

Hymn on the Third Messenger and the Archons

- Manichaean hymn in Parthian.

He (the third Messenger) takes the Light away from them (the demons)
in many forms and fashions, by gentle means and harsh.
He releases the captives from bondage.

He purifies His own life and he exhorts them to approach the visible
form and to follow its appearance.

Bright Sadvêš shows her form to the Demon of Wrath.
She seduces him with her own appearance, and he thinks it is real.

He sows his seed, ... he groans when he no longer sees her form.
Light is born in the sphere of the world; she passes it on to the
higher powers.

Filth and dross flow from him to the earth. They clothe themselves in
manifold forms and are reborn in many fruits.

The dark Demon of Wrath is ashamed, for in his confusion he had become
naked. He had not attained the heights, and he had been robbed of
whatever he had achieved.

He left the body an empty shell and descended in shame.
He was clothed in the womb of the earths, from where he had risen in brutishness.

The Hymn to the Father of Greatness

- a hymn ascribed to Mani, in Parthian.

You are worthy of praise, beneficent Father, primeaval Ancestor!
Blessed are you, beneficent God!

You, Lord, are the first *alif* and the last *tau*.
Through you yourself your pious wish has been fulfilled and
accomplished.

All gods and aeons, the deities of Light,
And the righteous bring praise to you,
singing "Holy" repeatedly.

The spirits, the plants and all . . . truly implore you
to blessing. And bring forth supplications with one voice.

Grant us our pious wish . . .
They bear the form that we have given up from afar.

Be merciful unto us in your mercy;
Show us your form, the noble epiphany, for which we yearn.

Let your brightness shine upon us, sweet source and breath of life!

Make, us, your children, strong.
In vain the dark foe boasts, together with the bellicose,
rebellious giants, In vain he wishes to cling to the Aeons.

Hymn about the Captivity of Light

- Manichaeon hymn in Parthian.

Lo, that great Kingdom of Salvation, waits on high,
Ready for those who have gnosis, so that they may
finally find peace there.

Sinful, dark Pêšûs runs hither and tither brutally,
She gives no peace at all to the upper and lower limbs of Light.

She seizes and binds the Light in the six great bodies,
In earth, water and fire, plants and animals.

She fashions it in many forms; she molds it into many figures;
She fetters it in a prison so that it may not ascend to the height.

She weaves a net around it on all sides, she piles it up;
she sets a watchman over it.

Greed and lust are made its fellow-captives.

She mixes destructive air into those six great bodies.
She nurtures her own body both destroys their sons.

The power of Light on high confuse all demons of wrath,
The sons of that Pêšûs, who is in a higher place.

(three further verses missing)

Invocation of Jesus the Splendor -

A Manichaean hymn in Persian.

We would fill our eyes with praise
And would open our mouths to invoke you.
We would bring to you ... honor and greatness,
To you, Jesus the Splendor, liberated ruler and
New Dispensation.

You are, You are the garment of blessing.
You are the dearest brother.
Come for salvation, who are complete salvation.
Come for beneficence, who are complete beneficence.
Come to bring love, who are complete love.
Come as physician, who are complete healing.
Come to bring peace, who are complete peace.
Come as victor, who are complete victory.
Come as lord, who are complete lordship.
Come for redemption, who are complete soul-service.

Welcome, new lord and new physician.
Welcome, new redeemer and redeemed one.
Welcome, new God, noble lustre and great light.
Welcome, oh day that is complete joy.
Welcome, oh year that brings a good harvest.
Welcome, original one and primeval first-born one.
Welcome, good mediator ... who mediates between us
and the Father.

Hymn on the Second Coming of Jesus

- Manichaean Hymn in Persian with Parthian words.

Speak to me, Lord and Friend, and reveal to me, Son
of the most beloved, the time of your coming, when
you will appear at the end.

Oh great Redeemer, my Teacher, speak of that time and its signs.
The speakers, the righteous and chosen ones, who must live

in the Realm of the Lie, Do not accumulate herds and belongings.
Therefore they are persecuted.

Ha, this irate potentate! How long will he continue to rule?
How long will the poor and the Family of Peace be persecuted?
Tell me what reward the wise and righteous ones that are now
persecuted will have.
You of compassionate race, tell of the coming subjugation of
the sinners who are now exalted.
The strong and valiant Son of the Most Beloved taught me what
I asked him:

That time, the coming years and periods, will be different from now,
because of the ensuing battles.
For they (the years) shall flow like water in the rivers,
Now that time is near at hand.
The covetous heretics that now rejoice
shall you then vanquish, you Wrathful One.
They will be persecuted, as they have persecuted,
And they shall do penance for their offences.
Then shall those who have wept be joyful,
And those who now laugh weep.
He who is grieved and belongs to the Family of Peace
Shall be rewarded with prosperity and protection.
Then the righteous religion shall hold sway over the false teachings and nations.
Then shall the springs of Living Water open their mouths in praise.
Lament, give honor and praise, for the time is near,
Of which these are the signs.

