

The Illustrated Book of Signs Symbols

THE ESSENTIAL REFERENCE FOR DECODING SIGNS AND SYMBOLS

The world around us is filled with signs and symbols. Those we have chosen to create, such as alphabets and flags, are universally recognizable, but others, of uncertain and ancient origin, mean different things to different peoples.

Why, for example, is a red rose the flower of love, or a snake a symbol of evil in the West and a sign of wisdom in China? Find the answers to these questions and thousands of others in this comprehensive and stimulating visual guide of signs and symbols. Specially commissioned illustrations and photographs, including artifacts, famous paintings, and sculptures, provide a much-needed visual key to this mysterious language.

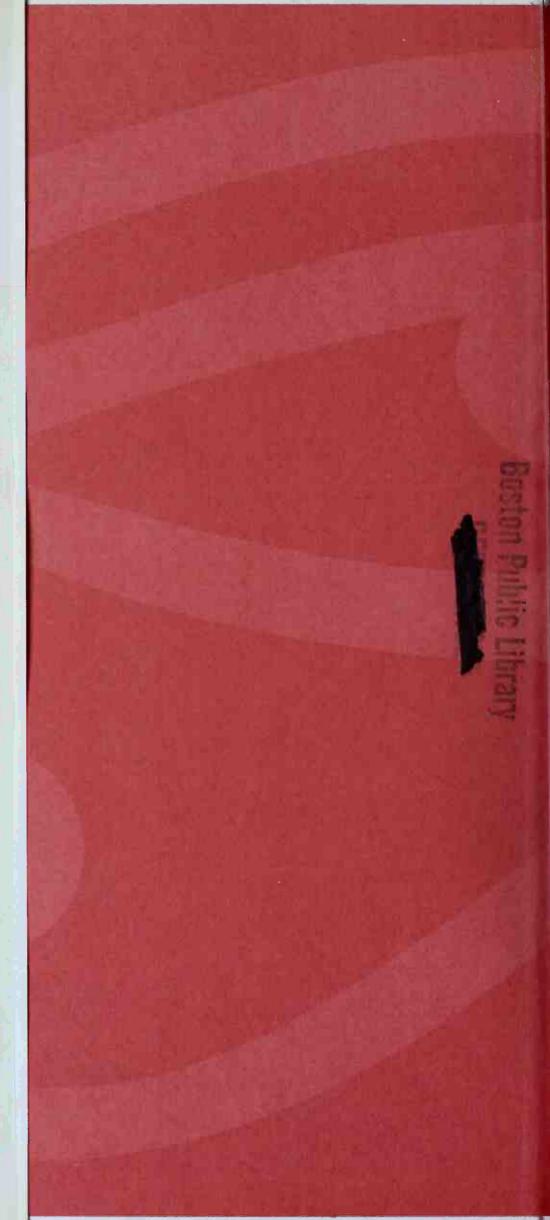
THE ULTIMATE VISUAL CATALOG

Showing thousands of signs and symbols from East and West, The Illustrated Book of Signs & Symbols not only gives the meanings of each, but also explores the symbols' origins in art, religion, literature, psychology, and folklore. For ease of reference the signs and symbols are grouped by category, from flowers and religious symbols to shapes and numbers, and a clear cross-referencing system directs the reader to related signs and symbols. Designed to appeal to readers of all ages, this book is a rich source of into. tion and an indispensable reference book for interpreting and understanding signs and symbols in everyday life.



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The Illustrated Book of

Signs Symbols





The Illustrated Book of

Signs Symbols

Miranda Bruce-Mitford



THE LION AND THE UNICORN TAPESTRY, C. 1500

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EGYPTIAN FUNERARY STELA (DETAIL)



ISLAMIC EYE OF WISDOM



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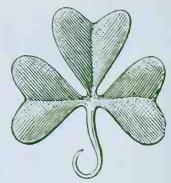
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INTRODUCTION

It is a fundamental part of human nature not only to survive and reproduce, but also to seek explanations for the mysteries of life. Because these mysteries are in fact beyond explanation, we use the language of symbolism to represent them. Whether we live in commercialized societies or communities relatively

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Signs in a familiar context

unchanged by time, we are surrounded by signs, images, and ideas that are often highly symbolic.

Most of us are largely unaware of the meaning and significance – even the presence – of much of this symbolism, and an area of great richness is closed to us. This book sets out to examine the nature of symbolism

and to present, in simple terms, both familiar and unfamiliar symbols.

SIGNS OR SYMBOLS?

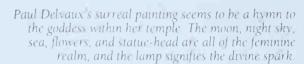
A sign is an object or idea that represents or points to something else in a fairly straightforward way. An advertisement, for example, reminds us of the product it is promoting; a road sign indicates

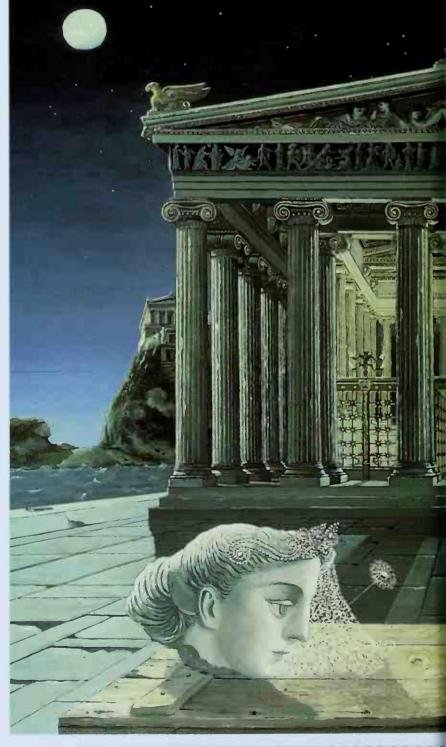
conditions ahead; and a gesture expresses a mood. As the modern world challenges our sense of identity, we often adopt signs to define ourselves, for example by donning badges or brand-name clothing.

Alchemical symbol showing the

serpent of Arabia, the triple sun, and the moon

A symbol is clearly linked in function to a sign, and the two words are often used interchangeably, but symbol generally has a deeper meaning. A symbol is something that through its nature or appearance reflects or represents another thing more profound than itself. A fire, for instance, may symbolize the flames of the sun, which itself has qualities of warmth, light, and creative power, and is thus equated with life force and masculine creative strength. The creator gods of mythology, who possess these very qualities, are usually linked to the sun. On a small scale, objects such as the candle or lamp can be also related to the imagery of the sun. A symbolic image is thus linked to many interpretations.



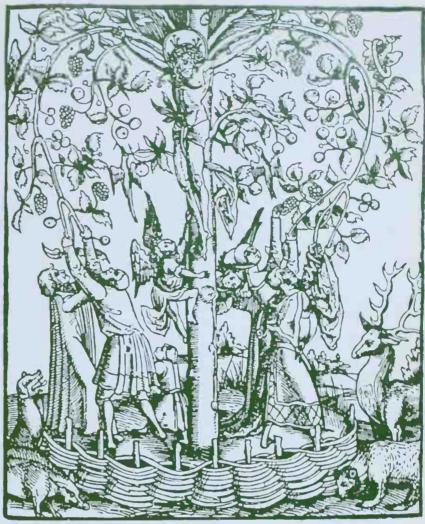


ANCIENT SYMBOLS

Symbols grow in meaning and complexity over hundreds of years, changing according to their cultural context. But the subjects that have preoccupied mankind from the earliest times have remained relatively constant: fertility, both of the soil and of the human race, birth, life, and death.

Like the sun, the symbol of the moon has also always been recognized as significant because of qualities it possesses that relate in some way to deeper truths. The moon controls the tidal waters and passes through stages from new moon to full moon. It is thus symbolic of water, pregnancy, and the cycle of death and birth. Women, sea creatures, the dark, and things of the night all belong to the





Christ's sacrifice bears fruit of redemption for the faithful

sphere of the moon. The Temple, by Delvaux, combines much of this lunar imagery, with the full moon shining down on a mysterious goddess figure.

Animals, birds, and trees all have

their individual associations, as well. A tree may represent life and growth, for example, and the Tree of Life is a symbol the world over. In the 16th-century engraving above, Christ is seen crucified on the Tree of Life, and his crucifixion can be viewed as a symbol of sacrifice. The death or sacrifice of a god or king is a common theme – the shedding of divine blood ensures the well-being of mankind



Explor armonded restrict with state

LOCKED IN COMBAI

Images of two creatures used to

represent opposing forces are widespread. One form, found almost universally, shows a bird of prey doing battle with a serpent, perhaps the most symbolic of all creatures. Here the bird represents the sun and the heavens, while the serpent, which writhes on the ground and m the water, symbolizes the earth and



In Henri Pierre Picou's Homage to Nature, summer revelers take their pleasures at the feet of the goddess



Fate, or Fortuna, presides over the random turning of the wheel

the life-giving waters. The two together represent creation and fertility and the precariously balanced forces of nature.

UNIVERSAL SYMBOLS

The theme of the Goddess, or Earth Mother, permeates world mythology and dates back thousands of years. Clay

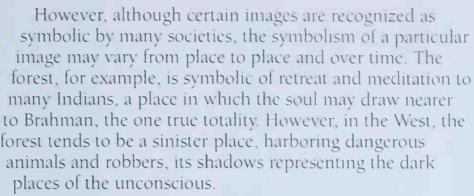
figurines depicting largebreasted women in their nurturing, procreative role have been found dating from as early as 20,000 BC. All human life sprang from this symbolic mother figure and depended on her. The earth itself is regarded as feminine and nurturing because it is fertilized by rain, and life springs from its soil. Perplexed by the random,



15th-century cherub with skull

often cruel, nature of fate, some cultures chose to personify fate in the form of a woman. She is sometimes shown blindfolded to symbolize the arbitrary nature of her decisions.

Along with the randomness of life, the inevitability of death turns up in common symbolic images. These take many forms, from paintings showing a cherub juxtaposed with a human skull, to the more familiar image of sand ebbing out of an hourglass – all stark reminders of the fate that must befall us all.



CATS IN MYTHOLOGY AND THE IMAGINATION

The cat has captured our imaginations from ancient Egyptian times to the present day, although, like the forest, its symbolism has varied enormously. In farming

communities the cat has always been a working animal, used to kill rats and mice, and there has been little mystique surrounding it; however something in the cat's nature and appearance has given it associations with the night, mystery;



In The Cat that Walked by Himselt the cat is "neither a friend nor a servant" to humankind



Tuesday, by Leonora Carrington, combines bizarre, cat-like creatures in a personal dream sequence

and aloofness. Black cats, now considered lucky in many places, were once associated with witchcraft, and cats feature prominently in childrens stories. Both the Cheshire cat from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and

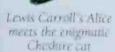
Kipling's Cat that Walked by Himself emanate mockery and enigma

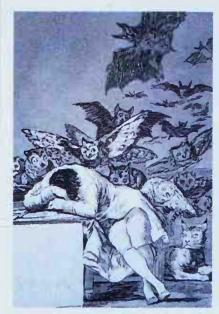
In ancient Egypt cats were worshiped and the cult of Bastet centered around a cat goddess. Images of cats were revered, and domestic cats were mummified at death so that, like people, they could enter an afterlife.

THE SYMBOLISM OF DREAMS

In many parts of the world dream symbolism is treated with respect. Wise men interpret dream images, often thought to be sent by the gods, and people act on these interpretations. In the West however, dreams are nowadays thought to be relatively unimportant, and the urgings of the unconscious mind go largely ignored by most people. The psychologist Sigmund Freud studied the symbolism of dreams and found





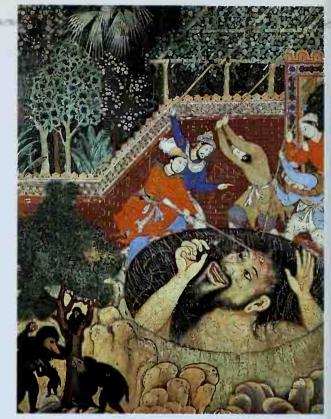


Goya's The Sleep of Reason Produces Monsters shows how daytime fears can produce night-time terrors

much of it to be related to wish-fulfillment. He believed that dreams reflected our deepest desires, often rooted in infancy, and thought many had sexual or erotic overtones. His pupil Carl Jung believed that the symbolism went deeper than the purely sexual to include a spiritual dimension.

Jung was fascinated by the way in which ordinary objects or people appear in strange, often distressing, contexts in people's dreams and sought to understand why. Many images, he believed, appear in our dreams as a direct product of the individual unconscious, which is a highly personal amalgam of memories and

emotions buried deep within us. Often we are not conscious of these impulses and they can only surface in dreams. A hairbrush, for instance, might trigger memories of one's hair being brushed by



In this Indian miniature, men grapple with a giant trapped in a well, representing "the shadow," or base desires we try to bury in the unconscious.

one's mother in childhood, so symbolizing a caring mother; however another individual might have been struck with a hairbrush in childhood, triggering very different associations. In Magritte's painting *The Restless Sleeper*, a figure dreams about a series of mundane and apparently unrelated objects, but they are all somehow linked meaningfully in his unconscious.

Universal subconscious

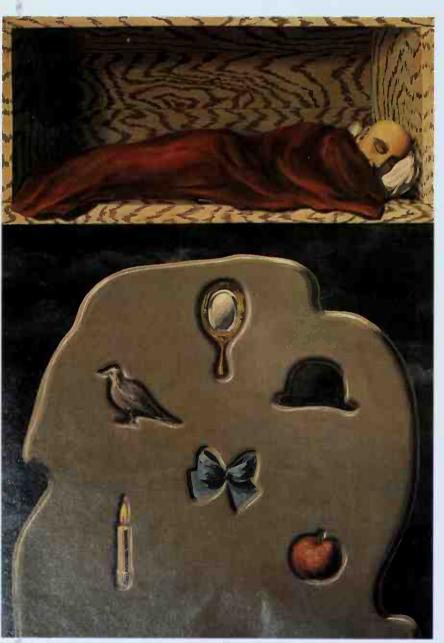
After analyzing the dreams of many patients, Jung concluded that certain images appear as symbols universally and are therefore part of what he called the collective unconscious, built on the cultural experiences and memories of our ancestors. Images of being pursued by a huge monster, of yearning for safety, or of dangers lurking in the dark, are very commonly experienced in dreams in all parts of the world.

Jung termed these universal images "archetypes." There is the "anima," or female principle, which can manifest as the goddess, queen, princess, or witch; and an "animus," or male principle, which could be a god, king, prince, wizard, or demon character. These figures symbolize for us our image of male and female and could represent either an aspect of ourselves, a parent, or a loved one.

