








# WHAT IS ZUISM?



The term “Zuism” derives from the Sumerian word  *zu*, meaning “to know”. Zuism is therefore the “way of knowledge”, the way of knowing the appropriate modality of being human. It is the *gnosis* on how to appropriately stand in-between Heaven ( *An* or *Dingir*) and Earth ( *Ki*), by acting in accordance with the creative word ( *utu*) and the measures ( *me*) represented by the gods ( *dingir*), all constituting the energetic *logos* ( *lil*) of Heaven.

The name “Zuism” has become the most common descriptor for the modern movement of Sumerian-Mesopotamian religion, being the name under which the religion has been recognised by the Icelandic government, since 2013. The Zuist Church of Iceland was founded years before, around 2010, and its history may be further traced back to a group of Icelandic believers who dwelt in Delaware, United States.

Decades before the recognition under Icelandic law, at least since the 1980s, there were already some groups of Sumerian-Mesopotamian religion, mostly small and informal, scattered throughout various countries, mostly Anglo-American countries. The term “Zuism” is synonymous of other descriptors which have been used by these groups, including “Sumerian-Mesopotamian Neopaganism” or “Sumerian-Mesopotamian Reconstructionism”, “Babylonian Neopaganism” or “Babylonian Reconstructionism”, and “Kaldanism” (“way of the Chaldeans”).

Zuism is an international religious movement, which intends to represent all the groups professing Sumerian-Mesopotamian religion. The Zuist organisation that is under the recognition of the Icelandic government, the Zuist Church of Iceland, intends to be a platform for all Zuist believers, and has already established branches in various countries since the mid-2010s. Many people are taking part in the development of Zuism, either within the Zuist Church or outside of it. The articles published by Uligang Ansbrandt, while being generously hosted in a space offered by the Zuist Church, represent an independent — mostly philosophical — point of view within the Zuist movement.

