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A few thoughts on [@BoRhapMovie](#)

As a Parsi Zoroastrian I want to make sure folks don't think Freddie's father just came up with the concept of 🙌

“Good thoughts, Good words, and Good deeds”

He says it a few times in the film, while looking directly into Freddie's eyes.

This simple phrase is one of the basic maxims of Zoroastrianism

Humata, Hukhta, Hvarshta in the Avestan language or good thoughts, good words, good deeds.

As kids this is drilled into us as a way to follow our own “righteous path.”

The order matters

Good thoughts - first you think, contemplate, possibly reconsider

Good words - you begin to speak it out loud, in public, to close friends

Good deeds - you then act, because step one and two are complete this then doesn't seem like an insurmountable task.

Here's a great 101 on Zoroastrianism by Vasudha Narayanan, Professor of Religion, University of Florida

“The religion is one of the oldest examples of monotheism, or the belief in one god.”

(Yup - we starts that one god trend 😊)

<https://theconversation.com/amp/freddie-mercurys-family-faith-the-ancient-religion-of-zoroastrianism-105806>

BUT - wait for wait for it ...

the concept of GOOD vs. EVIL // LIGHT vs. DARK - you know the foundation of many

religions and the basis of storytelling both fiction and non-fiction 🙌🙌🙌

THAT WAS US TOO!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/zoroastrian/beliefs/god.shtml>

Good and Evil

In Zoroastrianism, Ahura Mazda has an **adversary** called *Angra Mainyu* (meaning 'destructive spirit'). Angra Mainyu is the originator of death and all that is evil in the world.

Ahura Mazda, who is perfect, abides in Heaven, whereas Angra Mainyu dwells in the depths of Hell. When a person dies they will go to Heaven or Hell depending on their deeds during their lifetime.

It is generally accepted that in the Abrahamic religions, the concepts of Heaven and Hell, as well as the Devil, were heavily influenced by Zoroastrian belief.

I know I know - 🤪🤪🤪🤪🤪🤪

This is a quote from Nietzsche, *Ecce Homo*, "Why I Am a Destiny."

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thus_Spoke_Zarathustra

For what constitutes the tremendous historical uniqueness of that **Persian** is just the opposite of this.

Zarathustra was the first to consider the fight of good and evil the very wheel in the machinery of things: the transposition of morality into the **metaphysical** realm, as a force, cause, and end in itself, is *his* work. [...] Zarathustra created this most calamitous error, morality; consequently, he must also be the first to recognize it. [...] His doctrine, and his alone, posits truthfulness as the highest virtue; this means the opposite of the cowardice of the "idealist" who flees from reality [...]—Am I

As a kid, there was a one-sentence reference in our world religion book on Zoroastrianism - only that it was the first monotheistic religion.

It read like it was a dead faith 🙄 - when in fact it lives and thrives in our popular culture 🤪 we still here!!



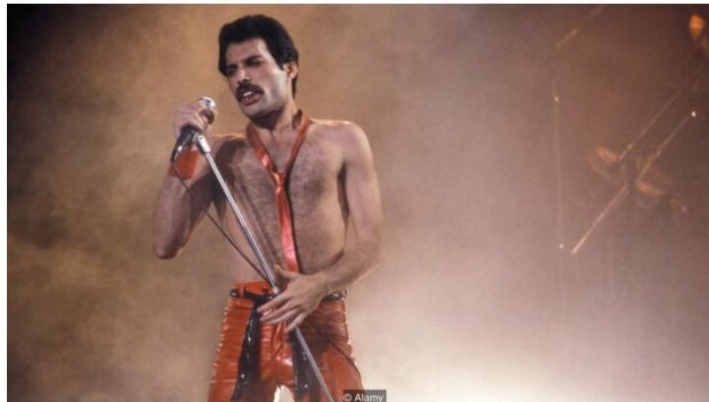


The obscure religion that shaped the West

It has influenced Star Wars and Game of Thrones – and characters as diverse as Voltaire, Nietzsche and Freddie Mercury have cited it as an inspiration. So what is Zoroastrianism?

<https://www.bbc.com/culture/story/20170406-this-obscure-religion-shaped-the-west>

Freddie Mercury and Zadig & Voltaire aside, there are other overt examples of Zoroastrianism's impact on contemporary popular culture in the West. Ahura Mazda served as the namesake for the Mazda car company, as well as the inspiration for the legend of Azor Ahai – a demigod who triumphs over darkness – in George RR Martin's Game of Thrones, as many of its fans discovered last year. As well, one could well argue that the cosmic battle between the Light and Dark sides of the Force in Star Wars has, quite ostensibly, Zoroastrianism written all over it.



Freddie Mercury, the legendary lead singer of Queen, drew inspiration from the Zoroastrian faith of his Persian family (Credit: Alamy)

Which brings me back to [@BoRhapMovie](#)

Seemed like a huge missed opportunity to not thread themes of our faith into the film or at least delve a bit further into Freddie's relationship with his faith.