Other archetypes include the shadow, embodiment of feelings of guilt or fear, particularly about our hidden and unacknowledged feelings or desires.

MODERN SYMBOLISM

In today's world, symbols retain their power to affect us, although we are perhaps less aware of their effects



The images in Magritte's Restless Sleeper seem disconcertingly simple



Neil Armstrong makes
"a giant leap for mankind"

than in the past. Some symbols have remained constant for centuries, some have evolved new meanings, and yet others are entirely new. One dramatic symbol to have emerged during the course of the twentieth century is the mushrooming cloud of the atomic bomb. This surely is the ultimate image of the great

image of the great shadow of destruction that humankind has

brought upon itself by opening the Pandora's box of knowledge.

A more positive image is the American moon landing from 1969. Witnessed by 600 million people throughout the world, it has become the ultimate symbol of man's indomitable spirit and urge for conquest.



The film star is often literally larger than life

TODAY'S GODS, GODDESSES, AND SUPERHEROES

Some modern fictitious characters assume semi-godlike status similar to that of the ancient Greek heroes. Creations such as Superman are not

thought of as real, yet they embody the classic male archetype of the powerful and heroic force for good. In

righting the wrongs of the world, such figures appeal to an innate need in all of us.

Also appealing to this need are the pop, sports, and film stars who, for some, have largely supplanted the gods of old.
Since the death of "the King" Elvis Presley, for example, his home, Graceland, has become a shrine and place of pilgrimage for millions of devoted followers.

Sports heroes, too, attract a huge following, especially among men. The sense of group identity – and passion – they SUPERMAN

WITH ALY IN KORE A SELLET TO HAVE SOON A COMMAND AND A SELLET TO HAVE SOON A COMMAND A SELLET TO HAVE SOON AS A SELLET TO H

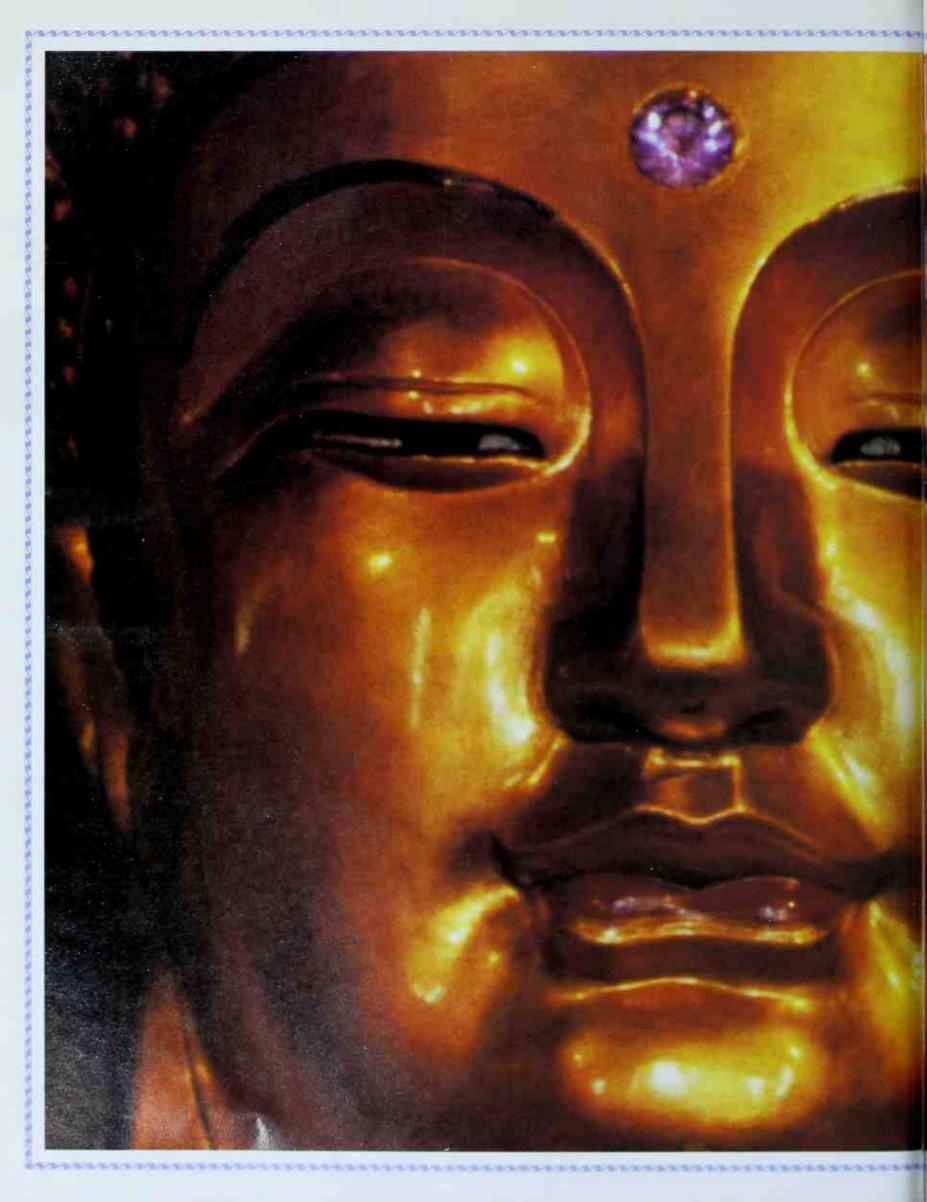
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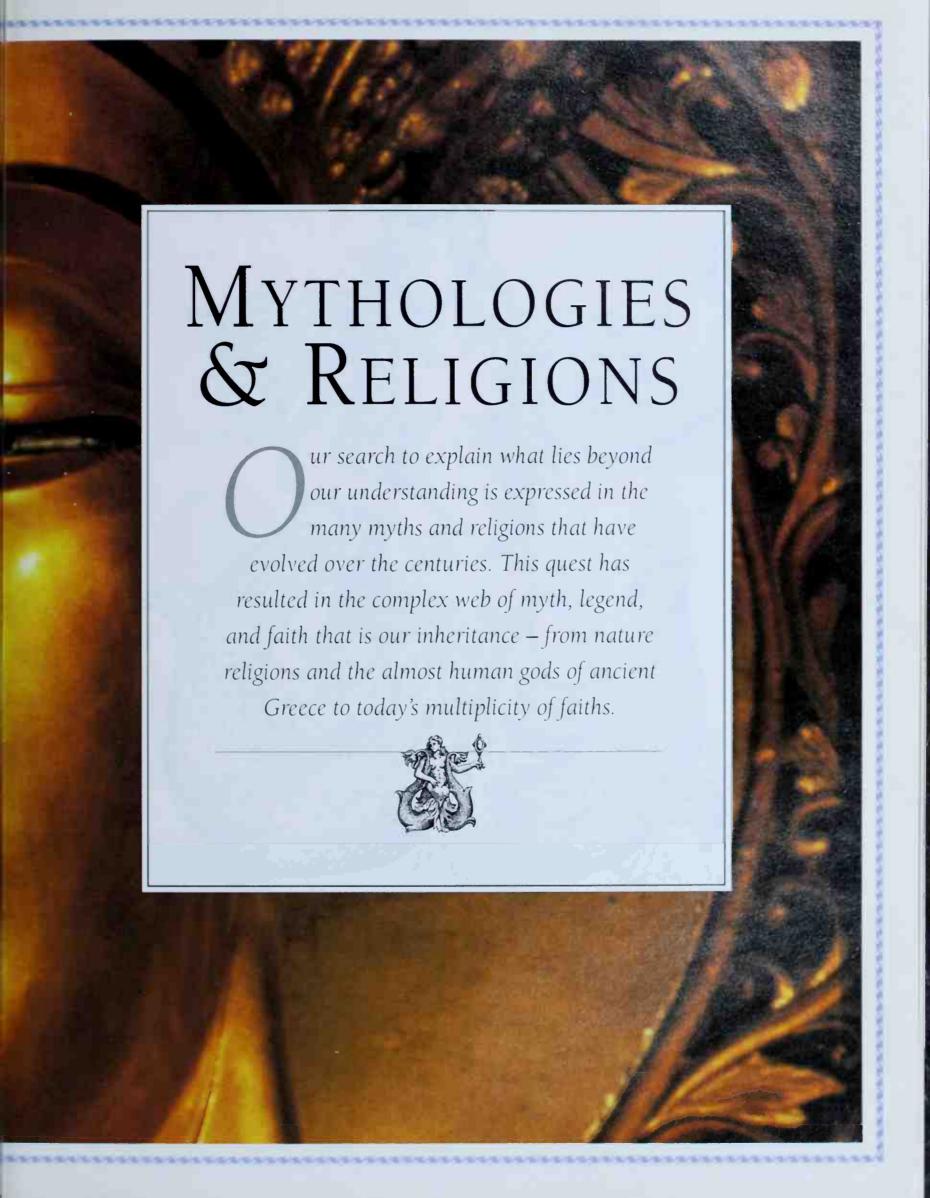
inspire is evident at any football stadium as hordes of fans cheer their heroes on in moments of shared admiration. Similar instinctual urges can be seen at rock concerts when members of the audience strike matches, light lighters, and hold up candles to express

their devotion to their idols. The resultant sea of flickering flames harks back to the symbolism of fire in religions and cultures throughout history



Audiences at rock concerts show their admiration and reverence by holding flames up to their keroes





ANCIENT DEITIES

THE CLASSICAL RELIGIONS of Europe and Egypt no longer exist as belief systems, but their mythology survives. Like modern-day Hinduism, these religions were centered around groups of gods who more or less controlled the lives of humans - and much of human activity involved the worship and placation of those gods. Many of these ancient gods live on in our imagination, and their symbolism has been absorbed into our language,

our music, poetry, and art. It is hardly unusual to hear songwriters pay tribute to Venus, symbol of feminine beauty, or to Cupid's arrow piercing a lover's heart.

EGYPTIAN

Egyptian gods developed from the merging of two earlier cultures, one with gods in human form, and one with animal-shaped gods. Gradually a remarkable religion evolved that centered around the cult of the dead.



Isis and Horus Isis was the mother goddess, a queen, and the sister of Osiris She is shown here suckling her son, Horus. Her crown is in the form of a throne, suggesting that she was originally a personification of the throne of the pharaohs.



Тнотн Depicted variously as an ibis-headed man and a baboon (the two animals sacred to him), Thoth is lord of the moon, lord of time, and reckoner of the years. He is the helper of the dead and protector of Osiris. ruler of the underworld



Originally a powerful fertility god, Osiris was drowned in the Nile River. His body was dismembered and scattered over the Nile valley, ensuring the growth of crops, which sprang from his flesh. He was later restored to life and became a symbol of resurrection, as well as the god of the underworld. He is often depicted in a mummylike posture.



AMUN-RE The creator god, Amun, was merged with Re, the sun god, to form Amun-Re Known as "the hidden one," Amun-Re was the power of the invisible wind and the soul of all things. Even the other gods were unable to penetrate his mysterious nature.



FROS

Known to the Romans

symbol of earthly love. He was the son of

Aphrodite, and carried

a bow and arrows with

which he pierced the

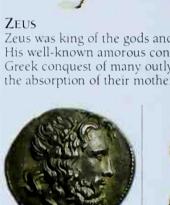
hearts of his victims,

causing them to fall

passionately in love.

as Cupid, Eros was a

ANUBIS Originally the jackalheaded god of the dead, Anubis was supplanted by Osiris. He was nevertheless the protector of the dead, and was often carved on rock tombs.



Apollo, twin brother of Artemis and son of Zeus, was the sun god, and caused the fruits of the earth to ripcn. His arrows were the sun's rays. He was also god of shepherds and





Posedon Brother of Zeus and god of the sea, Poscidon (the Roman Neptune) was symbolic of the power of the waters. Hc carried a trident, symbol of creation, and could protect those at sea



SKY GODDESS, NUT

Nut was the sky goddess of Egyptian mythology and she is often depicted touching the earth with her toes and fingers. The arch of her body represents the arc of heaven. The stars on her body denote the Milky Way, and she is sometimes surrounded by astrological signs. *********************

GREEK

In the second millennium BC, Aegean religion revolved around the cult of the mother goddess, but later the center of civilization moved to the mainland, where the Greeks worshiped divinities who fought, squabbled, and loved, just like humans.



Zeus was king of the gods and god of the skies. His well-known amorous conquests reflect the Greek conquest of many outlying regions, and the absorption of their mother goddess cults.



The daughter of Zeus, goddess of wisdom and learning, but also of warfare (hence her helmct). Often depicted with an owl, she was the patron of Athens - her owl is the

ROMAN

The Romans absorbed elements of all the cultures they came into contact with. They adopted the Greek gods as well as those of other peoples they conquered, and had hundreds of different gods, goddesses, demigods, and spirits – each of which related to virtually every aspect of life. They honored and worshiped the gods in order to safeguard themselves – in this life and the next.



MERCURY, JUPITER, JUNO, APOLLO

Galle Willell and Co. Arrest and

Mercury was the god of commerce. He appeared late in the pantheon, at a time when trade flourished. He is sometimes equated with the Greek god Hermes, messenger of the gods. Here he weighs Trojan against Greek to decide the

Jupiter (the Greek Zeus), Juno, wife of Jupiter and goddess of light, marriage, and childbirth, and Apollo, son of Jupiter.



MINERVA The warlike Minerva

often wears armor
Like her Greek
counterpart Athena,
she represents the arts,
wisdom, and learning



FLORA

Flora was the goddess of spring, the vine, fruit, flowers, and grain, and she symbolized fertifity. Festivals in her honor were often wild events



MARS

The son of Jupiter and Juno, Mars was the much-respected god of war. He is usually depicted with a spear in one hand and a shield in the other. The month of March comes from his name.



BACCHUS

Usualfy depicted as a beautiful youth. Bacchus was the god of wine, and his worship leatured much drunken revefry.

CELTIC

Although the pre-Roman Celts of Europe and the British Isles adopted some of the gods of the conquering Romans, they had their own behefs in a creator god, a mother goddess, and nature gods. A trio of mother or fertility goddesses are sometimes presented together.

Americal dood



CERNUNNOS

The horned god Cernunnos is found throughout the Celtic lands. Here he is shown with antlers surrounded by animals. In his left hand he holds a ram-headed serpent, symbol of fertility

Norse

The Nordic people, who lived in a harsh climate, worshiped gods of the elements and nature. By respecting and honoring the gods, they hoped to exert some control over the fierceness of the weather



ODIN, THOR, FREY This 12th-century tapestry depicts three Norse detics. Odin god of war and intelligence, could transform himself into whatever shape he wanted. Thor was leared as the god of thunder, whose hammer, when thrown, as seed lightning. Frey was a

god of lettil is and birth

SEL ALSO

AMINATE 6

EGIPTIAN TE 74

GRITK/ROMAN T. AV. C. 182

ODIN C. N.

