

Daena

Daena is a Zoroastrian concept representing insight and revelation, hence "conscience" or "religion." Alternately, *Daena* is considered to be a divinity counted among the yazatas.

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Nomenclature

Daena is a feminine noun which translates to "that which is seen or observed". In *Zoroastrianism: An Introduction to an Ancient Faith*, Peter Clark suggests that the term might also be tied to the Avestan root "deh" or "di-" to gain understanding.^[1]

The Avestan language term – trisyllabic *daēnā* in Gathic Avestan and bisyllabic *dēnā* in Younger Avestan – continues into Middle Persian as *dēn*, which preserves the Avestan meanings. For comparison, it has a Sanskrit cognate *dhénā* which means thought, but thought in its higher and spiritual reaches.^{[2][3]} Remarkably Zen word in Zen Buddhism is also derived from *dhayanā*.

It is thought that the "Daena" of Zoroastrianism is related to Sanskrit 'Dharma', also meaning "the Law".^[4]

In Scripture



Sogdian Deities, a 10th-century line drawing from the Mo-ka-o Caves. The deity on the left is probably a depiction of Daēnā.

The concept of Daena is mentioned in the Gathas, a series of seventeen hymns supposedly written by Zoroaster.^[1] Daena appears both in the Ahunavaiti Gatha^[5] and in the Ushtavaiti Gatha,^[6] where it is written that Daena is somehow affiliated with the reward that the faithful will receive in the afterlife. However, references to Daena in the Gathas are brief, leaving much ambiguity on its nature.

Later Avestan writings, such as the Vendidad, describe the concept of Daena further. The Vendidad portrays Daena as something of a psychopomp, guiding good and pure souls over the Chinvat Bridge to the **House of Song**, Zoroastrian paradise, while the wicked are dragged to the **House of Lies**, a place of punishment. She is described as being finely dressed, and accompanied by dogs.^[7]

Maneckji Dhalla writes in *Zoroastrian Theology* that on the dawn of the fourth day after death "*there appears then to the soul its own daena, or religious conscience in*

the shape of a damsel of unsurpassed beauty the fairest of the fair in the world."^[8]

Daena (din in modern Persian) is the eternal Law, whose order was revealed to humanity through the Mathra-Spenta ("Holy Words"). Daena has been used to mean religion, faith, law, even as a translation for the Hindu and Buddhist term Dharma, often interpreted as "duty" or social order, right conduct, or virtue. The metaphor of the 'path' of Daena is represented in Zoroastrianism by the muslin undershirt Sudra, the 'Good/Holy Path', and the 72-thread Kushti girdle, the "Pathfinder".

See also

-
- Dharma
 - Dīn
 - Dhyāna (disambiguation)
 - Maid of Heaven

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Din (Arabic)

Dīn (Arabic: **دين**, translit. *Dīn*, also anglicized as **Deen**) is an Arabic word with three general senses: judgment, custom, and religion.^[1] It is used by both Arab Muslims and Christians. In Islam, the word refers to the way of life Muslims must adopt to comply with divine law, encompassing beliefs, character and deeds.^[2] The term appears in the Quran 98 times with different connotations, including in the phrase *ṣawm al-din*, generally translated as Day of Judgment.^[3]

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Etymology

The Arabic *dīn* has Semitic cognates, including the Hebrew "dīn" (דִּין), Aramaic *dīnā* (ܕܝܢܐ), Amharic *dañä* (ደንኤ) and Ugaritic *dyn* (𐎢𐎣𐎢𐎠).

