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dictionary

of the  
English  
Language

  


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[guide to the dictionary](#)



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**Zend-A-ves·ta**  (zĕn'də-vĕs tə)

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*n.*  
The Avesta.

[French, from Persian *zandavastā*, from transposition of *Avestā-va-zend*, text and commentary, from Middle Persian *Abestāg u zand* : *abestāg*, text (sense uncertain, possibly from Avestan *\*upastāvaka-*, praise, from *upastaoiti*, he praises : *upa-*, up to, at; see **upo** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *staoiti*, he praises) + *u*, with + *zand*, explanation (from Avestan *zainti-*, knowledge, interpretation; see **gnō-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

**Zend'-A-ves-ta** *ic* (-vēs-tā ĭk) *adj.*

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## Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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