POSEIDON DE ELLIPO ANTA

THE BIRTH OF APHRODITE/VENUS

The name Aphrodite means "born from the foam," and in Greek myth the goddess was said to have appeared from the sea, emerging from a scallop sheft. The image captured the imagination of poets and painters through the ages. English poet Alfred Lord Tennyson wrote of "Aphrodite beautiful, fresh as the foam. Then, as now, Aphrodite symbolized fove and beauty. Her Roman

equivalent, Venus, is equally famous Befow, in Botticelfi's painting, the god of the West Wind is gently blowing the beautiful Venus toward the shore, where a nymph awaits ready to cloak her.





THE FARMAN VESTA SMARKE BUTTORILL C. 1942

JUDAISM

The two triangles symbolize the balance

of the universe

JUDAISM EMERGED IN ABOUT THE 14TH CENTURY BC and has evolved into a strongly monotheistic religion based on a dialogue between God, or Yahweh, and his chosen people, the Jews. The patriarchs of Judaism are the

> ancient leaders Abraham, his son Isaac, and grandson Jacob, whose deeds are recorded in Genesis. the first book of

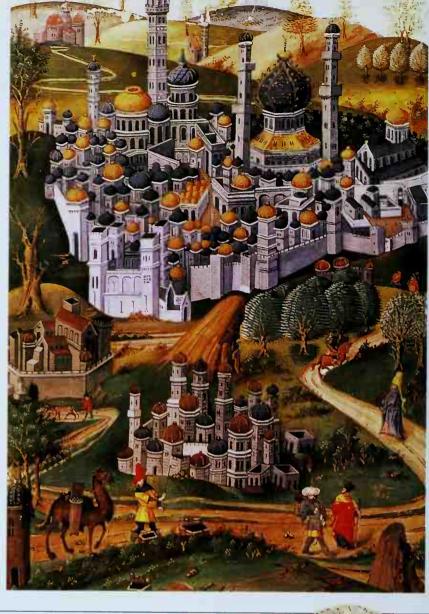
the Bible. Today Jews are scattered throughout the world, but all are linked by a culture centered on Jewish history, law, and family life.

Holy to Judaism, Islam, Servant candle. used to light the

STAR OF DAVID Allied to Jewish mysticism, the star of David is made up of two triangles, the upward-pointing being the sun, fire, and masculine energy; the downward-pointing the moon, water, and female energy

Jerusalem was the capital of the ancient Jewish kingdom and site of the second temple, built 3,000 years ago To Jews the city has come to symbolize the Jewish nation.

MEDIEVAL VIII WOL JERUSALEM





MEZUZAH Traditionally the mezuzah is positioned by the front door. It contains a tiny scroll, or shema with words from the Bible This calls on God's people to love him totally, and sums up the heart of the Jewish faith

HANUKKAH

This 8-armed menorah is used to celebrate Hanukkah, the festival of lights. Candles are lit on 8 consecutive nights to mark the miracle of a day's supply of sacramental oil lasting 8 days, when the eternal light in the temple of Jerusalem was relit in 164 BC

SHOFAR

The shofar horn signals Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, and calls on the Jews to repent their sins before the Day of Atonement. The shofar is made of a ram's horn as a reminder of the animal God gave to Abraham to sacrifice in place of Isaac



JERUSALEM

and Christianity,

Prayer plays an important part in Judaism, both in the synagogue and at home More fervent Jews pray three times a day, and all Jews say prayers on the sabbath. their holy day, which starts at sunset on Friday. The sabbath marks the Israelites liberation from slavery and the forming of a Jewish nation



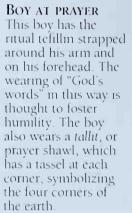
SHAVER PRAYER BOOK

PRAYER BOOK This silver prayer book was probably a Bar Mitzvahi gift, celebrating a boy's official coming of age at thirteen



KIPPAH & TEFILLIN

Male Jews wear a skullcap, or kippah, as a sign of respect for God. The small leather boxes, or tefillin, contain passages from the Torah and are also worn while praying.





WESTERN WALL

This is the only wall that survives from the Temple of Jerusalem, destroyed by the Romans in AD 70. It is a symbol both of the temple itself and of the Jewish nation, and is the most holy place of pilgrimage and worship.



M SES DESCENTING FR. M. MOLNES NAL, AFTER DURE 1865

THE BIRTH OF JEWISH LAW

During the Jewish people's long journey from Egypt, where they had been slaves, God spoke to Moses, their leader, and made a pact, or covenant, with them. His Ten Commandments to the Jews were written in fire on tablets of stone and set out a moral and religious code of conduct for his chosen people



Shank of lamb

recalls lambs

PASSOVER

The Passover festival commemorates the L Exodus of the Jews from Egypt, when the angel of death passed over" the Israelites, spanng their lives. At the Passover seder, or ritual meal, all the foods are symbolic of that

journey

SALTWATER A dish of saltwater

represents the tears shed by the Jews during their long years in captivity represent the

> MAIZAH The flat unleavened matzah bread is caten as a reminder of the haste with which the Israelites fled from Egypt

hilled at the 11 11 Floren of hours regression frenche nd perior wild o halliform in Lope Tea Hora

Fresh lettuce for fruga'

meals eaten in slavery

PASSOVER PLATE

Fee is the symbol

of sacrifice

The seder plate forms the centerpiece of the table in a Palsover meal. It contains portions of all the ceremonal foods that play a part in the tory of the Exod is of the Jews from Leypt

HOLY ARK The Ark of the Covertiwia pertable woodling he t overlaid with gold than contuned the original Toral The ws curred through de cit to the Ten ple in Jenisalem Today Torah scrolls are housed in a symbolic boy and behind a strain in the wall of the strate gar that faces lerusalem.

the tempe t mes at Subb t (TITEOUGO) £211MONEX NYBESC OF SUKKOT The festival of sukkot

127 11

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the spread the ever and the

commemorates the way God provided for the Jews as they wandered in the wilderness on their way to the Promised Land Testive huts are built, and leaves of palms, myrtle and will ow are woven into a luby to symbolic. the tents that gav. them shelter

SEE ALSO

HANCKKAH DE SEVEN TOT JUDAISM ET Commune 18-19 PASSONINE NORMAL PARK 48-40

> SHOFAR FALL RAMOND STAR OF DAVID 60 NAME OF SCHOOL SOME

BIRTHER JEWISH LAW CO. Piciel, Doc-60.

for Elemence

CHRISTIANITY

CHRISTIANITY HAS ITS ROOTS in the Jewish faith and its belief of the Bible prophecies of a Messiah (savior). Christians believe these prophecies were fulfilled in the life of Jesus, who they believe is the Son of God. His teachings, recorded in the gospels of the New Testament, stress brotherly love and compassion, and are rich in symbolic meaning. Since its birth 2,000 years ago the Christian church has split into many denominations, but all Christians are united in the central belief that Christ

died to redeem the sins of the world and that his resurrection offers salvation.



JESUS CHRIST

This modern Russian icon shows Christ blessing in the manner of the Eastern church. The thumb forms a circle with the fourth finger and the middle and index fingers are crossed. This represents Chi and Rho, the first two Greek letters of his name. Icons are seen as embodying spiritual truths.



THE VIRGIN MARY

In the Eastern and Roman Catholic churches Mary, Jesus mother, is worshiped in her own right. She intercedes between man and God, and is often called Mother of God. The cult of Mary is similar to some mother goddess cults, and arose out of the need for a mother figure.

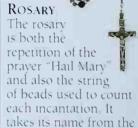


The sacrificial lamb is a symbol of Christ. John the Baptist described him as "the lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world." In this crozier (bishop's crook) the lamb stands for the salvation of the faithful.



Fish

The fish is a symbol of Christ because in Greek the first letters of the five words Jesus Christ, Son of God. Savior, spell fehthus, or fish. Three fishes together represent the Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

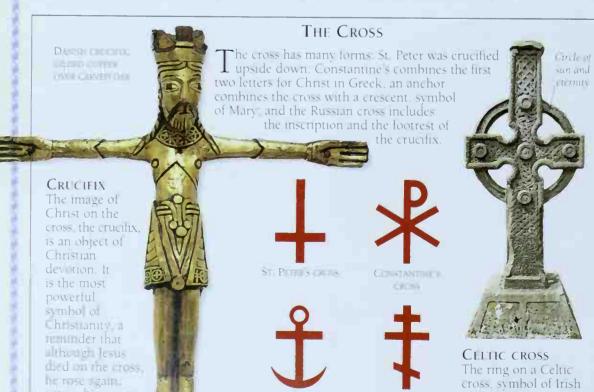


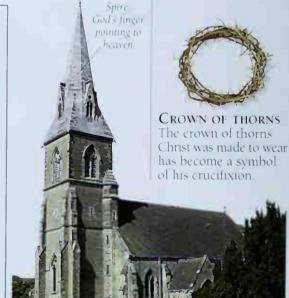


rose, symbol of Mary.

DOVE

John the Baptist saw the Holy Spirit enter Jesus in the form of a dove.





CHURCH

The church refers both to Christian believers and also to a place of worship. The central part of a church, the nave, is named after the Latin for ship, symbol of the church itself

Christianity, stands for the sun and eternity

SAINTS

Christian saints were particularly devout people who lived – and often died – for the Christian cause and have since been canonized

by the church. There are thousands of saints, and many of them are depicted in sculpture and paintings

carrying attributes related to their life or manner of death. St. Francis, for instance, is seen with birds or

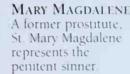
animals, and St. Catherine sometimes carries a wheel.

St. John the Baptist carries his severed head on a platter.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

John the Baptist was the last of the Old Testament prophets and Jesus' first disciple. He foretold the coming of Christ and baptized him. He was beheaded at the wish of Herod's wife and her daughter, Salome, and his head was presented to them on a plate.







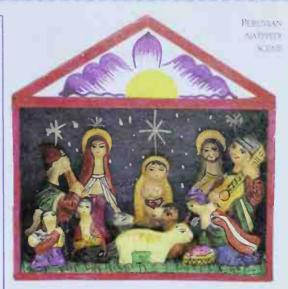
St. Christopher St. Christopher carried a child across a river – the child was Christ, or the world itself. St. Christopher is the patron of travelers.



CATHERINE'S WHEEL St. Catherine died for her Christian behiefs, crucified on four flaming wheels – hence her symbol is the wheel



Francis of Assisi St. Francis embodies punty and simplicity He is said to have orea hed to the birds



NATIVITY

Jesus was born in a stable, and his whole life was lived in simplicity. Such humble beginnings emphasize the spiritual nature of his teachings as opposed to material richness.

COMMUNION

At his last supper with his disciples, Jesus broke bread and poured wine, which he blessed and shared among them, saying that they were his body and blood. By imitating his actions at the

communion service, Christians partake ritually of the body and blood of Christ



BREAD Bread symbolizes the body of Christ. In communion it takes the form of a wafer



WINE
The wine drunk at communion is the blood of Christ, shed

for mankind



Mineral Book of Holle

RELIGIOUS BOOKS

The Bible consists of the Old and the New Testaments, the latter dealing with the life and teachings of Jesus and his apostles. For some, the Bible is the direct word of God, Books of Hours were meditations often on religious themes, for different times of the day

SEE ALSO

JISTS CHRIST TO UHICOM 27 PROBES 11 WHAT 40 ST CHARLES 54; ANCHOR 97

THE VIRGIN MARY CO-THE LANGUAGE OF THE ROSE 51; THE LILY AND CHRISTIANITY 53, 106; STATION TS. 1

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FOUR APOSTIES

The Apostles were sent out by Christ to preach the Gospel St. John (left) one of the writers of the Gospel, carries his book. Next to him. Peter holds the keys to the kingdom of Heaven. Paul holds a sword and a letter, symbolizing his manner of martyrdom and letters to the churches he founded. On the right Mark, like John, holds the Gospel.

HINDUISM

HINDUISM IS THE MAJOR RELIGION OF INDIA. It has evolved over millennia and encompasses a complex range of traditions, religious beliefs, philosophy, and mythology. The roots of Hinduism can be traced to the Aryans, who arrived in India with a pantheon of male gods in the second millennium BC. The indigenous Indus valley peoples already had strong religious beliefs centered on fertility cults and a Mother Goddess. The Aryans adopted many of their beliefs, including the Goddess. All the gods and goddesses of Hinduism, including Brahma (creator), Vishnu (preserver), Shiva (destroyer), and the Goddess are aspects of Brahman, the one eternal principle.



VISHNU

Originally connected with the sun, Vishnu is the preserver of the universe and the embodiment of love, truth, and mercy. To his worshipers he is the supreme being from whom everything emanates. He rides on Garuda, the fabulous bird, or rests on Ananta, the cosmic serpent. Vishnu has been incarnated on earth in nine avatars, or incarnations, some human, some animal. The tenth incarnation, the horse avatar, is yet to come.

An incarnation of Vishnu, Krishna embodies divine love. His adventures are recorded in the Bhagvat Purana. Here he is a naughty child stealing butter



HANUMAN Hanuman, the mighty monkey general of the epic Ramayana, represents loyalty,

religious devotion, and courage



DURGA

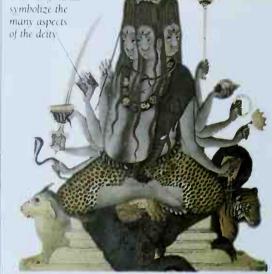
Durga is the ferocious form of the Mother Goddess and wields various weapons in her ten hands. She stands for the more active, destructive aspects of feminine nature



Brahma's four heads face the four

points of the

compass



Originally a mountain god, Shiva, meaning auspicious, is the god of destruction. But, in a world of endless rebirths, destruction precedes creation. He may be worshiped as a linga, or phallic symbol, as an ascetic, as a teacher, or in his form as dancer in the great dance of creation and destruction.



GANESHA

Ganesha overcomes all obstacles and is the god of new ventures. He has the head of an elephant, and so can forge through the thickest jungle. In myth Shiva mistákenly beheaded the god, and only an elephant's head could be found as a replacement.

OM

This is a sacred syllable thought to be the "seed" of all mantras, divine and powerful words or sounds. The sound, pronounced A-U-M, is thought to be the one eternal syllable, in which the past,

present, and future exist.

