ZOROASTRIANISM

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The most recognizable symbol of <u>Zoroastrianism is the **Faravahar**</u>, also known as the **Foruhar** or the **Farre Kiyâni**. While interpretations vary, it generally carries these core meanings:

- Good Thoughts, Words, and Deeds: The central figure represents the ideal human striving for these principles.
- **Duality:** The two wings and loops symbolize the opposing forces of good (Spenta Mainyu) and evil (Angra Mainyu). The figure faces good, emphasizing choosing the right path.
- **Eternity:** The circular base represents the never-ending cycle of time and the ever-present nature of these choices.
- **Divine Connection:** The raised hand could symbolize reaching for Ahura Mazda, the Zoroastrian God.

Beyond these core meanings, the Faravahar can also represent:

- Fravashi: In Zoroastrianism, the spiritual essence of an individual.
- **Royal Power:** Historically, the <u>symbol</u> appeared on royal objects and continues to hold cultural significance in Iran.