... the annointed.

The *vihidan*(?) of the Ruler are called.

Persecution and suppression shall then be recompensed by eternal life.

Invocation of the angels -

A Manichaean text in Persian.

Come, you shall live together with the mighty angels.
Guard and protect the holy Church,
And cut off the heads of the adversaries,
The foes of peace.

May Raphael, Michael, Gabriel and Sarael,
Together with all the most powerful angels,
Increase peace and faith
For the whole Church of the Eastern Province.

Blessing upon the mighty angels!
May these powerful ones, these humble ones, be praised,
So that they may protect the "*sons of the right hand*"
From the spiritual (demonic) and temporal (fleshly) powers.

I bless the God Mani, the Lord,
I venerate your great, bright glory,
I pray to the Holy Spirit,
Together with the glories and strong angels.

Praise to the almighty angels! May they protect
The religion of the gods,
And may they overcome
Those attacking righteousness.

The angel full of wisdom, the loving deity,
Beautiful in appearance, the strong God,
He of noble name, King Frêdon, and the valiant Jacob,
May they protect the Church, and us, their children!

May blessing and praise from all of us
Be accepted by the three Lords,
So that they may send us power and strenght
On this day and at this time of joy.

May blessing come from the gods on high
And new help from the power of the mighty;
May it come upon the land and its ruler,
So that their faith in the holy religion may increase.

Hymn on the fate of the Living Soul -

A Manichaeian Hymn in Parthian.

I hail from the Light and from the gods,
Yet I have become as one banished, seperated from them.
The foes assembled above me

And took me to the realm of death.
- Blessed be he who rescues my soul from distress,
so that it may be saved. -

A god am I, born of the gods,
A bright, radiant and shining,
Beaming, fragrant and beautiful god.
But now I have fallen into misery.
Countless demons seized me,
Loathsome ones captured me.
My soul has been subjugated by them,
I am torn to pieces and devoured.
Demons, *yakshas* and *peris*,
Black, hideous, stinking dragons
That I could hardly repulse:
I experienced much pain and death at their hands.
They all roar and attack me,
They pursue me and rise up against me,
...

Hymn exhorting the soul to remembrance -

A Manichaean Hymn in Parthian.

... all sins, the inner and the outer ones, of thought, word and deed,
what is in their harmful consequence?
Teach that pious and sinful thought are intertwined, and distinguishable
between them.
Comprehend your being and the pure word, which is the master of
the soul in the body,
And thereby learn to see through the false word that leads to Hell,
even the Hell of Darkness.
Weigh, as with a judge's scales, those redeemed and those condemned
by the word,
Remember the cycle of rebirths and the torture of Hell, where souls
are hurt and oppressed.
Maintain the fervor of the soul and the treasure of the word, so that
you may enter the Paradise of Light.

(two verses missing)

Restrain your mind from sinful rebellion, walk on the path of the peace unto the home of Light.

Hymn to the Living Soul -

A Manichaean hymn in Parthian.

You, oh Soul, would we praise, our bright Life!
You would we praise, Jesus Messiah!
Merciful savior, look upon us!
Worthy are you to honor , redeemed Soul of Light!
Salvation to you, and may we also receive salvation!
Worthy are you of the Soul of Light, bright shining limb of Light.
You have salvation, bright Soul of the gods that shines in the darkness.
You sons of Truth, praise the Soul, the valiant god eager for battle.
This fettered Soul has arrived, gathered in ...
... from heaven and from the depths of the earth,
And from all creation.
Meritorious and blessed is the auditor who gathers the Soul
together, And blissful is the elect who purifies it.
This redeemed Soul has come,
It has come to this Church of Righteousness.
Praise it forever, you elect,
So that it may wondrously purify me
And lead me to life.
Blessed are you, oh Soul, you with the divine form!
Blessed are you, oh Soul, weapon and battlement of the gods,
Blessed are you, radiant Soul,
Splendor and glory of the ... Worlds of Light!
Blessed are you, divine radiant Soul,
Weapon and might, soul and body, gift of the Father of Light.

Hymn to the Third Messenger -

A Manichaean Hymn in Parthian.

