LESSON 5

THE SCRIPT AND THE TEXT

Punctuation

In the manuscripts every word is separated by a point (period). The point is also regularly used to separate members of compounds (see Lesson 6), as well as to mark off preverbs and prefixes (not consistently), enclitic pronouns, sometimes even endings. The enclitic particles -ca and -cit, however, are not separated from the words they are attached to.

It has become tradition to transcribe this point by a period whenever it does not simply mark the end of a word. It is also sometimes used with enclitic pronouns $(y\bar{a}.m\bar{e},$ etc.). This is wrong, however, as the long \bar{e} of the enclitic pronouns shows they were considered by the scribes as separate words. If they were genuinely enclitic, they would—by the rules (see below)—have final -e, not $-\bar{e}$, etc.

PHONOLOGY

Sound system. The ∂

The phonemic status of Avestan ∂ is problematic. It is found mainly in the following phonetic contexts:

- 1. as the regular allophone of a before nasals and before uu followed by i or \bar{i} . Examples: h = nti "they are" (but zauuainti "they curse"); $manii = uu\bar{i}$, feminine of manii = uua "belonging to the world of thought," s = uuista "most rich in life-giving strength" (< sauu-), $r = uu\bar{i}$ f. "fast," see below;
 - 2. as the common anaptyctic vowel, see below.

Final syllables

Not all vowels, diphthongs, or consonants are found in final position.

Final vowels in monosyllables are always written long (except short -e in some late manuscripts), no matter their origins, e.g., $m\bar{e}$ "(to, for) me," $z\bar{i}$ "for, namely," $n\bar{o}$ "(to, for) us."

The only diphthong found in final position is $\bar{o}i$, and even this is rare, e.g., $y\bar{o}i$ "who (plur.)."

In polysyllabic words \bar{a} , \bar{i} , \bar{u} , \bar{e} and diphthongs are not used at the end of words in genuine Young Avestan, only in imitation of Old Avestan.

Conspectus:

Finals:	Monosyllables:	Polysyllables:
Short		a, i, u, e, ə
Long	ā, ī, ū, ō, å, a, ē, ōi, āi, āu	åōaā

Among the exceptions are: Arəduuī Sura (possibly influenced by Pahl. Ardwīsūr).

The diphthongs $a\bar{e}$ and ao become -(ii)e and $-uu\bar{o}$ in final position. The diphthongs themselves reappear before -ca "and" and $-ci\underline{t}$ "even": $-a\bar{e}ca$ and -aoca, e.g., $t\bar{e}$ "they," $ta\bar{e}cit$ "even they."

Note that vocative forms never take the enclitics -ca and -cit, and so the original diphthongs do not (usually) reappear in vocative forms.³

Few consonants are found as finals: the two nasals m and n, the dental \underline{t} and the sibilants s (rare), \underline{s} (common), e.g., barəm "I carried," baram "they carried," $bara\underline{t}$ "he carried," $bara\underline{t}$ "wholeness," $bara\underline{t}$ "spirit(s)," $bara\underline{t}$ "mountain(s)."

The consonant r always takes ϑ as supporting vowel when final, e.g., $d\bar{a}tar\vartheta$ "O creator!," $\bar{a}tar\vartheta$ "O fire!."

³ On gao- see Lesson 8.

The consonant s takes ∂ as supporting vowel when final in sandhi (see Lesson 4), e.g., kas ∂ t \bar{e} "who for you?."

Vowels in monosyllables ending in consonants basically follow the same rules (or lack of rules) as vowels in other final syllables. In this introduction, short i will be used in words such as im "this (f.)" (not $\bar{i}m$), dim, $di\check{s}$.

Modifications of vowels: a + nasal

Among all the vowels, the vowel a is the most prone to change. Its main variants are a before $uui/uu\bar{\iota}$ and nasals (n and m) and e when palatalized.

The variant ∂ is in turn very sensitive to its surroundings and regularly becomes i when preceded by palatal consonants (ii, c, and j) and u when preceded by uu.

The combinations -(i)iim, -(u)uum and -(i)iin, -(u)uun are then finally simplified to -im, -um and -in, -un. These finals in turn combine with a preceding -a- to form diphthongs: $-a\bar{e}m$, -aom, etc.

Note: Sometimes the intermediate stage persists beside the final one, e.g., $-aii \rightarrow n \sim -a\bar{e}n$.

The sound changes listed in the table below can all be derived from these rules.

Mastery of these rules and sound changes is crucial to the students' ability to analyze Avestan, as they pervade the entire language.

Following are some common examples of sound changes needed to understand the paradigms in this lesson. The student should learn them by heart. A complete table is given in lesson 7.

