



FEZANA Age-Appropriate Lesson Plan

Subject Category (circle one): Religion/Ceremony History Prayer Gathas
Comparative Religion Shahnameh

Age Group (circle one): PreK-k Grades 1-3 Grades 4-5 Grades 6-8 Grades 9-12

Lesson # (if applicable): 2

Subject of the Lesson: **Ahura Mazda**

Introduction:

- In Zoroastrianism, God is called Ahura Mazda which means Lord of Wisdom. Zoroastrians believe that there is only one God. Ahura Mazda is also referred to as Ohrmazd/ Hormazd and even *Ahura Mazda Khodae* as mentioned in the Avesta. Ahura Mazda also has 101 names that represent his many qualities and facets.
- Ahura Mazda is seen as the Creator of all living things, including the seven creations that form the ethical and spiritual structure in Zoroastrianism.
- Ahura Mazda is all knowing, therefore Ahura Mazda is known as the Lord of Wisdom; Wisdom guides us to stay on the path of Asha - Righteousness and Truth
- Ahura Mazda is the divine light and the source of all existence
- Ahura Mazda is Omnipresent
- Ahura Mazda is eternal, he has no beginning and no end
- Ahura Mazda is totally good
- The message of Ahura Mazda was brought to us by Zarathushtra

Material for the teacher:

1. Teacher to develop worksheets related
 - to the key qualities of Ahura Mazda.
 - Match the 101 names to their meanings.
 - *Match the opposite* - for the qualities of good vs. evil.
2. Matching game with 101 names - word to meaning
3. Use Props (Masks – like the sun to represent Ahura Mazda)
4. Books related to stories about who/what is God
5. Game good vs. evil.
6. Pictorial representations of Ahura Mazda's world



Vocabulary:

Ahura Mazda; Hormazd; Ohrmazd; God; Lord of Wisdom; Dadarji; *Ba name Khodae; Khshnaothra Ahurahe Mazdao*; Dadar Hormazd ni Madad; Spenta Mainyu; Anghra Mainyu

Lesson for students:

1. Basic concept of Ahura Mazda
 1. Who is God?
 2. What do we call God in Zoroastrianism? Dadarji?
 3. What does Ahura Mazda (AM) mean - Lord of Wisdom? What is wisdom?
2. Discuss qualities of Ahura Mazda: All Knowing; Totally Good; Creator; Best Friend; Parent (Caregiver); Happy; Immortal / Can't die; Very very powerful
3. Many facets of Ahura Mazda - Where do you see AM?
4. Conversation with Ahura Mazda? - Prayers
5. Introduction to Spenta Mainyu and Anghra Mainyu - Provide simple verses from the Gathas that portray AM
6. Introduction to Ahriman (teacher's discretion)
7. Introduce concept of Jas me Avanghe Mazda - I am a worshipper of Mazda

Activity for Students:

1. Play games (qualities of Ahura Mazda)
2. Interactive discussions (large or small groups), sharing examples, encouraging students to speak
3. Worksheets
4. If you were a God, what would your name be? What would you look like? What are 3 qualities you would possess?
5. Quizzes

Sources: <http://www.heritageinstitute.com/zoroastrianism/overview/index.htm#god>

The Story of Our Religion, Zoroastrianism by Ava Mehta

FEZANA - The Zarathushti Religion - A Basic Text by Shahzadi and Mistree

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