

## The Adjective

§ The adjective, like the substantive, admits of no variation on account of gender. However, rare occurrences of feminine gender can be found:

*ahlav/ ahlō, ardā* ‘righteous’ < OPers. *ṛtāvan-* m., *ašōg* < Av. *ašavan-* m. *ahlavēnī, ahlavānī* (cf. Skt. *ṛtā-varī-* f.), *ašōgnī* < Av. *ašaonī, ašāunī-*, (*ašāvairī-*).

§ The concord in number between a substantive and a modifying adjective is optional.

*vas* ‘much, many’ (OPers. *vasiy*); *vas mardōm* ‘many people’ (DK vii M 598), *vasān mardōm* ‘id.’ (KAP 2.29), *vas zahag* ‘many children’ (M6 R II 42 Parth.), *abāg vasān dēvān* ‘together with many demons’ (ŠGV 16.18), *vas dēv* ‘many demons’ (Dk vi M 521), *vasān yazdān bayān* ‘many gods and lords’ (M 730, 2 Parth.), *vas kas* ‘many people’ (KAP 13.15, Dk vi M 561), *vasān kas* ‘id.’ (Ēvēnag I NN 5) = *kasān (ī) vas, mārān vas* ‘many serpents’ (AVN 19.1), *vas mānestānān* ‘many monasteries’ (M2 IR I 18).

§ The comparative is formed with the ending *°tar/ °dar* (< *\*tara-*).

*nēk* ‘good, nice, beautiful’ (< *\*naība-ka-*), *cē nēktar (nēkdar)*? ‘what is nicer?’ (AV 201).

*farrox* ‘fortunate, happy, blessed’ (< *\*farnahuant-*), *mardōm kadām farroxdar?* ‘which man is more fortunate?’ (AV 5).

*xāš* ‘pleasant, sweet, savoury’ (< *\*hūarša-*), *xārišn-ē kadām xāštar ud pedmizagdar?* ‘which food is more savoury and tasty?’ (HKR 19).

*mazan* subst. ‘giant (demon), monster’, adj. ‘monstrous, gigantic’ (cf. Av. *mazānt-* ‘great’, *māzanya-* ‘giant’), *appardar ud mazandar* ‘more thieving and monstrous’ (T III 260, c VI 19), *az hān ī frēftārān mehdar mazandar dušhamōzdar* ‘(who is) greater, more monstrous and more evil-teaching than (all) the deceivers’ (ŠGV 10.59).

*jud* ‘different, separate; opposite’ (< *\*juta-*), *juttar* ‘(more) different’, *cē juttar az hān <ī> ohrmazdān hōm tar sahē* ‘for you, O Haoma, beyond different(ly) from the (other plants) of Ahura Mazdā’ (Dk vii M 606).

*abar* ‘up, upper’ (< *\*upara-*), *abardar* ‘upper, higher’, *kē aziš abardar hend* ‘who are higher than he’ (T III 260 d II R II 4-5).

*vad* ‘evil, bad’ (< *\*vata-*), *vattar* ‘worse’, *akāṭ ašō: hān ī az vad vattar* ‘worse than the evil’ (Y 59.31).

§ Some remnants of the old comparative ending *\*-jah-* have been preserved.

*kam(b)* ‘few, little’ (< \**kambna-*), *kem* comp. ‘lesser’ (< \**kambjah-*), *abārīg pedyārag kem* ‘other adversaries (therein) are less’ (MX 44.23), also *kamdar* (ZVY 4.16).

*nazd* ‘near’ (< \**nazda-*, cf. Khot. *naysda-*), *nazdīk* ‘nearer; near’ (< \**nazdīah-ka-*, cf. Av. *nazdyō*), *nazdīk ī mardōm ī dušāgāh mā nišīy* ‘do not sit near an ignorant man’ (HAM 87), also *nazdīkdar/ tar* (KAP 1.2).