*-am	>	-əm			*-an	>	-ən		
*-iiam	>	-iiəm	>	-im	*-iian	>	-iiən	>	-in
*-aiiam	>	*-aiiəm	>	-aēm	*-aiian	>	-aiiən	>	-aēn
*-auuam	>	*-auuəm	>	-aom	*-auuan	>	-auuən	>	-aon

The voiced fricatives: β , δ , γ

The voiced fricatives are all subject to contextual, possibly also dialectal, changes and variations.

Intervocalic δ alternates with θ in forms of $va\bar{e}\delta$ - "to know" and the present stem $da\delta\bar{a}$ - of the verb $d\bar{a}$ - "to give, place, create," e.g., $vi\theta u\check{s}$ "knowing," $da\theta a\underline{t}$ "gave."

Intervocalic β further tends to become uu, which in turn is subject to change, cf. $ai\beta i$ "to" > auui > aoi, $vii\bar{a}uuait\bar{i}$ - "shining far and wide" < $*vi-\bar{a}-b\bar{a}-<\sqrt{b\bar{a}}$ "to shine." The combination $*b\underline{i}$ became $\beta\underline{i}$, written βii , which further became $\underline{u}\underline{i}$, which combined with preceding a > aoii, cf. $*a\delta a\beta iia$ - "undeceivable": nom. $a\delta aoii\bar{o}$, but acc. $a\delta auuim$; $*dai\beta\bar{i}$ - f. "deceptive" > $*daiuu\bar{i}$ - (written $da\bar{e}uu\bar{i}$ -, $da\bar{e}iuu\bar{i}$ -).

The velar fricative γ is lost in some positions: druuant-, cf. OAv. draguuant-; fem. $rauu\bar{\imath}$ - "fast" < rayu- (cf. Skt. $laghv\bar{\imath}$ -); Mourum < *Maryum.

NOUNS

u- and \bar{u} -stems

The endings of the nom. and voc. sing. and plur. forms of the u- and \bar{u} -declensions and the irregular noun pasu- "small cattle (sheep and goats)" are:

	u-decl.		pasu-	\bar{u} -decl.	
	m.	n.	m.	f.	
Sing.					
nom.	-uš	- <i>u</i>	-uš	-uš	
voc.	-uuō		, .	-	

⁴ See Skjærvø, "Avestica II," 1997.

Plur.

nom.-voc. -auuō, -auuas° -u -uuō, -uuas° -uuō, -uuas°

Paradigms (ratu- m. "(divine) model," pouru- "much, many," tanū- f. "body," pasu- m. "sheep"; note how the labialization rules work!):

	u-decl.			pasu-	\bar{u} -declension	
	m.		n.	m.	f.	
Sing.						
nom.	ratuš	pouruš	pouru	pasuš	tanuš	
voc.	ratuuō	-		_	-	
Plur.						
nomvo	c.	ratauuō, ratauuas°	parauuō, parauuas°	pouru	pasuuō pasuuas°	tanuuō tanuuas°

Notes:

In the manuscripts we often find pasuuō "normalized" to pasauuō.

ratu- is properly a u^2 -stem (see Lesson 11).

For the feminine *u*-stems, see *ao*-stems in Lesson 8.

The vocative endings of the *i*-stems (and $a\bar{e}$ -stems): -e (<*-ie), and u-stems: $-uu\bar{o}$, are for $*-a\bar{e}$ and *-ao in final position.

After ii the vocative ending is only -ō: maniiō < maniiu- "spirit," Vaiiō < Vaiiu-.

About the endings

The a-, i-, and u-declensions originally (= in Indo-European) had the same ending in the nominative singular, namely -s, as in Greek $\theta \in \delta s$ the δs "god," $\pi (\sigma \tau \iota s)$ p istis "faith" and $\iota \chi \theta \iota s$ $ikhth \iota s$ "fish," Latin dominus, civis, sinus, but in the Indo-Iranian mother language s became h after a and \bar{a} but \bar{s} after i or u according to the "ruki" rule, which states that s became \bar{s} after r, u, k [Iran. x], i). The Indo-Iranian forms were therefore *-ah, *- $i\bar{s}$, *- $u\bar{s}$.

In addition, in Avestan final *-h was lost causing rounding of the preceding vowels: $*-ah > -\bar{o}$, $*-\bar{a}h > -\hat{a}$.

ADJECTIVES

Feminine and neuter forms

Feminine forms of adjectives of the a-declension are usually declined according to the \bar{a} -declension, occasionally according to the \bar{i} -declension, e.g., sura- "rich in life-giving strength," f. $sur\bar{a}$ -; spanta- "life-giving," f. $spant\bar{a}$ -, but $zarana\bar{e}na$ - "made of gold," f. $zarana\bar{e}in\bar{i}$ -, maniiauua-, f. $maniiauu\bar{i}$ -.