SWASTIKA

In India the swastika is an auspicious mark worn as jewelry or marked on objects as a symbol of well-being. Counterclockwise swastikas are sometimes considered inauspicious. The symbol, which predates Hinduism, is associated with the sun and the wheel of birth and rebirth, and is an emblem of Vishnu



HOLY MAN

This sadhu, or ascetic, is a follower of Shiva, as indicated by the horizontal lines on his forehead and the buffalo horns on his staff. A Hindu ideal in later life is to live like a holy man.



SACRED COW

The cow is sacred to Hindus, and even the lowliest specimen must not be harmed. Valued for its milk and its dung, which is used as fuel, the cow probably represents Mother Earth.



SHRINE

The household shrine is an important focus of daily *puja*, or worship. This is where the gods are invited, welcomed, and worshiped. Offerings of fresh flowers, fruit, and cooked food are placed before an image of the god, and incense may be burned.



Sensuous nymphs like this are found on temple walls. They personify rain clouds and mists and are associated with fertility and growth.



DIVALE

The fall festival of Divali, the festival of light, is celebrated in honor of Lakshmi, consort of Vishnu and goddess of abundance and good fortune. It also celebrates the return from exile of the hero Rama, an avatar of Vishnu, when lamps were relit all over the kingdom.



HINDUISM

OBJECTS OF WORSHIP

In Hindu worship, or puja, offerings representing and involving the various elements and senses are made in the form of hire, water, sweet-scented air and clarified butter. Ritual objects are used for sprinkling rose water and scent, burning incense, or for other religious purposes.

SCENT SHAKER This ivory scent shaker is shaped like the headily perfumed lotus, symbol of creation.

INCENSE BURNER The incense burner is waved

back and forth in the shrine. Wafting the aroma around welcomes the gods with sweet smells. ROSE-WATER SPRINKLER

The water sprinkler, shaped like a flower, is used to sprinkle rose-water around a shrine in a symbolic purification

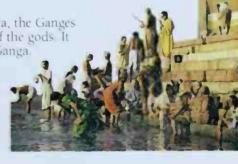




GANGES

The holiest of the rivers of India, the Ganges rises in the Himalayas, home of the gods. It is personified by the goddess Ganga. Pilgrims come to the Ganges to visit holy sites, such as

Benares, birthplace of Shiva To die on the banks of the Ganges and to have one's ashes float away on its current is the best of deaths for a Hindu



The Purana being extracted



VIALEMENT HEP DANA OUT OF KAMACHES VI DESCAPADIO BERNA, 1830

ANCIENT TEXT

The Puranas literally old stories contain traditional Hindu lore told in popular verse. Here the sage Vyasa is milking the Puranas out of Kamadhenu, the cow that grants wishes The Puranas tell of the popular beliefs of Hinduism.

SEE ALSO

SWASTIKA DE SKASIIIKA IIPS

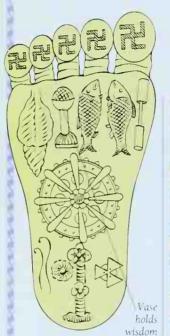
VISHNUES GARDIN 31 Max 49 Fire 75

BUDDHISM

BUDDHISM IS BASED ON NONVIOLENCE, compassion, and charity. Its goal is Enlightenment, which ends the cycle of birth and rebirth and leads to Nirvana, literally, blowing out, or absorption into the cosmos. Buddhism developed from the teachings of Gautama Buddha, born Prince Siddhartha in northeastern India in the mid-6th century BC. He renounced his worldly

> life in search of an existence free of suffering. When Siddhartha achieved this goal, through meditation and asceticism, he was called the Buddha, or the Enlightened.

> > Mara on elephant





Mara and troops defeated

Rays of enlightenment

FOOTPRINT

The Footprint of the Buddha is marked with 108 auspicious signs. These include the swastika; the mace, symbol of the force that breaks lust; fish, for freedom from all restraint; the flower vase, for supreme intelligence; the conch, for the voice of the Buddha, the wheel of law or life; and the crown of Brahma, for Buddha's supremacy.

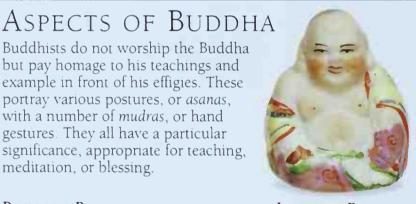


WHEEL OF LAW With his first sermon, the Buddha is said to have set the wheel of dharma, or law, in motion. The wheel therefore, represents the teachings of Buddha, and the eight spokes the Eightfold Path

FOLDING BOOK

Bodhi tree

In Burma books that fold up, called parabaiks, tell the story of the Buddha with words and pictures. From left to right, this parabaik depicts the Buddha on his way to the Bodhi tree where he attained enlightenment: the Buddha meditating and worshiped by the gods; the approach of Mara, the evil spirit, on an elephant, and his defeat; the Buddha radiating enlightenment and being worshiped by gods and creatures.



RECLINING BUDDHA

meditation, or blessing.

After a lifetime of teaching, the Buddha died and entered Nirvana, never to be reborn. This is usually symbolized by the parinirvana asana, in which the Buddha is shown reclining on his

right side

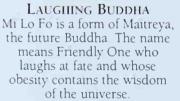
Buddhists do not worship the Buddha

but pay homage to his teachings and

example in front of his effigies. These

portray various postures, or asanas,

with a number of mudras, or hand gestures. They all have a particular significance, appropriate for teaching,



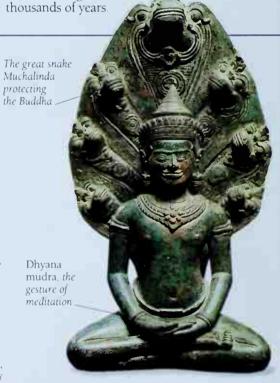




BUDDHA, CONFUCIUS, AND LAO TZU, WANG SHU-KU, 18TH CENTURY

THREE GREAT TRUTHS

The great Chinese sages Confucius and Lao Tzu, founder of Taoism, welcome in their midst the infant Buddha, symbolically representing the acceptance of Buddhism in China during the 4th century. Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism are known as the Three Great Truths, and together have molded Chinese thought over



BUDDHA MUCHALINDA

While the Buddha was engaged in deep meditation there was a violent storm and torrential rain. The great serpent Muchalinda raised the Holy One onto his coils and protected him from the rain with his many hoods.

SHRINE AT BUDDHIST TEMPLE, WIMBLEDON, LONDON

SHRINE

This Buddhist shrine shows Buddha images surrounded by candles and incense, both part of the act of devotion in Buddhism, as in other religions. The light produced is the light of the doctrine and the smoke from the incense wafts the truth of the doctrine toward the devotees, carrying their devotions into the heavens.



SHWE ZIGON PAGODA, PAGAN, BURMA, 11th CENTURY

BURMESE PAGODA

Pagoda finial

enlightenment

represents

Pagodas are *stupas*, which were originally burial mounds erected over the remains of important men in India. After the Buddha's death his ashes were divided and placed within stupas, and later his few possessions were similarly enshrined. Stupas act as a symbol of the Buddha's entry into Nirvana and a reminder to all of the possibility of enlightenment. In Burma, as in China, the stupa is known as a pagoda.



BUDDHISM

SACRED SYMBOLS
This architectural
motif combines sacred
symbols that stand for
the Eightfold Path and
also figure on the
Footprint of the
Buddha



CHORTEN
A miniature shrine, this Tibetan silver box with mystic symbols is worn to keep evil spirits at bay. It holds a a tablet molded from the ashes of a lama.



BODHISATTVA

According to one school of Buddhism, Bodhisattvas are enlightened beings who put off Nirvana to assist others to enlightenment – the ultimate act of compassion. Avalokiteshvara, the Bodhisattva of compassion, is shown here with eleven heads and a thousand arms, so he can reach out to all conscious beings. Each hand holds an object that symbolizes an attribute of the Buddha

S THE SERVICE OF THE

SEE ALSO

powered by windmills

PRAYER WHEEL

large wheels are

Mantras, or sacred verses, are inscribed on

prayer wheels Each rotation of the cylinder stands for one recitation of the mantra. Some

BUDDHA 63° BODHI TREE 45, LOTUS 52, EARS 73

CONFLORES 27

FOOTPRINT 68: SWASTIKA 21, 105, BRAIIMA 20, CONCH 55

TAOISM 68*
CHINEST LANDSCAPE 27,
BOW AND ARROW 91

BUDDHIST MONKS

The Buddha established the sangha, or monastic order, so that people could devote themselves to his teachings. The majority of Buddhists think that enlightenment can only be attained by following the monastic, meditative life – free from distractions – on the path to complete awareness.



STUNE CARVING, ANANDA TEMPLE, PAGAN, BURMA, 11th CENTURY



KOYASAN MONK This monk from Japan holds the traditional alms bowl in which people place food as an act of merit. The bowl is thus a symbolic receptacle for

THAI MONK

gathering good

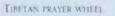
deeds.

A Thai monk sits in the window of a monastic building. He is probably studying sutras, Buddhist texts that young monks have to master.

THE GREAT DEPARTURE

Prince Siddhartha, the future Buddha, leaves the palace (left), having renounced worldly life and determined on a life of meditation and asceticism. This Burmese boy (right) symbolically reenacts the momentous scene before donning monk's robes and entering a monastery as a novice monk.





ISLAM

ISLAM IS THE FAITH of about one-fifth of the world's population. It is based on the revelations uttered by the Prophet Mohammed who lived in Arabia (c. AD 570-632). These were later recorded in the volume called the Koran. Followers of Islam are Muslims. Like Jews and Christians, they worship one god, whom they call Allah, and they see their faith as an act of surrender to the will of Allah. Actions of devout Muslims are dictated by the Five Pillars, which call upon the faithful to declare their faith publicly, pray five times a day, give alms, fast during the month of Ramadan, and make a pilgrimage to Mecca.



ASCENT OF PROPHET MOHAMMED TO HEAVEN, AGA MIRAK, 16TH CENTURY

STAR & CRESCENT

Thought originally to have signified the waxing moon, and once associated with the goddess Diana, the crescent was adopted as a symbol of Islam in the 14th century. The star, a symbol of sovereignty and divinity, was added later.





In a dream Mohammed was led to heaven by the Archangel Gabriel. His face is veiled, according to Muslim convention, and he rides the halfhuman steed Al Borak, symbol of light and truth.



PRAYER RUG

A Muslim usually performs salat, or prays, on a prayer rug. This 16th-century Ottoman example has Islamic pillars woven into the design.



MUSLIMS AT PRAYER

Adult males pray side by side in the mosque. As they kneel, facing Mecca, they touch their forcheads to the ground and intone the words 'Allah is great," their actions symbolically mirroring their spiritual submission to God

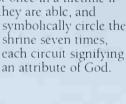
> The cubelike shrine built around the sacred stone, probably a meteorite

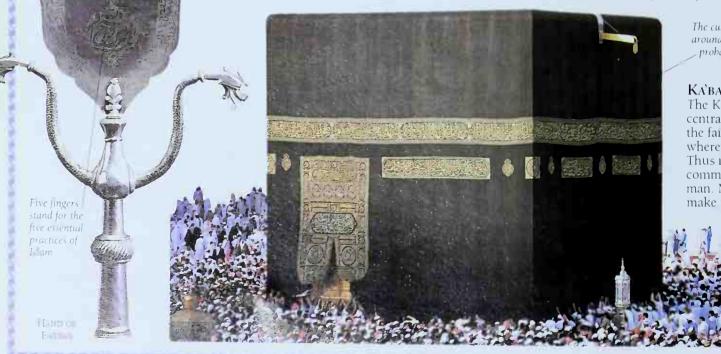
Ka'bah

The Ka'bah in Mecca is the central shrine of Islam, to which the faithful must turn in prayer wherever they are in the world. Thus it acts as a point of communion between God and man. Muslims are enjoined to make the pilgrimage here at

> they are able, and symbolically circle the shrine seven times, each circuit signifying an attribute of God.

least once in a lifetime if





THE KA'BAH, MECCA

Verses from the Koran



COMPASS

Since Muslims need to face Mecca when they pray, they often use a giblah, or special compass, to find the direction. Many modern prayer mats have integral compasses, with an image of the Ka'bah at the center.



MOSQUE LAMP

The interior of a mosque is lit up by lamps. The light of the lamps indicates the presence of the divine within the mosque. It is wisdom and truth and lightens the darkness of ignorance.



Ornamental border to decorate verses



CALLIGRAPHY Beautifully inscribed Koranic verses are used to decorate any number of objects - a symbolic and constant reminder of the word of God, as in this steel plaque.



Some Islamic countries reject the portrayal of living creatures in art because it is thought to challenge the perfection of Allah. As a result, the word itself has been immortalized in art in the form of Koranic texts. Exquisite examples of calligraphy have been produced, one of Islam's greatest contributions to art. They are usually in Arabic, the language of Islam. These texts, often surrounded by beautiful borders and scrollwork, illustrate the authority and truth of the word of God.

The minaret is attached to the

mosque, and from its summit

the muezzin, or crier, calls the

the dawn prayer will be called

faithful to prayer five times a day.

Muslims believe that one morning

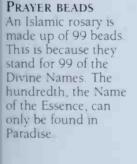
by the Angel of the Resurrection.

MINARET



CERAMIC TILE

The star is a symbol of divinity and supremacy in Islam. Islamic décoration is characterized by the use of ornamented tiles, many of them star-shaped



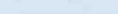
Dome stands for heaven



DOME OF THE ROCK

The Dome of the Rock was erected where the Temple of Solomon once stood in Jerusalem, making the site sacred to Jews, Christians, and Muslims For the Muslims it enshrines the spot to which Mohammed was brought miraculously by the angel Gabriel for his ascent to heaven. Its great dome represents the arc of the heavens and by passing through the arched gateways around it, one symbolically passes into another state of being

·······



SEE ALSO DOME OF THE ROCK EST D ME 95

KORAN DE CHALAR 85 DA R 91

MOHAMMED LT CAME 63

PARADISE CE

GARDE DE CAR ENS F SPAR 42 G AFES 48

> PRAYER RUG DE SACREUR 145 PRAYER HANGING 45,

MALLARET 7)

STAR AND CRESCENT OF PERSONAL TREE AND MODE 34 STAR 78

IIN 102 IS AM LEEN 107

mmm

ANCESTOR & NATURE SPIRITS

IN EVERY PART of the world, at one time or another, there has been a belief that everything in nature possesses a soul or spirit. In such a belief, the spirits of the trees, mountains, crops, rivers, and rocks are ever present, and are honored so that man and nature can exist in harmony. Ancestral

spirits, too, have been central to the faiths of many people, believing that when someone dies, they join the ancestors and watch over the community's links with the past. Some spirits have a protective character and serve to guard a community or individual in times of danger. They may appear on the prow of a boat or on a weapon, and may be very fierce looking in order to frighten away evil or an enemy in battle.