I will bring praise to your Light,
Second Great One, God Narisaf,
Beautiful form, radiance,
Judge and observer of all ...
Light with a thousand eyes ...
Where you set is extinction, and Light is where you arise.

With you lives the Mother of the Righteous,
with you abides also the Living Spirit;
With you are the mighty Fathers that gathers pearls,
The twin lights, the two great lamps.
It is a house of peace where the gods abide,
They move the world and radiant light.
Full of joy are the divine abodes,
The noble ships, the ferries that are created by the word.
The mighty powers, the giants eager for battle,
Withdraw Light from all creatures.
In two bright forms they seduce the demons of wrath,
As in open joy of heart
They come and go independently and in wondrous power.
The chariots of Light are the gate to the Kingdom,
Joyful are the melodies that sound from them.
You will I praise, God Narisaf,
Honor first to you and to your whole Greatness;
In your mercy redeem even me, your child.

Hymn in praise of Mani -

A Manichaean hymn in Parthian.

You have come with salvation, oh Savior of our souls,
Lord Mani, Apostle of Light!
You have come with salvation, oh Redeemer of our souls!
You have come with salvation, oh great Savior!
You have come with salvation, oh great Shepherd ... !

(fourteen verses missing)

You have come with salvation, oh bright gatherer of souls!
You have come with salvation, oh mighty and strong One!
You have come with salvation, most Beloved of the Lights!
You have come with salvation, oh Lord of the Church!
You have come with salvation, oh beautiful trunk!
You have come with salvation, oh Name ...

You have come with salvation, oh dearest and most Beloved One!
Hail to your twin and to your Glory, that have come forth with you!

You have come with salvation, oh Twin of the gods!
Hail to the bright gods of whom you are born!

(seven verses missing)

You have come with salvation, oh Messenger of Joy!
Salvation to the auditors that hear your message!

You have come with salvation, oh Savior of beautiful
and most beloved name!
Hail to the blessed that honor you!

Commemorative hymn for Mâr Zaku -

A Manichaean Hymn in Parthian.

Oh great teacher, Mâr Zaku ... Shepherd!
Oh great lamp that was so suddenly extinguished!
Our eyes were darkened, made faint and weak.
Oh battle-seeking Hero who left his army behind;
Terror seized the troop, the army was thrown into confusion.
Oh great Tree whose height was felled!
The birds started to quiver; their nest has been destroyed.
Oh great Sun that sank below the earth!
Our eyes saw only darkness, for the light was veiled.
Oh zealous Caravan leader who left his caravan behind
In deserts, wastes, mountains and gorges!
Oh Heart and Soul that have departed from us!
We need your skill, your reason and your glory.
Oh living Sea that has dried up!
The course of the rivers is obstructed and they no longer flow.
Oh green Mountain on which sheep graze!
The milk for the lambs runs dry, the sheep bleat pitifully.
Oh mighty Father, for whom many sons mourn,
All the children that have been orphaned.
Oh Lord who was spared no pains, who endured want!
You cared for the well-being of the house of God in every way.
Oh great Spring , whose source is stopped up!
Sweet nourishment is held back from our mouths.
Oh bright Lamp whose radiant light shone into another world!
Darkness befell us.
Oh Mâr Zaku, Shepherd, blessed Teacher!

Our power is now separated from you.
No longer do we look into your bright eyes;
No longer do we hear your sweet words.
Oh God Sroshâv with the sweet name, bright Lord!
None is like to you amongst all the gods.
We sigh and weep bitterly, we are grieved,
We constantly remember your love.
You were exalted in all the lands,
The kings and the great ones honored you.
Lovely and kind was your nature, mild was your speech
That never succumbed to bitter wrath.
Oh great, strong Giant who displayed great patience!
You tolerated everyone, you were renowned.
Oh righteous Father, meek and merciful,
Magnanimous and generous, compassionate and kind,
You bright joy to the oppressed; many souls
Did you save from misery, guiding them home.
Strong, good, powerful One who has attained a throne
Like all the Apostles, Buddhas and Gods,
First to you will I pay homage, I your meanest son
Who was left behind as a homeless orphan by you, Father.

Additional note:

Come, let us write a letter to the beneficent King of Light.
We will request him: Forgive our sins!

Homily on the correct preparations for the sacred Meal -

A Manichaean fragment on the eucharist, in Sogdian.