Note the fem. nom. sing. naire < *nairiia of nairiiā- "manly, heroic."

Feminine forms of other adjectives are declined according to the *ī*-declension, e.g.: *vaŋhu-* "good," *vaŋʰhī-* f.; *pouru-* "plentiful, many," *paoirī-* f.; *driγu-* "poor," *driuū-* f. (note the phonetic changes).

Neuter adjectives are declined like neuter nouns, e.g., nom.-acc. sing. surəm, āhuiri "belonging to/related to Ahura (Mazdā)," vohu.

Adjectival compounds in $-\bar{i}$ and $-\bar{u}$

There are a few adjectival compounds ending in root nouns in $-\bar{\imath}$ and $-\bar{u}$, e.g., $yauua\bar{e}j\bar{\imath}$ - "living forever" and $yauua\bar{e}s\bar{u}$ - "vitalized forever" (see Lesson 12: laryngeal stems). These stems are declined like \bar{u} -stems, but few forms are actually attested:

Sing.

nom.

*yauuaējiš

*vauuaēsuš

Plur.

nom.-acc.

*yauuaējiiō

*yauuaēsuuō

PRONOUNS

Personal pronouns in the nominative

The personal pronouns have the following forms in the nominative.

Sina	1st	2nd	3rd		
Sing. nom. Plur.	azəm "I"	tum "you, thou"	hō, has°; huuō "he"	hā "she"	tat "it"
nom.	vaēm "we"	yužəm "you, ye"	<i>tē</i> "they"	tå "they"	tā "they"

Note: hascit, but $h\bar{o} + ca > h\bar{a}ca$ in $h\bar{a}ca$ i δa astu "and he (Sraoša) shall be here" (Y.27.6, Vr.12.1).

VERBS

Imperfect-injunctive active 1

Depending on their shape, the Avestan verbs are divided into groups of verbs with similar characteristics. There are two main groups: "thematic" verbs, in which the stem ends in a, and "athematic" verbs, in which the stem does not end in a. These two groups are further divided into subgroups called "present classes." We have already seen examples of imperative forms of athematic verbs ending in consonants or vowels and thematic verbs with stems ending in -a-, -iia-, and -aiia-. These will be discussed in greater detail later.

To express past tense (past action, state, etc.) Young Avestan employs a form of the verb which here will be referred to as the "imperfect-injunctive."

The endings of the imperfect-injunctive are called "secondary" (i.e., as opposed to the "primary" endings of the present indicative, see Lesson 8). As the secondary endings are less exposed to phonetic changes than the primary ones—although there are several—we shall discuss them first.

Note: Because many forms are not (well) attested in the *Avesta*, it is impossible to give complete paradigms. To make it easier on the students I have as far as possible used the same verb throughout the paradigms, although these particular forms may not be attested, and I have sometimes included forms that are strictly speaking only attested in Old Avestan.

In the athematic verbs, the endings vary according to the final of the stem.

Paradigm (athem.: mrao-/mru- "to say," stao-/stu- "to praise," $da\delta\bar{a}$ -/ $da\delta$ - ($da\theta$ -) "to give, place"; them.: $va\bar{e}na$ - "to see," tauruuaiia- "to overcome"):

	Athema	tic		Thematic		
Sing.						
1	-m, -əm	$da\delta qm$	mraom	-əm	vaēnəm	
2	*-h, -š	daδå	mraoš	-ō	vaēnō	
3	- <u>t</u>	daδāṯ	mraoţ	-a <u>t</u> :	vaēna <u>t</u>	
Plur						
1	-ma			*-āma, -ama	*vaēnāma	tauruuaiiama
2	-ta	dasta	staota	-ata	*vaēnata	tauruuaiiata
3	-ən	$da\delta \partial n$		-ən	vaēnən	

Note:

Of ah- "to be" only the 3rd sing. is found: as or $\bar{a}s$ "(he/she/it) was." No 3rd plur. form is attested, but $\bar{a}s$ is sometimes used (Yt.14.46).

mraom "I said" is < *mrauuəm.

tauruuaiiama "we overcome" is from *tauruuaiiāma.

In dasta "you give", -dt- has become -st-.

