

## **A Partial Overview of Zoroastrian Faith**

(to help guide the contestant with ideas for the short story if needed)

### Some of the main concepts:

- Following the path of Asha or Righteousness
- Using our good mind to make wise decisions- Freedom to choose (Free will)
- Progressive mentality (improving ourselves, help to improve our family, community, country and the living world at large).
- Taking care of environment specially by not polluting air, water, earth and fire.
- Standing up to the wrong-doers in favor of the weak or oppressed.
- Being truthful
- Choosing our leaders based on their ability, wisdom, and righteousness
- We are always faced with choosing two forms of mentality, better or worse. We are encouraged to choose the one that is better and brings prosperity to the living world.
- We make our own destiny by the choices we make.

### Celebrations:

- Nowruz- New Year (Beginning of Spring for Iranians and summer time for Parsis)
- Tirgan- midsummer celebration (splashing water on one another).
- Mehregan- harvest time and sharing of produce
- Yalda- victory of light over dark
- Sadeh- discovery of fire in Shahnameh, warming of the earth and getting ready for Spring

### Gahanbars:

- Gahanbars are six seasonal celebrations during the year.
- People get together, share their food and come together as a community.

### Ahura Mazda “The Great Wise Being” or “Lord of Wisdom”

- Is the creator of the living world
- Is all good
- Is our friend
- Zoroastrians commune with Ahura Mazda in any way they prefer but mostly by praying towards a source of light, commonly, fire. It is a symbol of warmth, light and enlightenment.