... and receive it (the sacred meal) like gold, transmit it correctly and completely to its owner (the Father of Light) so that you may not be subjected to evil. Guard it with care, preserve it with great steadfastness, so that it may not be soiled by dry or wet blood, just as it, in turn, makes you glad and joyful. And all of you together, keep it from being ... by jealousy and hatefulness ... Remember your fault on the day of ... when by greed it was ...
Begin to Ponder: One's body, with whose sign is it decorated or covered? In whose service does it stand? And what is it that you eat? For everyone who partakes of the meal and is not worthy of it loses the fruit of his great

efforts and is shut out of the Paradise of Light. But the chosen righteous ones and the auditors who believe realize the greatness of the Living Soul and will be joyful in the Paradise of Light, in eternal life ...

Dear brother, cleanse yourself and hear the good message from me.

It is a duty and an obligation to those who know to stand in the Church under this sign and to serve ...

The Invocation of Bar Sîmûs -

A Manichaean text in Persian.

I venerate Bar Sîmûs and Jacob

And praise Bar ...

So that they may increase ...

With Joy ever anew ... for this whole community.

Mihr Yazd, our Father, Redeemer and Benefactor,

Together with the valiant Frêdon and all the angels.

May they protect and care for the holy Church

And its blessed head, the Lord of good name.

Oh Sun that brings Light, God Zênârês,

together with the Mother of the Living,

Mihr Yazd, together with all the angels,

The five and the twelve,

May they all be praised by the holy Church!

May new blessing, new victory, come from God Zurvan

Upon the glories and angels and the spirits of this world,

So that it (the world) may accept the holy religion.

May He (Zurvan) be guardian, friend and protector within and without.

I invoke the powerful angels, the mighty ones,

Raphael, Michael, Gabriel, Sarael,

So that they may protect us from all misfortune

And deliver us from evil Ahriman.

I venerate the Lord Jacob the angel,

Together with the glories, powers and valiant spirits,

That they may protect us with their mighty power

And may lead us within and without.

I joyously venerate the mighty power,
Jacob the angel, the leader of the angels;
Receive from the whole holy Church
Blessing ever anew, and mighty praise!

May peace and new salvation come from God Zurvan,
You glories and spirits!
May blessing and new joy
From the gods and the angels be prepared for you!
May you lead us on this way to salvation!

May new power come from Jacob the angel,
New joy from all the angels!
May this land receive new aid,
May they (the angels) lead it to peace ever new.

Come, you glories, spirits and powers,
Grasp the right hand ...

Invocation of the gods in the Moon -

A Manichaean text in Parthian.

Eternal praise from the whole community that has been pardoned.
Chief of the messengers, Lord, Friend, Jesus, Savior, Ruler of the
holy religion -
You are eternally holy!

The first of those that go out ... who dispel the dark foes,
beloved of the Lights -
You are eternally holy!

Merciful Mother, Maiden of Light, soul of the God Zurvan,
head of all wisdom, who has enlightened all the gods -
You are eternally holy!

Soul gathering angels, seven shiplords ...

A Confessional Prayer for the elect -

A Manichaean text in Sogdian.

The first commandment: Truthfulness ...

The second commandment: Nonviolence.

... if by me their divine light has been injured: daily a small portion is lost on the way. For all this I say: Forgive me!

The third commandment: Behavior in accordance with religion, with its two parts.

I cannot remain virtuous ...

First : I do not fret at the cutting off or planting of trees (or even whole) groves of trees. I do not consider the affliction of the sprouts of trees or even the holy Light Element on a spring morning.

We all strive to plant and to sow a garden or a piece of land with our bodies.

Second: the male and the female bodies ...

The Hymn on the End of the World -

A Manichaean liturgical hymn in Parthian.

The message of heaven and the earth`s answer :

Hear, oh world, the words of the Lord!

We would invoke the gods that they may save us from this evil age of tyranny, full of strife and unbelief.

Oh angels and twins, save us from all distress.

That time (the end) has come,

Just as the redeemer (Mani) has written.

Here ends the hymn on the End of the World.

The Hymn on Body-and-Soul -

A Manichaean liturgical hymn in Parthian.

Sweet place of rest, oh garden!

May you be a sweet place of rest for me

Return to me, remain in me.

May we be of one accord through your beneficence.

Here ends the hymn on Body and Soul.

The Funerary Hymn -

A Manichaean liturgical hymn in Parthian.

Set into the world am I, this divine form, deprived of my heavenly
apparel. And I saw the redeemer, as he spoke to me in loving kindness.
Hope then came to me when I was constantly oppressed.
The marvel was illumined for me, My mind became joyful.
How quickly, how hastily has come the end of my life?
Free me from terrible distress on this day of death!
Come, my redeemer, accompanied by praise, saving God,
Lord Mani, together with the three sons of God.
Remember, kind God, this believing soul of your own child,
an auditor, who follows you.
Beneficent God, think of me, my thoughts are fixed upon the final day.
Come, oh God, look upon me, my helper at this time of death!