Other examples of verbs with "contracted" forms (bao- "become," jaiõiia- "implore," srāuuaiia- "recite"):

Sing. 1 baom < *bauuəm

srāuuaēm < *srāuuaiiəm

Plur. 3 baon (< *bauuən)

 $*jai\delta in (< *jai\delta iiən)$

srāuuaēn or srāuuaiiən

SYNTAX

Use of the imperfect-injunctive

āat **jasat** Zaraθuštrō "Then came Zarathustra."

とりというとのである。ちょうかいいんない

srirō mē sabaiiat Yimō "Yima seemed beautiful to me."

アーチャルの・石まるのでんそう アンショ

āaṭ **mraoṭ** Ahurō Mazdā maniiuš spāništō المان المان

·ノーベール・サンーのとはある)・チーの・ガール・ケロローのしゅいしょしゅ・シーベーストラー・ガートのした。チート・ガート

āat him jaiδiiat bərəzaiδiš Vištāspō āat him raθaēštārō jaiδin

"Then Vištāspa, who saw in high places, implored her; then the charioteers implored her."

āfš paoiri fra.tacat "Much water flowed forth."

· 15-44-10 · 10) · 10) · 10 · 10) - 10

uruuarå **uxšin** zairi.gaonå **baon** paoirišca

נל בבע (עוץ . נגטיין . בעירע . פאשל ן עוץ . נאשל יועץ . נגטיין . בעירע איים בער בער בעריע איים בעירע איים בעריע איים בעירע איים בעריע איים בער

"The plants grew; they became green and many."

yō **as** vərəθrajastəmō

いったりのというとうらんしょうしゃしょう

"(Zarathustra), who was the most obstruction-smashing." (Y.9.15)

mošu tat **ās** nōit darəγəm (yat)

シーとのからいのかり・このしいのしいから

"It was soon, not long (= it was not long) (before)." (Yt.5.65)

yaθa kaθaca tē ās zaošō "However was your pleasure." (Yt.19.82) နောင်းမှာ မောင်းမှာ မောင်းမှာ

Verbs with preverbs

Verbs such as paiti.mrao- "to answer" and paiti.auua.jasa- "to come down hither to" consist of a main verb and "preverbs," that is words which are sometimes used alone, e.g., as a preposition or an adverb, but often only exist together with a verb. There are similar words used with nouns, in which case they are called prefixes.

The scribes sometimes did and sometimes did not separate the preverb from the verb by a period. In this introduction the period is commonly used, except where sandhi changes have taken place (e.g., $\bar{a}i$ - $< \bar{a}$ -ai-, $\bar{a}uuara$ - $< \bar{a}$ -bara-).

Sometimes the preverb is separated from the verb and placed (usually) at the beginning of the sentence. Compare and contrast the following examples:

paiti.mraot yō Zaraθuštrō

のそろうかってのあるといっているののの

"He, Zarathustra, spoke back (answered)."

paiti šē mraot Ahurō Mazdā "Ahura Mazdā said back to him." المائية ال

ā.jasat Vərəθraγnō ahuraδātō

・プローののかのでんりんりんかっているした。

"Vərəθraγna, established by Ahura Mazdā, came (flying)."

ā nō jasa auuaŋhē "Come to our assistance!"

· foorgassa. assac. 51. --

paiti dim pərəsat Zaraθuštrō "Zarathustra asked him in turn."

ישייםיי ישיים ליפטי ביים ישיים ליפטי ביים ישיים

A verb can have several preverbs:

āiδi paiti.auua.jasa Arəduuī Sure Anāhite (نام المعالمة المعالمة

When a verb with a preverb is repeated in a sentence, instead of repeating the whole verb, the preverb may be repeated without the verb (cf. Lesson 3), e.g.:

pairi të Haoma daoam pairi võ āpō pairi të ātarə

"I presented to you, O Haoma, (I presented) to you, O waters, (I presented) to you, O fire ..."

EXERCISES 5

1. Write in transcription and Avestan script the nom. sing. and plur. (where appropriate) forms of the following nouns and adjectives:

aṣ̃a- vahista-, aṣ̃i- vaŋ̄vhī-, baγa- mazista-, baγā- paoirī-, driγu- maṣ̃iia-, frasparəγa- srira-, kaniiā-hudaēnā-, vohu- vastra-, buiri- x̄varəθa-, aka- yātu-, vaŋhu- gairi-; Vaiiu- uparō.kairiia-.

2. Write in transcription and Avestan script the imperfect-injunctive forms of the following verbs:

āi-, ā.kasa-, isa-, kərənao-, gəuruuaiia-, θβərəsa-, bərəjaiia-, zauua-, zbaiia-.

3. Transcribe and translate into English:

On Come and Brown and Brown of home of the complete of home of the come of the

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Note: In the following passage note the forms $a\S \bar{a}um$, voc. sing. of $a\S auuan$ -, and $a\S ahe$ "of Order" gen. sing. of $a\S a$ -).

