

LEGEND AND FOLKLORE SYMBOLS:

AMESHA SPENTAS

The Archangels of Persian mythology, these seven immortal beings belong to the retinue of the highest divinity, Ahura Mazda.

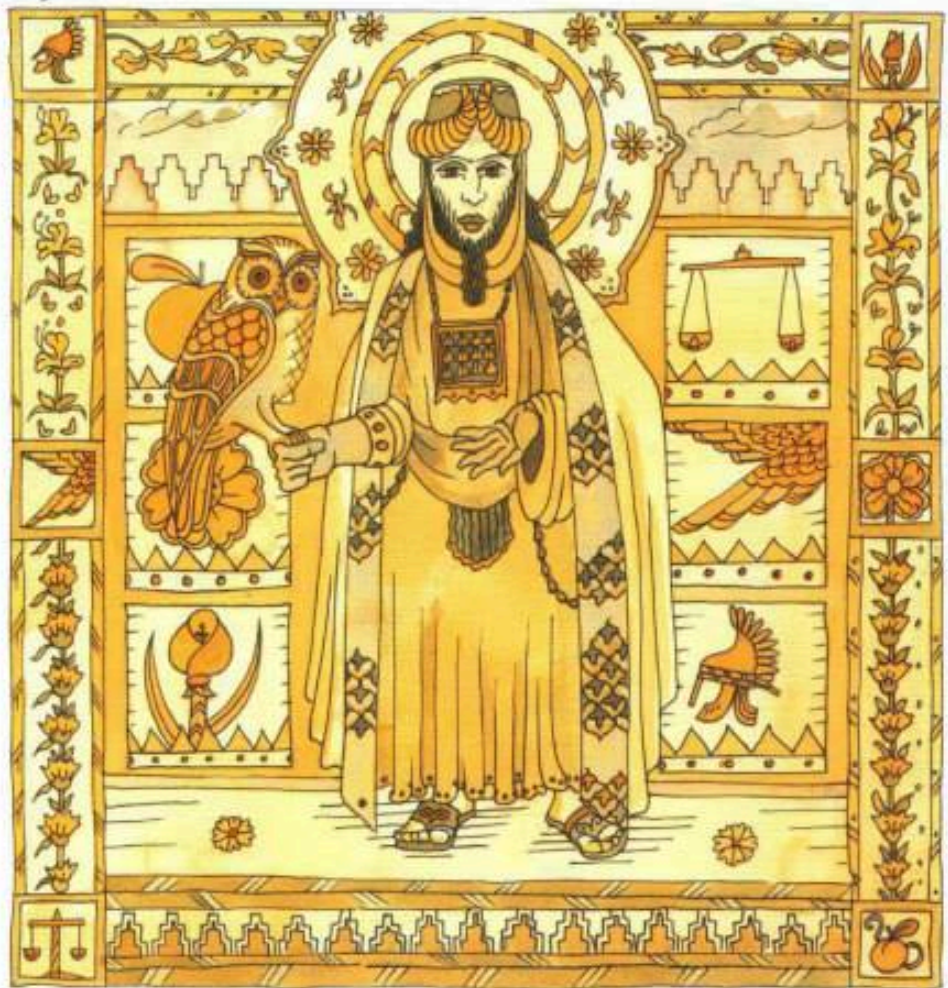
The Amesha Spentas are seven divine beings belonging to the Persian pantheon of immortals. They are described as divine, but they are not gods and their role is to uphold truth and justice on Earth.

In Zoroastrianism, the Amesha Spentas are thought of as aspects of the highest god (Ahura Mazda), who bring blessings and comfort to mortals. They are: Ameretat, whose name means 'living'; Armaiti, meaning 'beneficent devotion'; Asha Vahishta, 'excellent order'; Haurvatat, 'wholeness'; Khshathra Vairya, 'desirable dominion'; Vohu Manah, 'good sense'; and Sraosa, who is the messenger of Ahura Mazda.

Angels and demons

Each member of the Amesha Spentas personifies a virtue, brings gifts to mortals and has a period of time dedicated to them. However, they also have eternal opponents and must constantly keep at bay the Daevas, seven terrifying Archdemons.


Vohu Manah is one of the Amesha Spentas and personifies wisdom.



THE SYMBOLISM OF THE PERSIAN ARCHANGELS




The Amesha Spentas contributed to creation and each one presides over a part of it and the gifts it brings to mortals.

 Ameretat ('not dying', 'living') personifies immortality and protects all plant life. The fifth month of the year is dedicated to her. Armaiti ('beneficent devotion') is righteous

Note Amesha Spentas months on your calendar.

obedience and governs fertility and the dead. The fifth day of each month and the 12th month belong to her. Asha Vahishta ('excellent order') personifies truth and moral and physical order. The second month is his.

 The personification of perfection, Haurvatat ('wholeness') is associated with life after death and is the bringer of prosperity and good health. The third

month is dedicated to her. Khshathra Vairya ('desirable dominion') is a protector of the poor and creator of metal; he has a helmet, shield and spear. His is the sixth month. Vohu Manah ('good sense') personifies wisdom and protects animals. He is represented by the cow and the 11th month is his. Sraosa, the messenger, guides souls to the afterlife and the 17th day of the month is his.