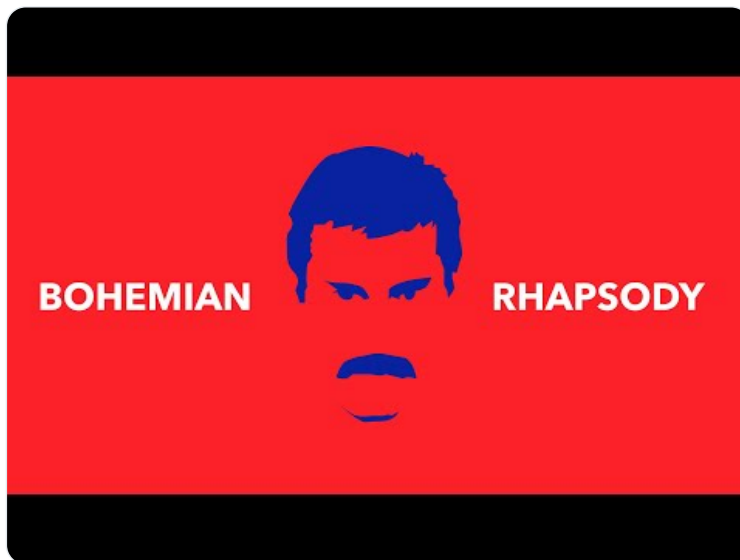
<https://theconversation.com/amp/freddie-mercurys-family-faith-the-ancient-religion-of-zoroastrianism-105806>

Like his ancestors, Freddie Mercury integrated into a new culture. He changed his name, and became a Western pop icon.

Yet through it all, he remained immensely proud of his heritage.

“I think what his Zoroastrian faith gave him,” his sister Kashmira Cooke [explained](#) in 2014, “was to work hard, to persevere, and to follow your dreams.”

I was joking with my cousin yesterday that only a Parsi Zoroastrian kid, who had to grapple with his identity within himself, his family, his faith and his countries could have written the greatest nihilist-rock-operatic banger that is BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY ❤️



<https://www.youtube.com/embed/fJ9rUzIMcZQ>

According to this 2006 NYT article we don't have clear numbers on how many Zoroastrians are left - but I do know there are fewer than 120,000 Parsi Zoroastrians (the ones that settled in Gujarat after fleeing Persia) throughout the world.



Zoroastrians Keep the Faith, and Keep Dwindling

The Zoroastrians fear that they are fighting the extinction of their faith, a religion that scholars say is at least 3,000 years old.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2006/09/06/us/06faith.html>

While Zoroastrians once dominated an area stretching from what is now Rome and Greece to India and Russia, their global population has dwindled to 190,000 at most, and perhaps as few as 124,000, according to a survey in 2004 by Fezana Journal, published quarterly by the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America. The number is imprecise because of wildly diverging counts in Iran, once known as Persia — the incubator of the faith.

“Survival has become a community obsession,” said Dina McIntyre, an Indian-American lawyer in Chesapeake, Va., who has written

So as kids - our faith's eminent extinction is the basis for how we were to orient ourselves to the world.

We had a responsibility to keep the faith alive or we would cease to exist.

(yeah this shit got really heavy for a confused awkward girl growing up in a white suburb)

A self-destructive (I'll get shit for this descriptor by many Parsi Zoroastrian purists) notion we have adopted in trying to remain “pure” is by condemning folks who marry out of the faith and not allowing others to convert into the faith.

This is not in our scriptures.

When I was workin on my thesis film on Paris Zoroastrians (I'm mortified to share this

because it's soooooo bad but fuck it I've grown creatively since this, no shame



Being Zoroastrian

My name is Kainaz Amaria. I was born in Bombay, India and grew up in the SF Bay Area. My family is Zoroastrian and a few years ago I decided to move to Bombay to...

<https://vimeo.com/65067357>

) I remember one priest explaining to me “We’d rather the faith die with us, pure.” 😞

He blamed the decline of the faith to five things ::

1. Women being over educated
2. Women not marrying early enough
3. Women not marrying Parsis
4. Women moving away from Bombay
5. Women not having enough children

Let's sit in the misogyny for a minute.

So guess what happened - I went into a long period of existential depression - alone in Bombay.

Because nothing really mattered to me.

We'll likely never know how Freddie grappled w/ all these things - but my God what a gorgeous soul and voice and life.

Parsis are now filled with pride when they speak of Freddie Mercury - we call him “Appro Farrokh” - or “Our Farrokh” ❤️

RIP FREDDIE - you are loved.



ps - I tried to find the photographer's name for this image but the Internet sucks - so if anyone knows please @ the thread with the image credit. 🙏

* imminent (English is my second language 😊)

A little intel on the image 🙌🙌🙌

(FWIW, the picture you posted of him, I think, was taken at the Musicland Studios, in Munich, during the making of "Kind of Magic", in 1985... but I don't know who took it).

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