The Arabic sense of judgment is commonly derived from the Hebraeo-Aramaic root.^[1] The Hebrew term "דִּין", transliterated as "dīn", means either "law" or "judgement". In the Kabbalah of Judaism, the term can, alongside "Gevurah" (cognate to the Arabic "Jabaarah"), refer to "power" and "judgement".^[4] In ancient Israel, the term featured heavily in administrative and legal proceedings i.e. Bet Din, literally "the house of judgement," the ancient building block of the Jewish legal system.^{[5][6]}

Some scholars such as Nöldeke and Vollers have derived the Arabic sense of religion from the Middle Persian *den* (revelation, religion) connected with the Zoroastrian notion *daena*. Others, like Gaudefroy-Demombynes and Gardet, have found this derivation unconvincing.^[1]

The Arabic sense "custom, usage" has been derived by classical and modern lexicologists from the Arabic verbal forms *dāna* (be indebted) and *dāna li-* (submit to).^[1] Louis Gardet sees the Hebraic and Arabic senses as related through the notions of retribution, debt, obligation, custom, and direction, prompting him to translate *ṣawm al-din* as "the day when God gives a direction to each human being".^[1]

Use in Islam

It has been said that the word *Dīn* appears in as many as 79 verses in the Qur'an,^[7] but because there is no exact English translation of the term, its precise definition has been the subject of some misunderstanding and disagreement. For instance, the term is often translated in parts of the Qur'an as "religion".^[8] However, in the Qur'an itself, the act of submission to God is always referred to as *Dīn* rather than as *Madhhab* (مذهب), which is the Arabic word for "religion."

Some Qur'anic scholars have translated *Dīn* in places as "faith"^[9] Others suggest that the term "has been used in various forms and meanings, e.g., system, power, supremacy, ascendancy, sovereignty or lordship, dominion, law, constitution, mastery, government, realm, decision, definite outcome, reward and punishment. On the other hand, this word is also used in the sense of obedience, submission and allegiance".^[10]



Inscription of Allah in the Hagia Sophia

In addition to the two broad usages referred to so far, of sovereignty on the one hand and submission on the other, others have noted^[11] that the term *Dīn* is also widely used in translations of the Qur'an in a third sense. Most famously in its opening chapter, al-Fāṭiḥah, the term is translated in almost all English translations as "judgment":

“ مَلِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ 1:4

transliterated as "Maliki yawmi **ad-Dīni**," and (usually) translated as "Master of the Day of Judgment". ”

The well-known Islamic scholar, Fazlur Rahman Malik, suggested that *Dīn* is best considered as "the way-to-be-followed". In that interpretation, *Dīn* is the exact correlate of *Shari'a*: "whereas *Shari'a* is the ordaining of the Way and its proper subject is God, *Dīn* is the following of that Way, and its subject is man".^[12] Thus, "if we abstract from the Divine and the human points of reference, *Shari'a* and *Dīn* would be identical as far as the 'Way' and its content are concerned".^[12]

In many hadith, the *din* has been described as a midway lifestyle:

Narrated Abu Huraira, the Prophet said, "Religion (*Dīn*) is very easy and whoever overburdens himself in his religion will not be able to continue in that way. So you should not be extremists, but try to be near to perfection and receive the good tidings that you will be rewarded; and gain strength by worshipping in the mornings, the nights."

— *Sahih al-Bukhari*, 1:2:38, (Fath-ul-Bari, Page 102, Vol 1)

See also

- List of Islamic terms in Arabic
- Sharia
- Christian worldview
- Kabbalah
- Wasatiyyah (Islamic term)

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External links

- [Definition of Deen](#)

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دين

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Arabic

Etymology 1

The “religion” senses are borrowed directly from Middle Persian 𐭌𐭕𐭎 (*dēn*), which is from Avestan 𐬔𐬀𐬢𐬀𐬎𐬌 (*daēnā*), which is possibly from Elamite [script needed] (*dēn*), whereas the “law” and “judgement” senses copy Classical Syriac ܕܝܢܐ (*dīnā*, “judgement”) cognate with Aramaic ܕܝܢܐ (*dīnā*) and Hebrew דִּין (*din*), which is possibly from Akkadian [script needed] (*dēnu*, *dīnu*, “judgement”), ultimately, and possibly donator of Ge'ez ደን (*däyn*, “judgement”). The borrowing has mixed up with the root دين د ي ن (*d-y-n*) of meanings related to increase of financial liabilities.