NATIVE AMERICAN

TOTEM POLE,

CANADA



ALASKAN MASK This Alaskan mask represents the essences of various beings. During divination rituals a shaman would wear this to assume the power of the spirits.

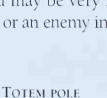


symbolically meet this

young boys

ancestor.

ELEPHANT SPIRIT African masks represent sacred spirits brought to life for rituals. The sacred powers are symbolized by stylized features. This elephant spirit mask from Nigeria represents ugliness.



The totem pole symbolizes the relationship between a tribe or clan and its ancestors. Human and animal ancestor figures are carved on the pole and offerings are made to these sacred figures. This shows respect for the ancestors and solidarity with the clan, all of whom are descended





Australian Aboriginals call the spiritual and natural order of all existence the Dreaming, or Dreamtime. It covers all time, and includes stories of ancestors who created human and animal life. Australian Aboriginals feel at one with nature, and ritual music and art are vital expressions of the spirit essences of the Dreamtime.



Paintings of ancestors are filled in with markings known as rarrk. Australian Aborignals believe these patterns, created by Dreamtime spirits, can release fertility.

Waijara spirit, Wally Mandarrk,

Named Ayers Rock by European Aboriginals, who imbue such sites with

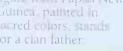


settlers, Uluru is sacred to Australian special powers. They perform rites to acquire this power and also to renew it









ANCESTOR FIGURE

SHINTO

Shinto, which means "Way of the Kami," is the oldest religion in Japan. According to Shinto belief the world is populated by millions of Kami, spirits that inhabit any person, place, or object that possesses strange qualities. Spirits may dwell in rivers, rocks, trees, and animals, and all nature is regarded with awe and respect. In the sixth century Shinto blended with Buddhist philosophy to produce a vast pantheon of gods, including a mixture of nature spirits, guardian deities, and Buddha incarnations.

GOD OF WEALTH A god of abundance and thus fertility, Daikoku grants a good harvest and brings prosperity.



The torii is the gateway to a Shinto shrine. Some shrines may be approached through more than one torii. The ends of the horizontal bars reach toward heaven.



INARI

The white fox is the messenger and symbol of Inari, the Japanese god of crops and wealth. Offerings of soybean curd, believed to be his favorite food, are made to him, and his bib signifies thanks for prayers answered.



VIEW OF MOUNT FUIL, HIROSHIGE, 1853

MOUNT FUJI

The unpredictable nature of volcanoes has evoked feelings of fear and worship in many countries. The many volcanoes of Japan figure in its religion and shrines are often built on their slopes. Japan's Mount Fuji is said to be the most beautiful mountain in the world. It combines the symbolism of heaven, earth, and fire and thus inspires the feelings of awe, danger, and yet peace elicited by nature Mount Fuji embodies the spirit of Japan and is a place of pilgrimage.

Ama Terasu, goddess of the sun, is the supreme Shinto god, and Japan's emperors claim descent from her. Legend says that, angered by the Storm God, she hid in a cave. The other gods tried to lure her out with jewels and a mirror, hung on a tree outside. Fascinated by her own reflection, she emerged toward it, symbolizing the daily emergence of dawn after night.



DESCRIPTION TO HAU DENBUR HOME KOND

OCEAN MONARCH The Chinese Monarch of the Sea personifies the spirit of the oceans Offerings are made to him by seafarers to ensure a safe voyage, as at this temple shrine in Hong Kong.

Confucius

17 DESCENEURY

PURTRAIL OF

remains a great teacher for the Chinese. He propounded a doctrine based on loyalty and duty to parents, clan, and state. By stressing loyalty to clan, he underlined the importance of the ancestors and strengthened ancestral cults, already popular in China. Images of Confucius can be found in many traditional household shrines. especially among the overseas Chinese, reflecting the popular respect accorded to him

Confucius, who lived in the 6th century BC,



CHINESE LANDSCAPE

The inner serenity of Taoist philosophy is expressed in landscape paintings. Such paintings portray not just the features of the land, but the very essence of nature. Often tiny human figures are placed within the landscape, stressing both the insignificance of man against nature and his place within the universe Both Taoist philosophy and

Confucianism have influenced modern Chinese thought Laoism stresses the spiritual order within nature, and Confucianism the moral order within society.

SEE ALSO

CHINESE LANDSCAPE EST THREE GREAT TREETHS 22 BOW AND ARR MY DI. SOUTH KOREA 115

MASKS ET MASKS 77

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THE DREAMING CO CRYS AL 39 KANGAR 63. HAWK 67

MYTHICAL BEASTS

Many fabulous creatures originated in the valleys of the Tigris and the Euphrates, and from there moved both east and west. The phoenix and the many-headed serpent for example, and the image of a great bird with a serpent in its talons, are all found in the iconography of many parts of the world. Mythical beasts that are half animal and half human represent both animal instincts and human intellect. Monsters that are part bird and part land or sea creature take on the symbolic associations of both, representing perhaps the sun and the waters in addition to their own innate symbolism.



UNICORN

The unicorn is pure and incorruptible. In China it represents gentleness, good will, wisdom, and longevity; in Christianity it represents Christ. According to medieval lore, a unicorn's horn was a powerful antidote to poison, but the animal was so wild that no hunter could capture it. Only a virgin could lure a unicorn to her and tame it. Here a unicorn looks into the mirror of truth, representing the wisdom of self-knowledge.



SALAMANDER

A creature of the the salamander is use the ceptaled there reathing fire or surround that it remains a life of surrounding fire of that it remains a symbol representation the fires of temptation.



CENTAUR

With the torso and head of a man above the body of a horse, centaurs combine the instinctual nature of an animal with the judgment and virtue of a man. In Greek myth Chiron, a respected teacher, was a centaur. Centaurs are also a Christian symbol of man torn between good and evil



Ky-lin

This fabulous beast from China generally has the head of a dragon, the mane of a lion, the body of a stag, and the tail of an ox. It is said to appear during the reign of virtuous monarchs and to herald the birth of great people. The Kylin often accompanies Chincse sages and immortals. It is gentle, and symbolizes good will and kindness as well as fertility.



Hydra

Linked to the manyheaded naga of India, the hydra was a nineheaded serpent, sometimes depicted with a doglike body. A formidable foe, if one head were cut off, two more sprang up in its place. In Greek myth it was killed by Hercules. It symbolizes the many problems that obstruct the path to truth.



DOUBLE-HEADED SERPENT

The double-headed serpent is a common image in the Americas and is associated with life-giving rain. It was part of the rites of Tlaloc, Aztec god of the mountains, rain, and springs, to whom children were sacrificed in times of drought.



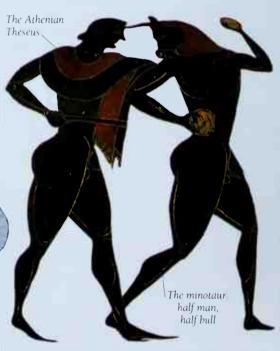
SLEIPNIR

The swiftest of all stallions was Sleipnir, eight-legged mount of Odin, the Teutonic magician-god of war. Sleipnir could overcome all obstacles and gallop across both land and sea. As the mount of the god, he was associated with the power of that god and also symbolized the wind.



LOCH NESS MONSTER

First sighted in the Middle Ages, the Loch Ness Monster allegedly bit a swimmer to death in AD 565. Over the years there have been numerous sightings and countless investigations, and scientists have tried to make sense of these eyewitness accounts. Originally a symbol of danger, Nessie is now a benevolent monster.



MINOTAUR

This creature, with the upper half of a bull, lived in the famous labyrinth of Crete. Every year it devoured seven youths and seven maidens chosen by lot to try to appease it. The hero Theseus decided to challenge the beast and end the reign of terror. The minotaur represents the baser instincts of man.



In India this sea creature is the mount of the sea god Varuna and also of Ganga, goddess of the Ganges. It is part fish and part crocodile or elephant, and is symbolic of the waters of creation. It is often seen in conjunction with solar creatures, the two together representing fertility. The makara also represents the duality of good and evil.



NAGA

The naga is a manyheaded serpent deity found widely in the art and legend of India and Southeast Asia. It may be depicted with human torso and serpent heads or as wholly animal. Nagas control the rains and are in constant conflict with garuda, the bird of the sun. This enmity reflects in myth the real balance between sun and rain, which are both essential for the fertility of the soil



BISHOP FISH

This curious creature, also known as the mitered bishop, has the shaven head of a monk and a large, fishlike body. Legend has it that one of these creatures was captured in the Baltic in 1433 and presented to the King of Poland. Although the king wanted to keep it, he relented when the creature pleaded to be returned to the waters. On being released, the bishop fish made the sign of the cross



HIPPOCAMP

In Greek legend the hippocamp is the mount of Poseidon, drawing his chariot across the oceans It has the body of a fish and the forelegs of a horse, making it symbolic of both the waters and the earth. More familiarly known as a sea horse, n is often used in heraldry to denote a laudable action at sea. In the arms of the City of Belfast it represents overseas trade

MERMAIDS AND SIRENS

Mermaids and sirens appear in the mythology of many countries. A mermaid has the body of a beautiful woman and the tail of a fish. She is a creature of the waters, symbolic of fertility and the unconscious. Sometimes she carries a mirror, which represents truth and the soul. Male equivalents are rarer, although the Tritons of Greek myth - embodying wantonness were mermen. Sirens may appear in two forms: half woman, half bird, or half woman, half fish. In their fish form they can be mistaken for mermaids. They represent

temptation and seduction, the luring of man from his true purpose.



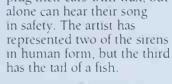
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19TH-CENTURY JAPANESE FIGURINE



THE LURE OF DANGEROUS WOMEN

Ulysses is forewarned that he must beware the sirens of the waters, whose voices have the power to lure men to their deaths. He orders his crew to plug their ears with wax, but to tie him firmly to the ship's mast so that he



TRITON JEWEL

Half man and half fish, Triton was the son of Neptune and may have been a god of seafarers



CARVED FIGUREHEAD

This mermaid graces the

in 1732 for Prince Frederick, son of

stern of a barge designed

King George II of

Protective

mermaid

England

ULYSSES AND THE SIRENS, HERBERT DRAPER, 1905



SIREN FROM ERENCH C1573



HWIL 1590

BASILISK

Usually depicted as a form of serpent, the basilisk can also have the legs and wings of a dragon. In medieval Europe its breath or gaze was believed to be fatal. It is a symbol of death.

The five claws sign by that this garment belonged to the Emperor

The pearl of immeritality.



Combining characteristics of the four elements, earth, air, fire, and water, the dragon symbolizes light and dark, the sun and moon, masculine and feminine, and the unity underlying these opposing forces. The dragon possesses the wings of a bird and the scales of a snake or fish. It breathes fire and often guards a hoard of treasure in its lair. In the East and in pre-Christian Europe the dragon was seen as helpful and kind – indeed, the red dragon is the emblem of Wales – but Christianity, which saw the serpent as a symbol of evil, also viewed the dragon as a creature of ill-omen, representing destructiveness and inner chaos.



VIKING DRAGON In Norse myth the "dread biter," Nidhogg, devoured corpses and gnawed ceaselessly at the roots of the ash tree Yggdrasil, the tree of life. Nidhogg symbolized evil.

Embroidered silk square, worn to denote rank

CHINESE DRAGON A symbol of the Emperor, of male energy, and of fertility, the Chinese dragon is a benign animal and the fifth creature of the Chinese zodiac. It guards the East and represents sunrise, spring, and the rains. Indeed, torrential rain is known as "dragon rain." There are four types of dragons in Chinese legend – dragons of the air, the earth, the water, and the spirit. Dragon dances and dragon boat races are still

popular in China.



it carries what looks

like a pearl – perhaps

the pearl of

immortality

ST. GEORGE AND THE DRAGON Christians equate the dragon with the serpent, the tempter of Eve in the Garden of Eden. The dragon, too, was evil, an embodiment of man's lower nature. By slaying the dragon, the victor overcomes heresy and evil and also his own primitive drives. St. George is patron saint of England, and

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Moth marking n but he win is thought it be protest

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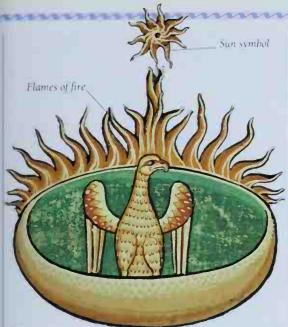
From Cores



The spiraling cloud represents divine assistance

St George, symbol of the triumph of good over evil

Lance symbol of masculinity



PHOENIX

The phoenix, sometimes known as the fire bird, sets itself on fire every one hundred years, dies in the flames, and then rises again from the ashes. It is a universal symbol of immortality, death by fire, the sun, and resurrection. It is also a symbol of gentleness because it lives only on dew, not harming any living creature. In China it represents the empress and, with the dragon, stands for inseparable fellowship. In Mexico the phoenix accompanied the great god Quetzalcoatl, and to early Christians it symbolized Christ



GARUDA

The mount of Vishnu, Garuda is usually portrayed as part man, part eagle, and often has a golden body. It is a huge, noble creature that represents the sun and is a bird of life. The garuda is often shown doing battle with its enemies, the snakes.



KINNARA

Half human and either half bird or half horse, this heavenly musician is part of the celestial chorus surrounding the principal deities in Indian belief. It is an auspicious symbol, sometimes found on temple doorways



This Chinese winged figure, half human, half beast, dates from the Tang dynasty Qitou guarded the burial chamber of a person of high rank.



SPHINX

A popular symbol originating in Egypt and Babylon, the sphinx usually has the body of a lion and a human head. The Greek sphinx was a female monster that devoured passersby who failed to answer her riddle. In different cultures the sphinx symbolizes the ruler, wisdom, and the enigmatic



GRIFFIN

The griffin was a guardian creature with the head, wings, and talons of an eagle and the body of a lion. It was said to be greater than eight hons and stronger than a hundred eagles Sacred to Apollo and Athena, the griffin is a symbol of vigilance, vengeance, and wisdom



HARPY

In Greek mythology the harpy symbolized the most negative, destructive aspects of the female Harpies had the head and breasts of a woman, and the wings and legs of a vulture. They could control the winds, causing storms and whirlpools, and were the agents of sudden death



This fabulous Persian creature, a mixture of peacock, hon, and griffin, also occurs in Russian and Caucasian mythology With magical healing properties, the simurgh symbolizes the union of heaven and earth.

