthas. 2. The name Magian The name magian, whence magic and magician, occurs in both our Testaments. In the Old, (Typographical

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archaeologist, Viktor Sarianidi, links Zoroaster to 1500-1100 B.C.E.), is considered a likely staging ground for the .
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creation going, but was not connected to or interested in the universe. An early classic, against which many modern
accounts have reacted. Please consider expanding the lead to provide an accessible overview of all important aspects of
the article. Please discuss this issue on the articles talk page. (January 2017). Sociological and anthropological theories
about religion (or theories of religion) generally . The view of monotheism as more evolved than polytheism represents a
mere