



# Humanity's place in the universe

By BBC Team

## Humanity in Zoroastrianism

Zoroastrian beliefs can best be summed up by the maxim:

Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds

Zoroastrians try to live their daily lives by this creed.

At the age of seven, Zoroastrians are given a sudreh (shirt) and kusti (cord) as part of an initiation ceremony. These garments are considered sacred. They tie the kusti around the sudreh three times to remind themselves of 'Good Words, Good Thoughts, and Good Deeds'.

From then on, Zoroastrians traditionally perform this ritual with prayers several times a day.

## Family and community

Zoroastrianism is a home and community oriented religion. There is no tradition of monasticism or celibacy. Zoroaster himself was a family man and most worship happens in the family home.

Zoroastrianism is also about action. Zoroastrians work towards improving the local community and society in general. They tend to give generously to charities and are often behind educational and social initiatives. The Parsi community in India is particularly known for its industrious contributions to Indian society.

## Man and God

Unlike some religions where man is God's child or servant, in Zoroastrianism man is considered more as God's helper. Through man's positive choices, evil will be eradicated and God's Paradise on Earth will be established.

Men and women, rich and poor, and young and old are all seen as equal. One only surpasses the other through their righteousness.

## Related Links

### External Web Links

- [avesta.org - Kusti ritual](http://www.avesta.org/ritual/ritualk.htm) - <http://www.avesta.org/ritual/ritualk.htm>