SEE ALSO

CARVED LIGURIHIAD F& E = 72

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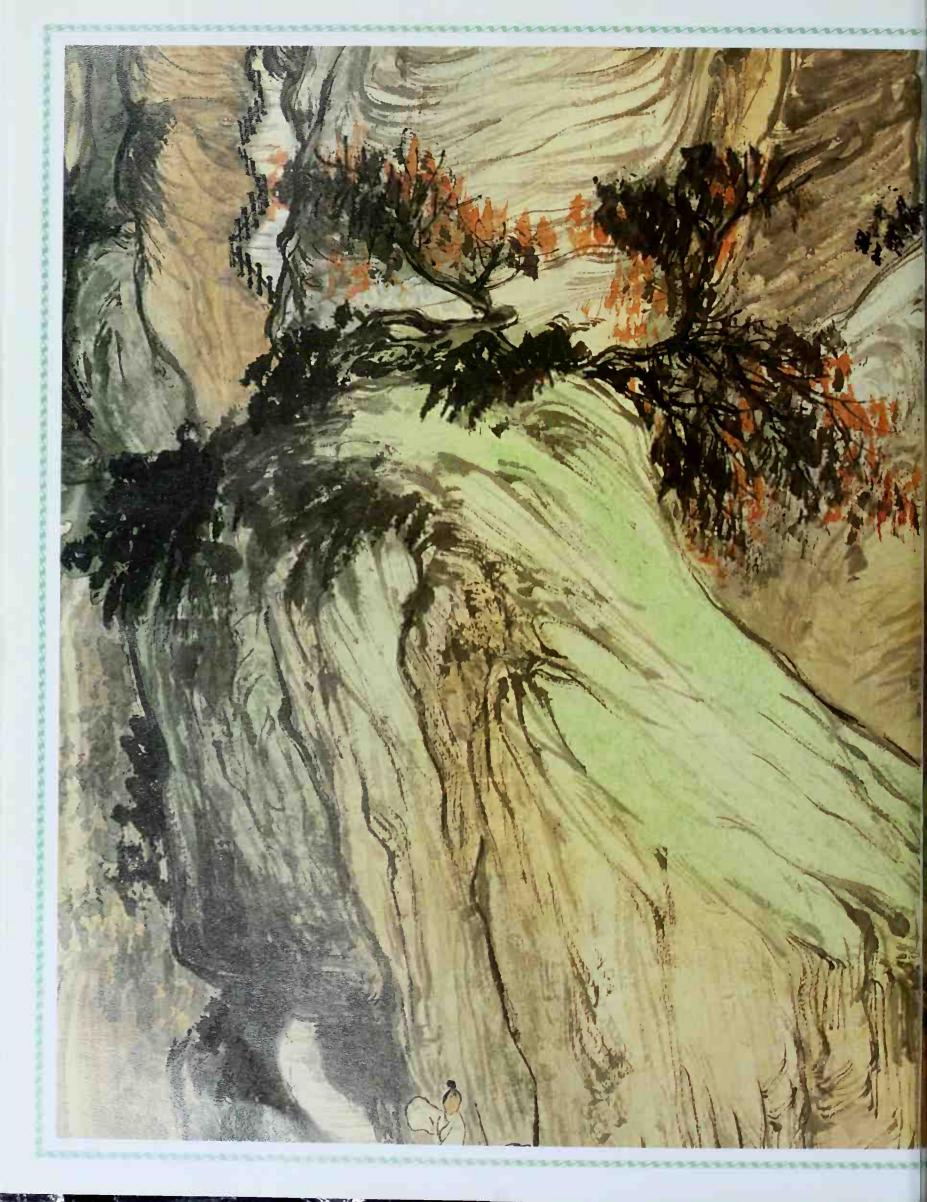
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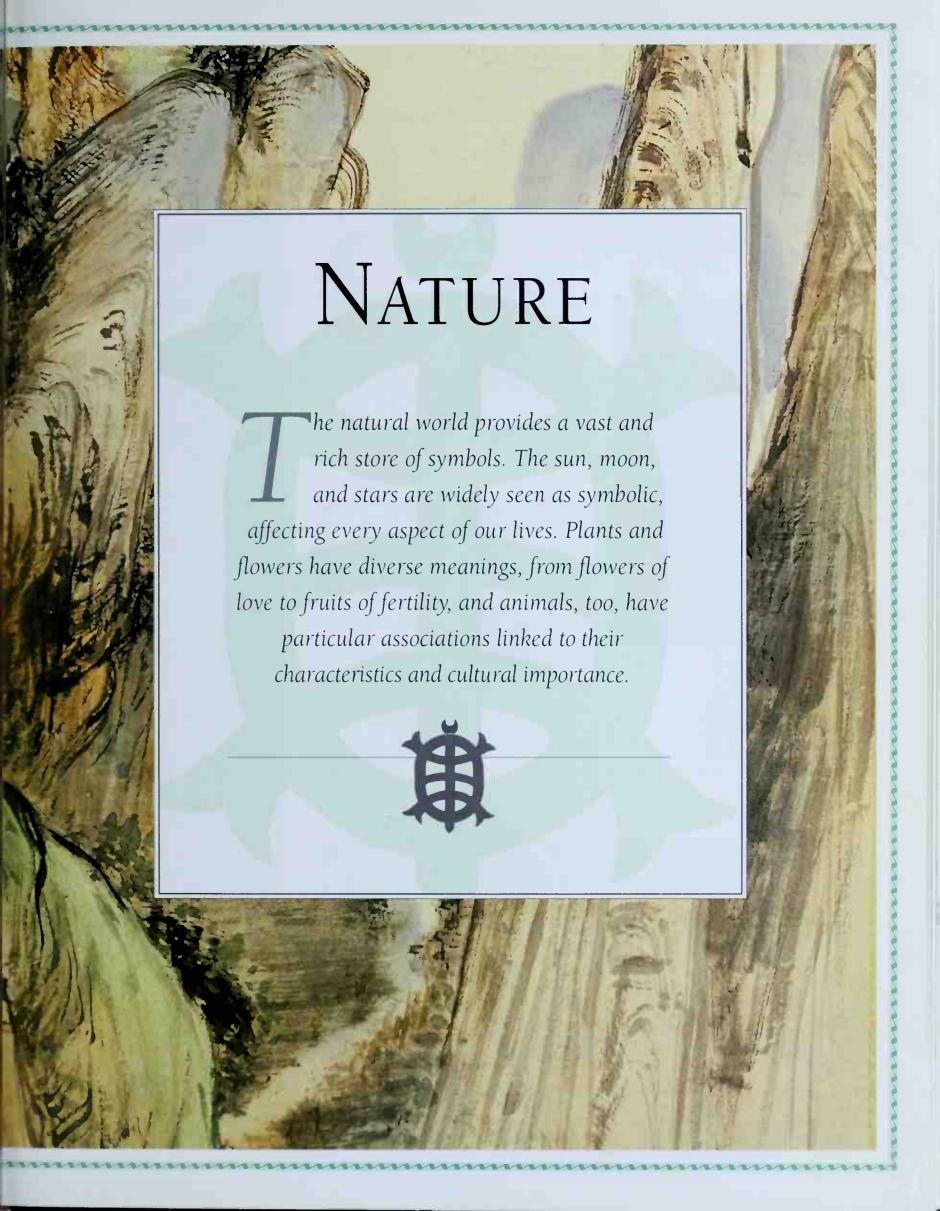
NACA 29 EAGLE 66 HYDRA, NAGA ES

SNAKE 59 MINOTHERES MIZE 105

PHOLNIX UST PHOEN X 108







SUN & MOON

The sun and moon have always played a powerful role in imagery. For many cultures all over the world the sun is the embodiment of male energy, light, and warmth; the moon of female mystery and creation. Both are symbolic of death and rebirth: the sun because of its daily rising and setting; the moon because of its monthly waxing and waning between new moon and full moon. The sun's energy warms the land and ripens crops, while the moon's gravity influences the waters,

controlling the flow of tides.



DIANA AND HER FOLLOWERS, 15TH-CE TURY HANDS IN

MOONSTRUCK MADNESS

It has long been believed that the full moon brings on or aggravates the symptoms of madness. In this painting Diana, the Roman huntress and goddess of the moon, is seated in the clouds above a group of lunatic followers. The word lunatic comes from the Latin *luna*, meaning moon, and originally meant "moonstruck."



CLOCK FACE
The moons on this
19th-century clock link
time to the movements
of the heavens



BAYING AT THE MOON The moon exerts its influence over creatures of the night. When wolves howl at a full moon they reflect the dark or sinister force of the moon.

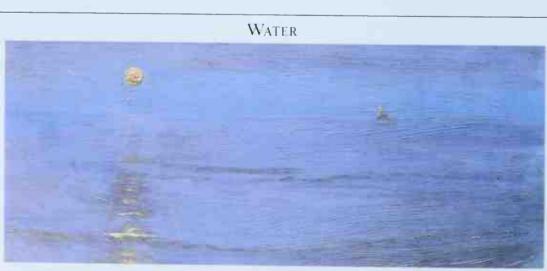


was nailed to the moon

to atone for his sins.



An eclipse of the moon or the sun is regarded by many with fear and seen as a portent of evil. Hindu myth says that an eclipse is caused by the bodiless demon Rahu devouring the moon or sun, which then passes through his neck and back into the sky.



S ME FIEL PETR SEVERN KRIJER 1908

The ceans are governed by the moon, so, like the moon, water has associations with any tery and with the fem nine creative principle. Water is central to many creation myths in which a great flood is a sommer theme. The sea represents the unconscious and infinity, he would be not many creation mythereone are flood is a sommer theme. The sea represents the unconscious and infinity, he would be not many creation mythese are more without all the has emerged and into which it must eventually dissolve.

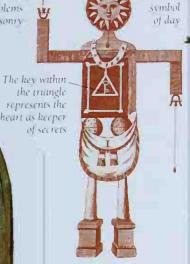


Personification of sun and moon

In this illustration from a 16th-century alchemical treatise, the sun and moon are personified as king and queen. The moon (Diana) wears white, in contrast to the red of her twin brother, the sun (Apollo). The flames beneath the sun's feet reflect alchemists' belief that the sun is the innate fire present in all matter. Diana's foot rests on the moon, of which she is both goddess and symbol.

Sun-head.





FREEMASONRY This sun-headed freemason is made up of the materials of his lodge, with symbols

relating to his order.



FLAG OF JAPAN



FLAG OF URUGUAY

FLAGS

Many countries have adopted the sun as their national emblem. Japan, known as the "land of the rising sun," has a plain red disk, while Uruguay has a more decorative sun face.



Prague known as the Black Sun. In alchemy the black sun, or sol niger, is a symbol of Saturn and stands for the dark, destructive aspect of the sun.



SCARAB

The Egyptian sacred beetle is a form of the sun god Khepri, depicted here in winged form, clasping the solar ball and representing new life.



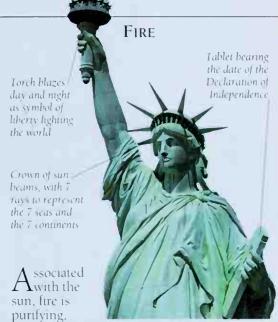
ART DECO MOTH Sunbursts were popular in stained-glass windows and also in steel decoration of the 1920s and 30s, such as the tiered rool of New York's Chrysler Building.



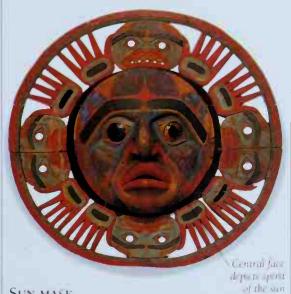
APOLLO

Apollo, Greek god of the sun, is the slayer of darkness. In this mosaic from Corinth his head, surrounded by flames, symbolizes his

> divine nature and the ultimate power of the sun.



destructive, revealing. It is spiritual power and sacrifice, and plays a part in many rituals and religions throughout the world. The Statue of Liberty, with her crown of sun's rays, stands at the entrance to New York harbor. She holds aloft a burning torch, which is a symbol of safety and assurance. The flame was literally a ray of hope to the thousands of homeless who sailed into the harbor



calendar, with a sun motif, shows

CALENDAR STONE

This Aztec stone

the year divided into 18 short months The central position of the sun emphasizes its importance in the agnicultural cycle



SUN MASK

In this Native American spirit mask from northern British Columbia, the face represents the spirit of the sun. It is one of the sky spirits central to its tribe's beliefs



SUN EMBLEM

This emblem on Siena's cathedral in Italy combines the crucilix within the flames of the sun. It was designed as a symbol of peace

SEE ALSO

FLIGS OF ASAN IDEE DEHOROR 115

> FREEMASONRY ES FEMAN 100

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EARTH & SKY

The relationship of the Earth and the SKY is vital for the well-being of humankind, for it is the combination of sun, rain, wind, and soil that brings life, warmth, and nourishment. The sky is symbolic of transcendence and the heavenly realms, and gods of the sky are linked to the masculine power and the creative aspect of the sun. The earth symbolism



SATELLITE PHOTOGRAPH

EARTH FROM SPACE Far from demystifying our view of the heavens, space exploration has heightened our sense of awe at the vastness and magnificence of our world.

VOLCANO

Volcanoes, with their terrifying powers of destruction, have always been sacred and highly symbolic to the people who live in their shadow. An eruption may be interpreted as a sign of the fury of the gods. In parts of Southeast Asia a human sacrifice to a volcano used to be made in an attempt to avert such wrath.

complements that of the sky and represents the Great Mother, receiving fertilizing rain, producing crops, and nourishing animals. Rivers and lakes represent the bountiful properties of the earth and share its feminine, nurturing qualities. Some rivers, such as the Ganges in India, are viewed as sacred.



RIVER

A river is both a symbol of fertility, since it irrigates land, and an image of the neverending flow of time. Its delta represents the merging of the soul with the Absolute. Meandering slowly to the sea, the river can also symbolize a journey into death. Journeys to the Underworld often involve the crossing of a river, and the four rivers of Paradise are a source of power and spiritual nourishment.



RAIN FOREST

The forest is a magical, heroic realm of danger and enchantment, and it can represent the unconscious mind. The forest is either the fearful haunt of spirits, wolves, and goblins, as in European folklore, or a place of seclusion where ascetics pursue spiritual contemplation, as in Indian culture. In the latter part of the 20th century the rain forest has come to represent the vulnerability of our planet, which is rapidly being destroyed by human encroachment.



