

it is realized that, alas, Professor Zaehner's is not the book hoped for: but there is Henning's little work on Zoroaster, and there are some quite helpful passages in the works of others who, like Professor Zaehner, have the clue to some of those enigmatic texts the Priest-Ministers of ambitious Shahs collated and, no doubt, corrupted.

## Chant to be used in Processions around a site with Furnaces

How he made them sleep and purified them  
 How we perfectly cleaned up the people and worked a big heater  
 I was the commander I made improvements and installed a guaranteed  
 system taking account of human weakness I purified and I remained  
 decent  
 How I commanded  
 I made cleaning appointments and then I made the travellers sleep and  
 after that I made soap  
 I was born into a Catholic family but as these people were not going  
 to need a priest I did not become a priest. I installed a perfectly good  
 machine it gave satisfaction to many  
 When trains arrived the soiled passengers received appointments for  
 fun in the bathroom they did not guess  
 It was a very big bathroom for two thousand people it awaited arrival  
 and they arrived safely  
 There would be an orchestra of merry widows not all the time much art  
 If they arrived at all they would be given a greeting card to send home  
 taken care of with good jobs wishing you would come to our joke  
 Another improvement I made was I built the chambers for two  
 thousand invitations at a time the naked votaries were disinfected  
 with Zyklon B  
 Children of tender age were always invited by reason of their youth  
 they were unable to work they were marked out for play

They were washed like the others and more than the others  
 Very frequently women would hide their children in the piles of  
 clothing but of course when we came to find them we would send  
 the children into the chamber to be bathed  
 How I often commanded and made improvements and sealed the door  
 on top there were flowers the men came with crystals I guaranteed  
 always the crystal parlor  
 I guaranteed the chamber and it was sealed you could see through  
 portholes  
 They waited for the shower it was not hot water that came through  
 vents though efficient winds gave full satisfaction portholes showed  
 this  
 The satisfied all ran together to the doors awaiting arrival it was  
 guaranteed they made ends meet  
 How I could tell by screaming that love came to a full stop I found  
 the ones I had made clean after about a half hour  
 Jewish male inmates then worked up nice they had rubber boots in  
 return for adequate food I could not guess their appetite  
 Those at the door were taken apart out of a fully stopped love by  
 rubber male inmates strategic hair and teeth being used later for  
 defence  
 Then the males took off all clean love rings and made away with happy  
 gold  
 A big new firm promoted steel forks operating on a cylinder they got  
 the contract and with faultless workmanship delivered very fast  
 goods  
 How I commanded and made soap 12 lbs fat 10 quarts water 8 oz to  
 a lb of caustic soda but it was hard to find any fat  
 'For transporting the customers we suggest using light carts on wheels  
 a drawing is submitted'  
 'We acknowledge four steady furnaces and an emergency guarantee'  
 'I am a big new commander operating on a cylinder I elevate the  
 purified materials boil for 2 to 3 hrs and then cool'  
 For putting them into a test fragrance I suggested an express elevator  
 operated by the latest cylinder it was guaranteed  
 Their love was fully stopped by our perfected ovens but the love rings  
 were salvaged  
 Thanks to the satisfaction of male inmates operating the heaters without  
 need of compensation our guests were warmed  
 All the while I had obeyed perfectly

So I was hanged in a commanding position with a full view of the  
 site plant and grounds  
 You smile at my career but you would do as I did if you knew your-  
 self and dared  
 In my day we worked hard we saw what we did our self sacrifice was  
 conscientious and complete our work was faultless and detailed  
 Do not think yourself better because you burn up friends and enemies  
 with long-range missiles without ever seeing what you have done

THOMAS MERTON

## Heard and Seen

### THE WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL MOSAICS

When it is a question of decorating wall surfaces of buildings, particularly public or sacred ones, mosaic as a material is hard to beat. Unlike fresco, canvas or panel it is genuinely part of the masonry, and looks it. It is as stable and permanent as the building itself. It can be cleaned by unskilled labour without risk to its surface. Moreover it conduces by its very nature to certain virtues of design and execution: the image must be patiently built by amassing little coloured rectangles of tile and glass; which means that each shape and contour must be the outcome of slow deliberation, and any kind of over-facility or slickness of hand is excluded. (Even a painting by Georges Mathieu, as superficial a pyrotechnician as there is in the trade, took on a certain air of weight and importance when translated, as one of them recently was, into the mosaic medium). Tiny imperfections of congruence between neighbouring tesserae confer a slight and most attractive wobble on the edges of the forms—a sort of factitious impressionism which is further enhanced by the fine semi-regular mesh of joins which runs across the surface, affirming its flatness and continuity. An infinitely appetising range of colours is available, from the richest and most brilliant spectral hues to the subtlest of pebble greys, pinks, fawns and the like.

Nor is the mosaic artist committed to the choice of a colour or a shape until he has had ample opportunity to judge of its effect. His whole design can be assembled on the floor and adjusted until his intention is realised. Yet each of the thousands of tesserae which he eventually places represents an act of decision, albeit a molecular one, in relation to the conceived whole.

Physical permanence; architectural suitability; exclusion of the facile; unity of surface; guaranteed beauty of texture and probable beauty of colour; the