*pur*<sup>o</sup> ‘much, many’ (cf. Av. *pouru-*, OPers. *paru-*), *fray/ freh* ‘more’ (cf. Av. *frāyō*), *ēd rāy dōst būd-am handarz frāy kū zarr ud kū sag ī nēv* ‘therefore I loved your precepts above gold, and above fine stone’ (Ps 118. 127), also *frehdar* (ŠGV 11.87).

*vas* ‘much, many’ (cf. OPers. *vasīy*), *vēš* ‘more’, *kē dušmen vēš kū hān ī sazed būdan* ‘he whose enemies are more than what it ought to be’ (HOD 22), also *vēštar* (DD 36.1).

§ Some remnants of the old superlative ending \**išta-* have been preserved.

*kamist* ‘least’ (cf. Av. *kambišta-* superl. of *kamna-*), *kambištəmca aēte paḏā frayaḡ: kamist-iz ped avēšān rāh franāmend* ‘and very few (living beings) go forth on these paths’ (Vd 3.15).

*nazdist* ‘nearest, first’ (cf. Av. *nazdišta-*), *nazdištayāt apaḡ haca: az hān ī nazdist āb* ‘from the nearest waters’.

*burz/ buland* ‘high, tall’ (cf. Av. *bərəzaḡt-*), *bālist* ‘highest’ (cf. Av. G *bərəzišta-*), *abar bālist gyāg* ‘on the highest place’ (Dk vii M 602).

*frāyist* ‘most’ (cf. Av. *fraēšta-* superl. of *pouru-*), *mazdesnīh x̄azār ud dēvesnīh frāyist* ‘the worship of Mazdā is minimum and the sacrifice to the Daēva maximum’ (CHP 54).

*vēšist* ‘most’ (Dk iii M 291).

*x̄āl/ x̄ār* (< \**hūardu-*, cf. Armen. *axorž* ‘savoury ; sweet’, Bal. *awarzā* ‘pleasant’), *x̄ārist* (cf. *x̄arəzišta-* ‘sweetest’), *rōšnān x̄ārist* used of the Friend of the Lights.

§ Suppletive comparatives and superlatives

*xūb* ‘good’ (< \**hūapah-*, cf. Av. *hvapah-*); *vahī/ veh* ‘better; good’ (< \**uāhīah-*, cf. Av. *vahyah-*, *vañhah-*), *may-ē kadām veh ud x̄aštar?* ‘which wine is better and more savoury?’ (HKR 55), also *xūbdar* (NM II, 2, 11), *vehdar* (SS 19); *pahlum/ pašum* ‘best’ (< \**parḏama-*), *mardān pahlum* ‘the best of men’ (ŠPs II, 5), *vahištəm ahūm: hān ī pahlum oxān* ‘the best existence’ (Y 9.19), but also *vahišt* ‘paradise’, *pahlumdar* (VAM 25).

*vazurg / guzurg* ‘great, big; old’ (OPers. *vazrka-*); *mahī/ meh* (< \**maḏīah-*, cf. Av. *masyah-*) ‘bigger, greater, older’, *mazyō ... vañhō ... srayō: meh ... veh ... nēkdum* ‘greater and better and more beautiful’ (Y 65.14), also *mehdar* (Bd 30), *mahādar* (Parth. *masādar*); *mahist* ‘greatest; supreme’ (OPers. *maḏišta-*, Av. *mazišta-*), *x̄adāy*

*mahist dānāg* ‘the wise and supreme Lord’ (PDK 69), also *vazurgdum* (HAM 105).

*kōdak* ‘small, little; young’ (< \**kaṽtaka-ka-*)/ *kōcak*; *keh* ‘smaller, lesser; younger’ (< \**kaθjah-*), *meh ... meyānag ... keh* ‘big ... medium ... small’ (Dk viii M 736), also *kehdar*, *yōištō ... hvōištō: keh ... meh* (F 4.5); *kahist* ‘smallest, least’ (Parth. *kasišt*), *mahist ... mahist* (Bd 158).