Here ends the funerary hymns.

Hymns to the soul -

A Manichaean liturgical hymn in Parthian.

... Worthy are you of salvation.
To you, oh Soul of Light, will I give much counsel,
so that you may attain redemption.

Come, oh souls, to this ship of Light!

My most beloved soul, who is happy and noble,
where have you gone? Return!
Awake, dear soul, from the sleep of drunkenness
into which you have fallen!
Look upon the foes, see how they prepare death all around you!
Reach your home, the heavenly earth created by the Word,
Where you were in the beginning.

The distressed soul cries out loudly because of wicked greed,
deceptive delusion and the devouring blaze of fire.
An angel from Paradise has come, a herald from the Kingdom.
Here end the beautiful hymns to the soul.

...

Hymn in honor of the Dominions of Light -

A Manichaean Hymn in Persian.

On the Twelve Dominions.

(...)

Ninth: Righteousness, the sower of goodness.

You are a living tree, a firm column, with which you put the living powers of the Vahman in order, with righteousness and generosity.

And you proclaim them with great righteousness in the lower community and the upper community.

Tenth: Thankfulness, you good redeemer, resurrector of dead souls.

You fulfil the wishes of the three immortal ones, and you give understanding and beneficence to the children of the faith, whole limbs you have vitalized with thankfulness. And you caused Jesus the Splendor to be honored.

Eleventh: Goodness, which is the living spirit, the wisdom of the Father and the splendor of the gods. You are the revelation of the life of the World of Light, and the first of those revelations, that are full of wondrous power and wisdom. And you caused the spirit of Zurvan to be strengthened.

Twelfth: Light.

You are Light from the World of Lights. Those that are illuminated by you are themselves signs of Light. You are yourself the praised spirit in the hearts of the blessed. And you freed them from the slavery of being in the state of confusion (mixture of good and evil).

And you praised the radiant Vahman, the ruler of the Church.

We revere with great beneficence the whole community of the elect ...

Verses from a Parthian hymn

... Lead me, Father, to my own family!

Fortunate is every man who in purity and truth

Recognize your skill, your manliness and wondrous power, oh God!

To fulfil completely, oh God, your counsels and your commandments,

I shall strive and wait on you. I am ardent, by day and night.

Earthly pleasures and things of the world, with Greed has avidly
and cunningly prepared, Have I given up to your counsel.
Hear, oh God, my supplication, and do not hesitate to accept my
veneration and prayer.
Lead me out of this poisonous deep!
This is the way, this is the mystery, this is the great commandment
and the gate of salvation.
Fulfill in me, oh God, your will. May your glory protect me and always
foster patience, zeal and fear of God in me.
My eye and ear ...

The Crucifixion Hymn -

A Manichaean hymn in Parthian.

... Because of Satan the select were chosen by Jesus.
He (Satan) wanted to break through the fiery waves, to burn
the whole world with fire. The noble ruler (Jesus) changed his
garment and appeared before Satan in his power.
Then heaven and earth trembled, and Sammaël plunged into
the deep. The true interpreter (Jesus) as filled with pity because
of the Light which the foe had devoured. He had raised it (the Light)
up from the deep pit of death to that place of zeal from which it
had descended.
Honor to you, Son of Greatness, who has liberated your righteous
ones. Protect, now, too, the Teacher Mâr Zaku, the great keeper of your
radiant herd.

...

Awake, brethren, you chosen ones, on this day of the salvation of souls,
the fourteenth day of the month of Mihr, on which Jesus, the Son of God,
entered Parinirvana.

Harken, all you faithful:

When the time for the perfection of the Son of Man had come, all the
demons knew it. And the lord of the sinful doctrine ... covered himself
in deceit. And the demons took counsel with each other. The twelve thrones
above were disturbed. Poison flowed down on the lower creation,
upon the sons, and the chalice of death was prepared for him (Jesus).
The Jews, the servants of the most high God, conceived of a deception ...
They conspired against the Son of Man. They devised evil; in deception
they brought forth false witnesses. Accursed Satan, who had always

troubled the apostles, molested the herd of Christ. He turned the treacherous
Iscaiot into a steed, when the Most Beloved Jesus trusted the disciples.
He (Judas) indicated him to the night-watchman by a kiss on his hand.
He delivered the Son of God to the foes. He betrayed Truth. For the
sake of a rewrd that the Jews gave, he offered up his own lord and teacher.