



Zoroastrianism & the Gathas

The faravahar, a winged human, from a bas relief at Persepolis. This has become a national symbol for Iran & Zoroastrianism.

The Gathas (usually dated to the 500s BC) describe a single all-powerful main Deity (along with numerous lower ones), and a simple religion stripped of emphasis on rituals and animal sacrifices. People are encouraged to choose good instead of evil.

Song 3:

1. Now I shall speak to those who wish to hear of the two principles, which are of importance even to the wise. I shall also, with reverence for good mind and the good consideration of righteousness, have praises for the Lord, so that you may see brilliant happiness.
2. Hear the best with your ears and ponder with a bright mind. Then each man and woman, for his or her self, select either of the two. Awaken to this Doctrine of ours before the Great Event of Choice ushers in.
3. Now, the two foremost mentalities, known to be imaginary twins, are the better and the bad in thoughts, words, and deeds. Of these the beneficent choose correctly, but not so the maleficent.

Song 8:

2. Moreover, may the best of blessings come to the person who gives blessings to others. Wise One, may his knowledge grow throughout the days of his long life of joy, through Your most progressive mentality, the wondrous wisdom of good mind which You created by means of righteousness.
4. Wise One, I realize You to be powerful and progressive because You help with Your own hand. You give rewards to both the wrongful and the righteous by means of the warmth of Your fire which is mighty through righteousness, and through which strength of good mind comes to me.
5. I realized You, God Wise, to be progressive when I saw You at the birth of life, and found that You have ordained that actions and words should have consequences: bad for the bad, and good for the good. It shall be so through Your excellence until the final turn of the creation.