

## Qualities of a good leader in the Gathas

The Gathic term *ratu* is derived from *eret*, meaning “to do right, to act properly.” It means the righteous **leader** who guides people with his constructive plans and programs, to peace, prosperity, happiness, and bliss.

To sum up the Gathic concept of a leader (*ratu*), he or she is a humble, yet inspiring intellectual who justly leads us, the righteous and wrongful as well as the intermediates to promote the living world **progressively** to peace and prosperity, and ultimately to wholeness and immortality, **in tune with Nature**.

The term has been used six times in the Gathas. These instances describe the position and the functions of a *ratu*.

**Song 2.2,2.6:**  
(Yasna 29-2 and 29-6)                      “The leader of the living world ... offer(s) civilization, nourishment, and strength,” and “acts with righteousness.”

**Song 6.1**  
(Yasna 33-1)                                “According to the Primal Principles of Life, the leader, with his actions, does full justice to the wrongful and to the righteous”

**Song 9.16**  
(Yasna 44-16)                              A leader is a life-healer who inspires one “through good mind” and protects one within the good dominion.

**Song 16.5**  
(Yasna 51-5)                                A “true leader of the lawful ... is a humble intellectual” and as a settler, strengthens the world with righteousness by his proper actions.

**Song 2**  
(Yasna 29)                                    He is chosen by a world suffering under injustice to render it rehabilitated and lead it to true civilization. He is chosen based on his righteousness and his commitment to wisdom.

The material for this section, “Qualities of a good leader in the Gathas” has been obtained and copied almost in entirety word by word from Dr. A. Jafarey, [www.Zoroastrian.org](http://www.Zoroastrian.org), and with help from Mr. Firdosh Mehta.