4. Translate into Avestan:

- 1. We are not Turanian enemies. We are Aryan charioteers, having good horses and good chariots.
- 2. The young woman is poor. There is no guardian for her, no protector.
- 3. Yima walked forth. He said:
- 4. Go forth, and go wide and far, O men; go wide and far, O animals, both great and small!
- 5. Then both the men and the animals went forth and wide and far and became many.
- 6. Then my daena came. (She) seemed to me both beautiful and Life-giving.
- 7. She said to me: I am (she) who (is your) own daēnā. Come to me, O Orderly Mazdaiiasnian.
- 8. Then we went forth, both I and my daēnā.

VOCABULARY 5

Aibigāiia-, see Aiβisruθrima-Aiβisruθrima Aibigāiia-: geniuses of the night

akō.dā-: who gives bad (gifts); akō.då, nom.-acc.

plur.

apa.taca- < √tak/tac: to run away apam: away(?), henceforth(?)

 \bar{a} .jasa- < \sqrt{gam} : to come \bar{a} .kasa- < \sqrt{kas} : to look (at)

baγā-: part, section

bauua- < √bao/bu: to become

bərəjaiia- < √barg/barj: to exalt (empower) by

praise, extol(??)

bərəzaiδī- m.: seeing in high places; < bərəza- + dī-

buiri-: plentiful, many dim m. encl. pron. acc.: him

driγu-: poor dušmaniiu-: enemy ərəzu-: straight, upright fra.cara- < √car: to go forth fra.spara- √spar: to jump away

frasparəya-: blossom

fra. $\sin a - < \sqrt{\sin a}$ (ii)u: to go forth fra. $\tan a - < \sqrt{\tan k}$ tac: to flow forth

gəuruuaiia- $< \sqrt{\text{grab/garb}}$: to grasp, take hold of

ha-, ta-: personal/demonstrative pronoun

Hāuuani-: Hāuuani, the genius of the time of the haoma pressing (in the morning)

hē encl. pron. gen.-dat.: to/for him/her him (hīm) f. encl. pron. acc.: her hudaēna-: having a good daēnā

isa- $< \sqrt{a\bar{e}s}$: to be able, have command of (+ gen.)

kairiia- n.: work (to do)

kaθa: how?

nairiia-: manly, heroic

nasao- f. (nom. nasuš): (demoness of) carrion pairi.da $\delta \bar{a}$ -/da δ - < $\sqrt{d\bar{a}}$: to lay out, present

paiti.pərəsa-: to ask in return

pascaēta: afterward

pasu-: (small domestic) animal, especially sheep

and goats

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pasu-: (small domestic) animal, especially sheep

and goats pata- > vī.pata-

pāiiu-: guardian

pərəsa- < √pars/fras: to ask pouru.mahrka-: full of destruction

Rapiθβina-: Rapiθβina, genius of noon-time razišta-: straightest; standing epithet of Rashnu Sāuuaŋhaē-, voc. Sauuaŋhe: Sāuuaŋhi, genius of the late morning

staora-: (large domestic) animal, cattle and horses

šē encl. pron. gen.-dat.: to/for him/her

tafsa- < √tap: to become hot

taršta-: frightened

tauruuaiia- $< \sqrt{tar}$: to overcome $t\bar{e}$: 1. of/to/for you, your; 2. they

 θ βərəsa- $\sqrt{\theta}$ βars: to fashion (like a carpenter)

uiti: thus

upa.duuara-: to come running (daēuuas, etc.) uparō.kairiia-: whose work is above; epithet of

Vaiiu

upāi-/upaē- < √aē/i: to go over (to), approach

Ušahina-: Ušahina, genius of dawn uxšiia- $<\sqrt{\text{vax}}$ /uxš: to grow, wax

Uzaiieirina-: Uzaiieirina, genius of the evening

vaēna-: to see vastra- n.: garment

vərəθrajastəma-, superlative of vərəθrajan-: the most obstruction-smashing, most victorious

 $vi\check{s} = v\bar{\imath}$

vī.pata-: to run away (used of evil creatures)

 x^{v} isa- $< \sqrt{x^{v}}$ aēd: to begin to sweat

yaθa: as, like, when

yauuaējī- adj.: living forever

yauuaēsū- adj.: life-giving/vitalized forever

yātu-: sorcerer zairi.gaona-: green zaṇtu-: tribe zaoša-: pleasure

zauua- $< \sqrt{zu}$: to curse zbaiia- $< \sqrt{zb\bar{a}}$: to invoke

zī: for, because