Proposal to encode the 'Nazar' symbol in Unicode

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1   Introduction

This symbol is proposed for encoding in the 'Miscellaneous Symbols and Pictographs' block in Unicode:

glyph	character name
	NAZAR

The glyph is based upon an image produced by the Wikimedia Commons user 百楽兎, which is available at https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Evil_Eye.svg, and is used in accordance with the license.

2   Description

The NAZAR symbol originated in Turkey and is used as an emblem of protection against the 'evil eye'. The word is derived from Arabic نظر *naẓar* "sight" or "gaze", normalized as *nazar* in translation. It is known commonly in Turkish as *nazar boncuğu* "sight bead", and also as *göz boncuğu* "eye bead" and *gökçe munçuk* "blue bead". It is used in Turkey as well as in regions that were formerly part of the Ottoman Empire, and is therefore used in parts of eastern Europe, the Caucasus, throughout the Middle East, and Iran.

The basic structure of the NAZAR consists of four colored concentric circles. The outer circle is dark blue. Within it is a white circle, which contains a light blue circle. A black circle is placed in the middle of the light blue circle. The top of the outer circle may be pointed in the shape of a teardrop. The symbol may also be drawn such that the circles are more congruent:

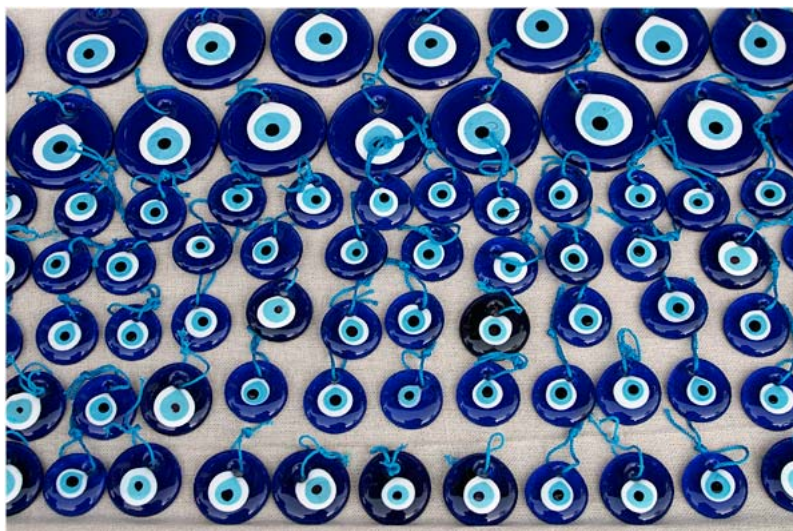| representative glyph	alternate form

Figure 1: An assortment of *nazar boncuğu* amulets.

Figure 2: Various styles of hanging *nazar boncuğu* amulets depicting the NAZAR symbol.