THE FRUPTION OF VESUVIUS, JACQUES VOLAIRE, LATE 18TH CENTURY



DOME OF ST. PETER'S, ROME

Probably because the sun, stars, and moon are above us in the sky, the sky has always been associated with creator gods and the forces of creation. The domed roofs of cathedrals and mosques are often painted blue to resemble the sky, symbolically reminding the faithful of heaven above.



WAT HY A WATERFA I ZHA . DA AN 1935

WATERFALL.

In Chinese symbolism a waterfall represents the feminine while a mountain or chilf is the masculine Its downward motion is the harmonious counterpart to the upward-striving mountain. Here the tiny figures are deliberately insignificant against the mighty landscape



SNOWFLAKE

Snow represents coldness and hardness in human nature, but the fragile beauty of a snowflake symbolizes truth and wisdom. The snowflake is also a symbol of individuality, since no two are alike

beating his drum. The circle of balls around his head represent

the reverberations of the thunder.

WEATHER

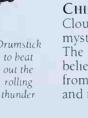
Every culture has had an explanation for the whims of the weather. In folktales personifications such as the North Wind and Jack Frost are blamed for miserable weather, while storms are traditionally attributed to the storm god in China and Japan.



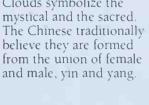
WIND CHERUB This cherub blows the wind, probably to guide a boat on its course across the ocean. Such cherubs were a popular way of representing the winds in Western art.

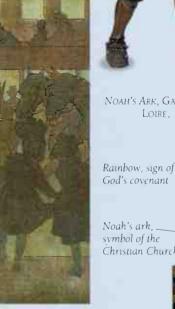


Drumstick to beat



CHINESE CLOUDS Clouds symbolize the





JAPANESE THUNDER

A LONDON FOG, F D BEDFORD, 1902

Fog, like cloud, is a symbol of the mystical and mysterious. It stands for the confusion from which the soul must emerge to attain enlightenment



RAINBOW

In many cultures the rainbow bridges the earth and heaven. It is often seen as a message of hope from the gods. In the Bible God sent a rainbow as a sign of His covenant after the Flood



DESERT

A place of abandonment and desolation, the desert also represents peace and contemplation. In the Bible great events occurred in the desert. The children of Israel sojourned there for 40 years and Christ was tempted in the desert

SEE ALSO

GREAT MOTHER CO

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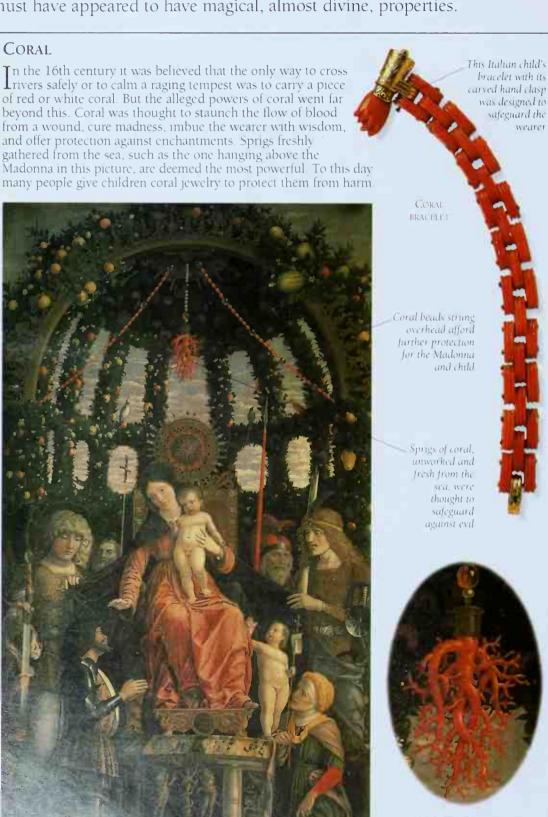
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PRECIOUS MATTER

The world's mountains, lakes, and waters are the repositories of hidden treasures – revealing the unexpected presence of pearls inside craggy oysters or substances such as metals and minerals that can be mined and transformed into objects of extraordinary beauty. In the past, the fascination with these materials stemmed from their colors or brilliance, but durability also played a part. Gold could last forever without tarnishing or corroding, and stones, cut and polished, seemed equally impervious to change. In a fragile, uncertain world, such beauty and permanence must have appeared to have magical, almost divine, properties.



MUMON V RALL AND MAY TEGNA, 1496

A'. NBOKEN BRANCH OF DRAIL, ITS PROTECTIVE LOWERS INTACT

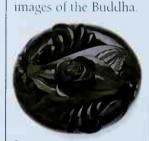


PEARL Prized

Prized in East and West alike, the pearl is a universal symbol of beauty and perfection. It is linked to the realm of the feminine – the moon, chastity, patience, and purity. Chinese dragons are usually portrayed clasping a pearl, symbol of wisdom, immortality, and light. Pearls were once thought to be the tears of the gods.



MOTHER-OF-PEARL. The shelf's symbolism is clear from its name – it is the mother of the much-prized pearl and as such represents fertility and birth. Its luster and indescence make it perfect for honoring the gods. Here, tiny casts have been placed into the shell of this pearl mussel to create



When in direct contact with the skin, jet was believed to become a part of a person's body and soul and to safeguard the wearer. It could protect against poisons, illnesses, and storms. In the 19th century jet became associated with death and mourning, and was worn as a symbol of love for a lost friend.



AMBER
With its bright golden sheen, amber was thought to be congealed sunlight; in ancient Greece it was sacred to the sun god, Apollo. In Norse and Greek myth amber was thought to be tears – for the Vikings it was Freya's tears for Svipdag, and for the Greeks it was tears shed over the death of Phaeton.



IVORY
Because of its color, ivory is a symbol of purity and so is associated with the Virgin; it was a favored material for crucifixes. Ivory is also associated with moral strength. An ivory tower represents detachment from the world, possibly through arrogance or intellectual pursuits.



Linked to the moon because of its color, silver is bright, but also tarnishes, symbolizing the corruptible side of human nature, which needs cleansing. In China silver is the lunar, feminine vin; in Christianity it is purity, chasuty, and eloquence.



COPPER

The power of copper to conduct has made it symbolic of connection. In alchemy it is in the sphere of Venus, and so is linked to warmth and femininity. Among North American tribes. copper denoted status.



Lead's cheapness made it ideal for pilgrims badges commemorating a journey to a saint's shrine. As the heaviest metal, lead symbolizes weight, as well as a



heavy heart or a person

IRON

Iron denotes power. durability and inflexibility to rule with an iron fist is to be harsh and unyielding. In Chinese Egyptian and Islamic belief iron was darkness and evil In Mexican and Minoan cultures it represented male strength



Regarded as the most precious of metals, gold is a symbol of all that has the highest value or is the hardest to attain. The ultimate prize-winners are gold medalists, perfect times are" known as "golden eras," and treasured items as "worth their weight in gold." In most cultures gold is linked to the sun, giver of light, fire, and life. The sun god Apollo, symbol of all that is radiant and beautiful, rode a chariot of gold across the skies.



GOLDEN OFFERING In Thailand worshipers honor Buddha by pressing fine leaves of pure gold onto his image. Over the years, the layers of gold render Buddha's form almost unrecognizable



Crystal symbolizes punty, clarity, and also the mind In Christianity a crystal ball represents the world of the light of God Crystals are widely thought to have magical powers. To Australian aboriginals a crystal is a symbol of the Great Spirit Crystal balls hold secrets of the future, and wearing a crystal is thought to promote health

GOLD FEVER

In the 1850s and '60s

thousands of fortune

as well as positive





HUMAN-SIZED JAR

This Chinese ornamental jar. made of beaten gold, is as tall as

a woman. The detailed scenes

team of goldsmiths more

than a year 10 complete

depicted on its surface took a

ROCK

In the Bible a rock represents the strength and protection of God. It is the symbol of St. Peter. the name Peter coming from the Greek petros, rock. In Greek myth the wicked king of Corinth. Sisyphus was punished by having to push a huge stone up a hill and watch it forever roll down again



LODESTONE

lts magnetic properties imbued lodestone with quasi-sexual powers In ancient Greece it was believed that a man could ensure his wife's faithfulness by placing a lodestone under her pillow while she slept. In Sanskrit the word for lodestone means kisser and in Chinese the word means loving stone



DIAMOND, SYMBOL OF POWER AND WEALTH

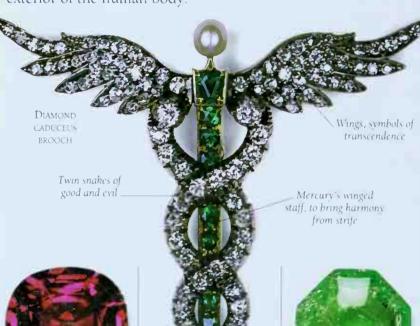
PRECIOUS STONES

FETISHES, AMULETS, AND TALISMANS have played an important part in every culture and continue to do so to this day. From the early Egyptian and South American civilizations to the oldest cultures in the

East, people have imbued stones with supernatural powers. There are stones to control the elements, calm the winds, and still rough seas, and others to work directly on the body, stimulating vital organs or creating a sense of well-being. There are stones for particular days of the week, and stones for the different months. Stones that capture and reflect light, such as moonstones and star sapphires, are deemed to bring good luck. Agates, with central white rings carved into watchful "guardian eyes," can neutralize the power of the evil eye.

THE MEANING OF GEMSTONES

The symbolism of stones varies depending on their color, their form, and the use to which they are put. For example, cut and faceted gemstones symbolize the soul set free from the base exterior of the human body.



In India this is the king of stones and is generally associated with royalty, dignity, zeal, and power. In Burma rubies were thought to confer especially if they were became a part of the body. They then allegedly prevence wounding by peas. swords, or guns. Worn as jewelry rubies may



The most prized as well as the hardest stone the diamond is associated with incorruptibility and invincibility. Its transparency and purity make it also a symbol of constancy and sincerity. Here, diamond snakes entwine a staff of emeralds in a winged caduceus, symbol of medicine as the healing union of opposites



EMERALD

Legend has it that emeralds are found in the nests of griffins. Revered and powerful stones, emeralds are thought to enhance the memory, sharpen the wits, and, when placed under the tongue, help in predicting the future. The emerald has been used as an antidote for poison and a treatment of eye disease, dysentery, and leprosy. Due to its color, the emerald is a symbol of spring, of fertility, and of rain.



LAPIS LAZULI

In Mesopotamia this blue stone symbolized the heavens and so was used to decorate the ceilings of temples. In Egypt it was used to adorn statues of the gods, while in Europe it was viewed as a cure for melancholy and fever. In China it symbolized vision, and was used to cure diseases of the eye.



TOPAZ

This stone was also widely believed to cure poor vision. According to St. Hildegard, the patient had to place a topaz in wine for a period of three days Then, on going to bed, he had to rub his eyes with the moistened stone to effect a cure. In the 15th century topaz was thought to heal plague sores. A Roman physician claimed many successes by touching open sores with a stone that had



At one time, Native Americans used fetishes to help control the forces of nature and to tackle problems in their everyday lives. The fetish did not contain any innate power; its spirit force was given to it by its owner

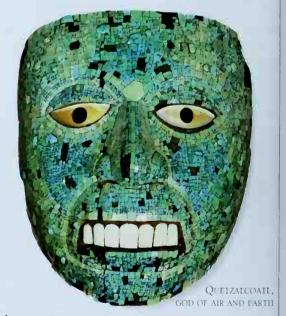


SAPPHIRE

Like lapıs lazuli, sapphire symbolizes the blue of the heavens and also the heavenly attributes of truth, chastity, and contemplation. The star sapphire is a powerful good-luck charm. Its three shafts of light are thought to represent faith, hope, and destiny.



This is the stone of humility, peace of mind, piety, and resignation. It was associated with Bacchus, god of wine, and was thought to cure drunkenness. It became a symbol of sobriety, possibly because water in an amethyst jug looked like wine, but had no intoxicating effect.



AZTEC TURQUOISE MASK

Turquoise was highly valued in Mesoamerica and was often used in representations of gods, or tied to weapons to ensure accuracy. The Aztecs called it the "stone of the gods." In ancient Egypt turquoise was thought to be protective. The stone belonged to two popes. Is symbolic of courage, fulfillment, and success.

BIRTHSTONES



Wearing one's birthstone is thought to be lucky These are the most common birthstones:

CRYSTAL WITH ZODIAC SIGNS

January - Garnet February - Amethyst March - Aquamarine April - Diamond May - Emerald lune - Pearl July - Ruby August - Peridot September – Sapphire October - Opal November – Topaz

December - Turquoise



OPAL

The opal is the national stone of Australia, as symbolized by this brooch. Shakespeare viewed the opal as a symbol of inconstancy, although its Christian associations are fidelity, prayer, and religious fervor. It is generally held to be unlucky (except for October's children), although this belief almost certainly comes from the fact that opal breaks very easily. Jewelers disliked working with it, and their misgivings turned into popular myth.



AGATE

Agate has been thought to cure insomnia, to ensure pleasant dreams, to protect the wearer from danger, and to endow a person with a bold heart. Its popularity has been widespread. In Sudan, agate amulets - black with a white circle to look like an eye were carried as guardian spirits to counter the effects of the evil eye. Black agate stands for courage, vigor, and prosperity; red for long life and spiritual love.



MAORI LUCKY CHARM. HEI TIKI AMULET, THAT KEEPS EVIL SPIRITS AWAY



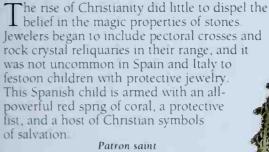
New Year dragons, emblems of good luck

CHINESE DRAGINS

JADE

In China this is the most precious stone, symbolizing purity. perfection, and immortality Bridegrooms give their fiancées jade butterflies to represent their eternal love. Jade is similarly valued by Mesoamerican Indians, who adorn the masks of their gods with it. The Spanish conquistadores believed it healed hip and kidney complaints.

Religion, superstition, and magic



by her patron saint.

Clenched fist The jet hand protects against



LA INFANTA MARA ANA CON SCHAFFON, JUAN PANTOJA DE TA CR. 7, 1602



CORNELIAN

Red stones were thought to be stimulating to the circulatory system and the cornelian was deemed particularly valuable to those timid in speech or weak of voice. In the West it is viewed as a stone of self-confidence, courage and health. In the East it is thought to protect the wearer from other people's envy.



