

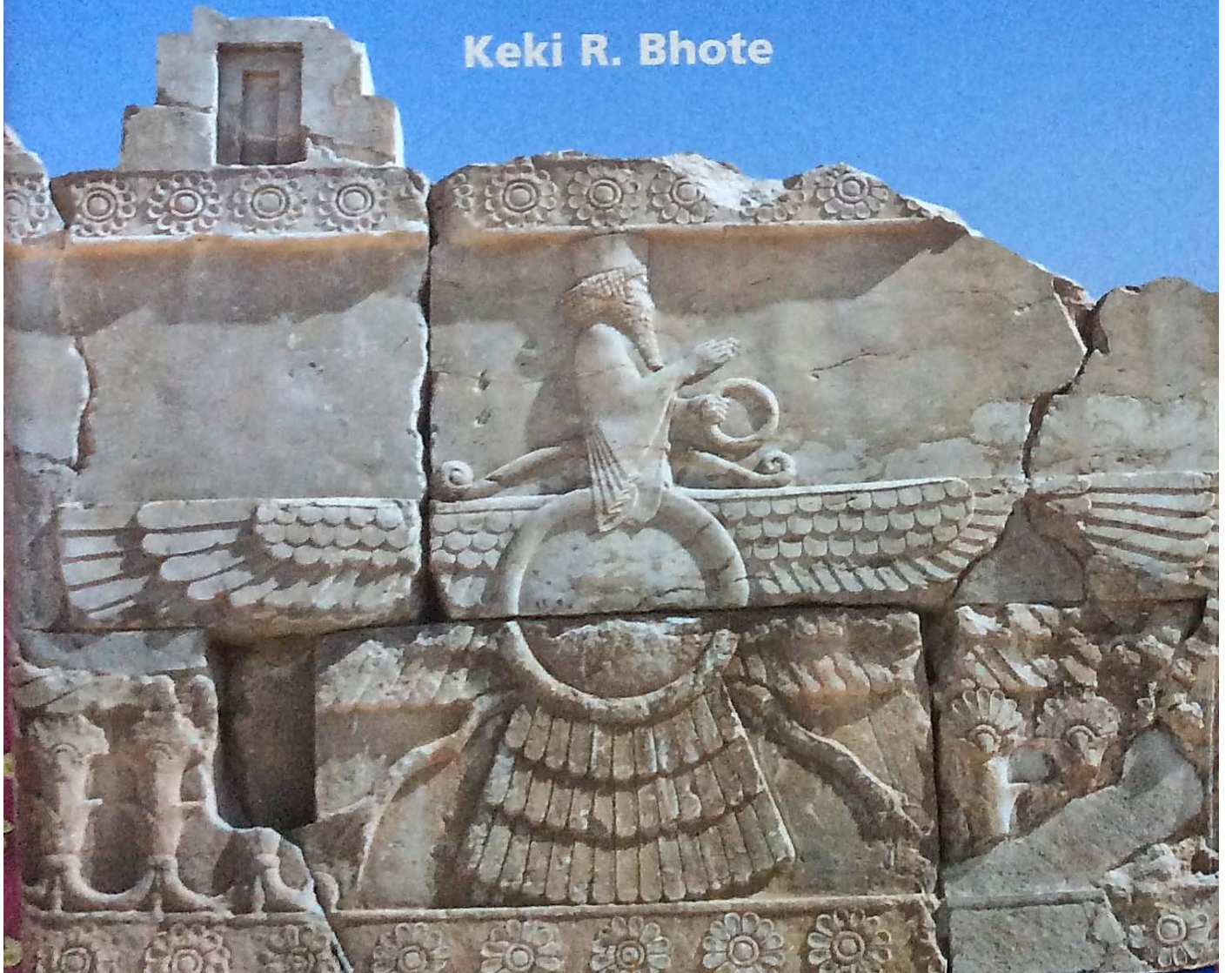


ZOROASTRIANISM

Mother of All World Religions



Keki R. Bhote



Posthumous Note

This book by our father, Keki R. Bhote, was a labor of love for the decade leading up to his death in 2013. He was passionate about having this comprehensive book on Zoroastrianism published. It is our honor to preserve Dad's legacy. This became a family project. Each of us had a role in seeing it through to completion. Our mother, Mehroo Bhote, has tirelessly kept our father's flame alive. Though Dad was a brilliant engineer, he did not even know how to boot up a computer; consequently, every sentence of this book was written in his script on yellow-lined paper. Adi, Keki's eldest son, translated the manuscript with dictation software into electronic form, after which it was edited, and re-edited... no small task given the nature of the content. Safeena, Dad's oldest daughter, was helpful on the computer, and Xerxes, his youngest son, had many conversations and consultations with our father during the lengthy writing process. Shenaya, the youngest Bhote daughter, devoted numerous hours to designing and formatting the layout for publication.

We are grateful to so many people who helped us interpret and see this book to completion. Thank you, Kersey Antia, for encouraging our father to write this book. Thank you, Avan and Godrej Billimoria, for your insight and feedback. And a special thank you goes to Jill DuBois for her outstanding work in final edits, research, fact-checking and indexing this encyclopedic work.

We all knew what an amazing scholar and successful businessman our father was. But only after reading this book did we realize what a learned Zoroastrian he was as well.

Safeena Bhote Bottorff, Shenaya Bhote-Siegel, Adi Bhote and Xerxes Bhote