Pronunciation

- IPA^(key): /diːn/

Noun

دِين (dīn) m (plural أَدْيَان ('adyān))

1. (countable, uncountable) religion, creed, credo, faith, conviction, belief, tenet, rite
2. (uncountable, verbal noun) conformism, conformance, conformity, compliance, fealty, obedience; God-fearingness, godliness, religiosity, devoutness
3. law
4. custom, habit

لَيْسَ هَذَا مِنْ دِينِي وَلَا دَيْدَنِي

laysa hādā min dīnī walā daydanī

This is not according to my habit nor to my wont.

5. judgement

1. (rare) requital, compensation, indemnification
2. (rare) credit, obligation, account

Declension

Declension of noun دِين (dīn)

Derived terms

- دِينِيّ (dīniyy)
- يَوْمُ الدِّينِ (yawmu d-dīni, "day of judgment")
- صَلَاحُ الدِّينِ (ṣalāḥ ad-dīn, "Saladin")
- عِلَاءُ الدِّينِ ('alā' ad-dīn, "Aladdin")

Related terms

- دَبَّان (dayyān)
- دِيَانَة (diyāna)
- دِينِيّ (dīniyy)
- مُتَدَيِّن (mutadayyin)
- مُتَدَيِّنَة (mutadayyina)

Descendants

- → Azerbaijani: din
- → Avar: дин (dīn)
- → Bashkir: дин (dīn)
- → Chechen: дин (dīn)
- → Chuvash: тĕн (tĕn)
- → Crimean Tatar: din
- → Hindi: दीन (dīn)
- → Indonesian: din
- → Kurdish:
 - Northern Kurdish: dîn
 - Central Kurdish: دین (dîn)

- → Kazakh: дін (din)
- → Kyrgyz: дин (din)
- → Malay: din
- → Pashto: دین (din)
- → Persian: دین (din)
- → Ossetian: дин (din)
- → Santali: ᱫᱤᱴᱚᱨ (din)
- → Swahili: dini
- → Tajik: дин (din)
- → Tatar: дин (din)
- → Turkish: din
- → Turkmen: din
- → Uyghur: دىن (din)
- → Urdu: دین (dīn)
- → Uzbek: din

Etymology 2

Denominal of دین (dīn).

Pronunciation

- IPA^(key): /daj.jin/

Adjective

دَیْن • (dayyin)

1. religious, pious, godly, God-fearing, devout

Declension

Declension of adjective دَیْن (dayyin)

Etymology 3

Causative of the verb دَانَ (*dāna*, “to be a debtor”) from the د ي ن (*d-y-n*).

Pronunciation

- IPA^(key): /daj.ja.na/

Verb

دَیْن • (dayyana) II, *non-past* یُدَیْنُ (yudayyinū)

1. to loan, to lend, to advance

Conjugation

Conjugation of دَیْن (form-II sound)

Related terms

- إِدَانَةٌ (ʿidāna)
- إِسْتِدَانَةٌ (istidāna)
- دَائِن (dāʾin)
- دَيْئُونَةٌ (daynūna)
- مُدَان (mudān)
- مَدِين (madīn)
- مُدِين (mudīn)
- مَدْيُون (madyūn)
- مَدْيُونِيَّة (madyūniyya, “indebtedness”)

Etymology 4

From the root د ي ن (d-y-n).

Pronunciation

- IPA^(key): /dajn/
- (Egypt) IPA^(key): /de:n/

Noun

دَيْن • (dayn) m (plural دُيُون (duyūn) or أَدْيُون (ʿadyun) or دِيْنَة (dīna))

1. *verbal noun of* دَانَ (dāna) (*form I*)
2. debt, debit, liability, pecuniary, obligation, financial claim

Declension

Declension of noun دَيْن (dayn)

Etymology 5

See the etymology of the main entry.

Pronunciation

- IPA^(key): /di:.na/

Verb

دِينَ • (dīna) (*form I*)

1. *third-person masculine singular past passive of* دَانَ (dāna)

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