MOONSTONE

So named because it captures the sheen of the moon, this stone is sacred in India and is widely believed to bring good fortune. Legend has it that a person who places a moonstone in his mouth when the moon is full will be able to see into the future. It is symbolic of the moon, of tenderness, and of lovers.



BLOODSTONE

This stone was thought to contain the blood of Jesus and to be magical. It could allegedly cause thunder. lightning, and tempests On a practical level, bloodstone was used to stem nosebleeds and hemorrhaging When made into jewelry, it is symbolic of peace and understanding

SEE ALSO

AZTIC TURQUOISE MASK EST SUN MASK 35. SNAKE DEM IN MASK 50, LEOPARD MASK 62.

Masks 77 DIAMOND BROOCH 63"

ROD OF AFSCULAPIUS 59. ENGAGEMENT RING 87. CARLETTS 108

> LAPIS LAZULI CO BLUE STONE 107

PRICIOUS STONIS EST CHORTEN 23 CORAL 38 FLY 50, EYES 72

MAGIC LYE POWER TO PROTECT 79 RELIGION, SUPERSTITION,

AND MAGIC FO CORAL 38, FLY 56, ELNAR LYL 72 MAGIC AND CHARMS 78-79

GARDENS

THE LITERATURE OF EUROPE, the Middle East, and Asia is full of the imagery of the garden: the garden represents Paradise and the abode of the soul. Chinese and Vietnamese emperors had tombs built in exquisite, tranquil gardens, which they visited during their lives and where they were eventually buried. The biblical Garden of Eden symbolized the state of perfection from which Adam and Eve fell, while the walled garden with a narrow opening was a visual representation of the wall of purity that surrounded the Virgin Mary.

GARDEN OF EDEN



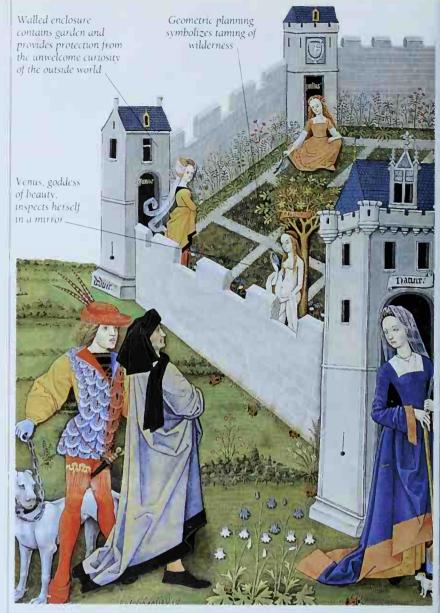
THE GARLEN OF EAR DE H HER NYM & B 1 1510

his panel from a triptych, La three-paneled painting, Hieronymus Bosch depicts the na ure and the animals in a



WALLED GARDENS

The medieval walled garden was a symbol of the womb and the feminine, protective principle. It symbolized privacy, secrecy, and virginity. The walled garden had powerful religious symbolism, representing spiritual enlightenment Chinese and Roman tomb gardens were the earthly counterparts of the gardens of heaven. In medieval literature a "garden of delights" was an allegory for courtly love (as here) with symbols of love, beauty, and other pleasures.



15TH-CENTURY FRENCH MANUSCRIPT



EL STAIN GARDIN OF THE ALHAMBRA PALACE

desert, a garden was the earthly symbol of luxuriant Paradise, described in the Koran as a place of "spreading shade," with "fountains of gushing water." The fountain was a symbol of everlasting life. The fourfold, or courtyard, garden with a fountain in the center spread with the Moors to southern Spain Here, some of the loveliest examples can be seen in the grounds of the Alhambra at Granada

GARDENS OF SPAIN For Arabs living in the



UNDERGROUND GROTTO

Grotto

In ancient Greece sacred rites were conducted in grottoes, and so grottoes were created in Greek and Roman gardens as artificial caves to reinforce the magical link between the garden and nature In Renaissance times, the grotto was reintroduced as an essential element of ENGLISH ARCHITECTURAL WAHR FOLLY | classical garden design.

FOUNTAINS

In Babylonian tradition, four rivers watered Paradise, and in the Bible, the Fountain of Life is the source of the rivers. This symbolism is echoed in formal European gardens in which four paths lead to a central fountain



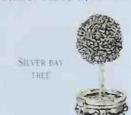
Formal layout of gardens



KNOT GARDEN AT MOSELY OLD HALL, ENGLAND

LOVE KNOTS

Knot gardens are made up of interlaced bands of shrubbery, each with a central motif. They were popular in England in the 16th century, and reflected contemporary needlework designs Knots, representing links and binding, are symbols of love and matrimony. They also symbolize fate and ward off evil



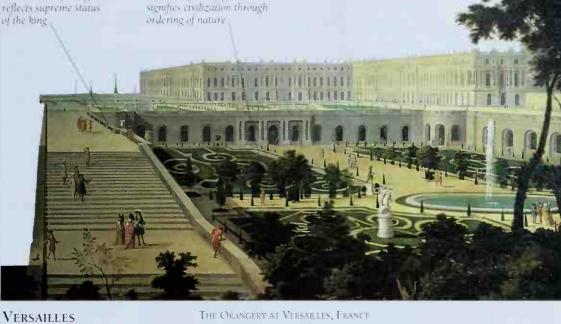
BAY TREE

The evergreen bay tree is a symbol of immortality and victory. Small bay trees are cultivated in pots as a symbol of honor and longevity.



Grand scale of design

The formal grandeur of Louis XIV's palace and gardens at Versailles have a political significance. Known as the Sun King, Louis wanted to show his supremacy by conquering and reworking the natural landscape so that his surroundings reflected his own status. The grand scale of Versailles was a conscious symbol of the power of absolute monarchy.







ABBOTS GARDEN DE FURIE TEMPLE, KYDUR JALAN

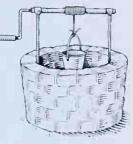


BONSAL

The Japanese art of growing miniature trees, bonsar, symbolizes mastery over nature. As bonsai are olten passed from generation to generation, they are also a symbol of immortality

ZEN GARDEN

Beautiful, bare rock gardens are created in Zen Buddhist monasteries in Japan to represent the universe in microcosm. Some have raked sand, the Dry Landscape garden in Kyoto uses rocks and pebbles to create in miniature the impression of an ocean interrupted by islands This illusion is intended to represent ultimate truth and as such is an aid to meditation



WISHING WELL

A symbol of the feminine, life-giving principle, the well has often been believed to have magical properties. A coin tossed into its depths could make a wish come true

ORNAMENTS A garden can be seen as a symbol of the natural world, and SO 11 15 considered home to spirits of all kinds



Statuary can represent these spirits from the gods of Greece and Rome to the humble gnome of Celtic origin

MAZE

Though the maze is a classical device, it has been used in gardens only since the Renaissance It provided concealment for amorous pursuits Mazes were thought to eatch and hold evil spirits and also to represent the journey from darkness into light or secret wisdom discovered after trials



LUNCOST REPORTS OWNER

MAZUAT HEVER CASTEL KEN

BOWER

The columns that enclosed a Roman peristyle, or courtyard, are echoed in a garden with trellises. overhung with flowering plants to provide shade and fragrance. As an enclosed place of retreat, the bower reflects the safety of the womb, the rose, in this case, eternal love.

SEE ALSO

BAY IRIL TO LATER 44 BOWERES R 51 WAL 14

FOUNDAINS CO STORIE 1111 45 5 4 63

GARDEN OF EDEN ES THE R WHE 44 THE TAIL SO F. 48 R 5 74 LOVEKNOISES Rem 105

MAZI 60 MAT 105 VERSAHLIS ES S 39 R A 88

TREES

The tree has symbolic significance in cultures throughout the world. It represents the Great Mother in her nourishing, sheltering form. Rooted in the earth, it draws water from the ground and reaches up to the heavens and eternity, acting as a world axis. It is closely linked to the symbolism of the pillar and the mountain. Individual trees,

OLIVE BRANCHES: SYMBOLS OF PEACE

types of trees, and groups of trees all have particular associations. For example, evergreen trees symbolize immortality, whereas fruit-bearing trees are often seen as trees of life, and forests or groves tend to be magical places where mysterious or momentous events occur.



TREE OF KNOWLEDGE

Spanish school: 12th century

Symbol of temptation, the tree of knowledge grows in Paradise and bears the fruit of good and evil. As Adam succumbs to Eve's enticements and takes a bite of the apple, he defies the will of God, signifying both his loss of innocence and his downfall – Adam falls from grace and mankind is doomed. In this Spanish painting, Eve blames the serpent, her tempter and itself a symbol of evil.



Reech

Associated with death, the beech is sacred to Hades and Cybele, the mother of Zeus and represents prospenty, divination, and immortality. Because of its leathery leaves and bark the beech symbolizes endurance, and the Freemason's hammer is made of beech wood. The beech tree is the emblen of Denmark



PINE

As an evergreen the pine symbolizes immortality. In Japan it has come to signify strength of character and vital energy due to its ability to withstand strong winds. In both East and Vest the pineces of mbolizes life and fertility. It is an attribute of the Greek god Bacchus, and an embler of Jupiter.



Yew

The yew tree has poisonous seeds and needles and so represents death. It has become symbolic of mourning and is often found in English churchyards; however, as an evergreen it also symbolizes immortality and was grown in Celtic sacred groves. In the Middle Ages it was used as an antidote to enchantment



SYCAMORE MAPLE

To ancient Egyptians, this was a celestial tree, a form of the sky goddess, Nut. Its leaves provide shade, which symbolized peace and rest in the afterlife. The fruit yields a milky substance, and so was associated with fertility and nourishment.



WILLOW

In the Western world

the weeping willow is

associated with death

and mourning, and it

and Japan however, it

is a symbol of spring,

of feminine beauty, and grace. In Taoism the willow, pliable in

is often depicted in funerary art. In China

CHERRY

In China and Japan the cherry is a national emblem and its blossom is a symbol of spring, femininity, and youth. In English lore a cherry tree planted near the house brings luck, and the luckiest lovers are those who meet for the first time under a cherry tree.



As an important food source the palm was equated with the tree of life in the Near East. In ancient Egypt it was sacred to the sun god, Re, and represented the fertility of the crops. In Judaism it is an emblem of Judea; in Christianity of Christ's entry into Jerusalem.



LAUREL

Sacred to Apollo and a symbol of immortality and victory, the laurel was said by Greeks and Romans to be physically and spiritually cleansing, and to repel lightning. Worn as a wreath, it symbolized the poet and excellence in the sciences and arts.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Widespread throughout Europe and North America, the Christmas tree is a symbol of Christ as redeemer of original sin. The ornaments on its branches represent the apples from the tree in the Garden of Eden. The custom of decorating an evergreen tree goes back to the pre-Christian period of "raw nights" (December 25 to January 6), when people would hang green branches in their houses and light candles to keep evil spirits at bay.



HOLLY

In Roman times holly was part of the Saturnalia festival celebrated in mid-December.

In Christian lore it symbolizes both the crown of thorns, due to its spiked leaves and bloodred berries, and the joy of Christmas.





LIME OR LINDEN

In Europe the lime, or linden, tree represents joy, beauty, and femininity. In Germany and Scandinavia it was believed to repel lightning and to cure disease if touched by someone who was sick



MULBERRY

This tree's bernes ripen in three stages: white represents youth, red the vigorous middle years, and black the ripeness of wisdom, age, and death. This tree symbolizes the sun and is a tree of life in China In Greek myth it is a tree of misfortune.



CYPRESS

Associated with Pluto. Roman god of death, the evergreen cypress is nevertheless a symbol of immortality It was thought to have the power to preserve bodies and so was, and still is often grown in gravevards In China it represents death but also the feminine realm



ACACIA

With its red and white flowers, the acacia was sacred to the ancient Egyptians, symbolizing birth and death. Their gods were said to have been born beneath an acacia tree. The sacred wood of the Hebrew tabernacle was that of the "shittah," or acacia tree. In Europe it symbolizes immortality.



PLUM

In China the plum is an emblem of winter. In Japan the tree represents the fleeting joy and innocence of youth, its beautiful blossom a symbol of spring triumphing over winter, and virtue and courage triumphing over difficulties.

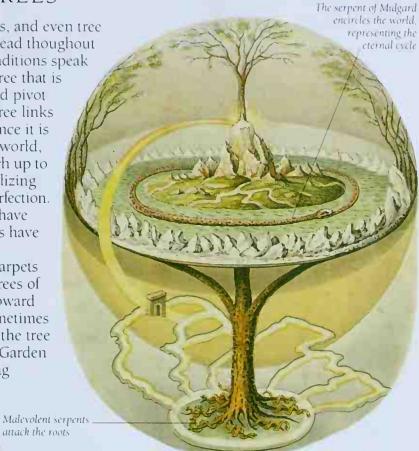


MYRILE

Sacred to Venus and to the Egyptian goddess Hathor, myrtle brings luck to lovers and was once the English bridal flower Symbol of immortality, good fortune, happiness, and peace in many cultures. it is also the flower of the gods. In dreams it signifies prosperity and a ripe old age

Sacred trees

A reverence for trees, and even tree worship, is widespread thoughout the world. Many traditions speak of a tree of life - a tree that is the central point and pivot of the world. This tree links heaven and earth since it is rooted in the underworld, but its branches reach up to the heavens, symbolizing man's striving for perfection. The Scandinavians have Yggdrasil, Buddhists have the bodhi tree, and Muslims kneel on carpets embroidered with trees of life when praying toward Mecca. Christ is sometimes shown crucified on the tree of knowldge in the Garden of Eden, symbolizing redemption.



attack the roots



BUDDHA UNDER A BODHI TREE

The Bodhi tree, a type of fig. is symbolic of the Buddha's Enlightenment. which he attained while meditating beneath its branches. Bodhi trees are often grown in monastery grounds as a reminder of this event



Yggdrasil is the evergreen ash tree that, in its mythological form, represents the entire world. Its trunk represents the central axis of the universe, and from beneath its roots bubble the rivers - the waters of wisdom.

Flames of light, or enlightenment, encircle __Buddha's body

PRAYER HANGING

In this 19thcentury example, a stylized tree of life is intricately woven into the design. Muslim prayer rugs often depict this powerful symbol of ascent and salvation. The faithful kneel and say their prayers on a tree of life



Often associated with the thunder gods, the oak is sacred to the earth mother, to Juno, Jupiter, and to the Celtic god Donar. In China it represents



fragile strength since it does not bend in the wind and so breaks. To Christians it is a symbol of Christ's steadfastness, while in Judaism it is a symbol of the divine presence In Lurope the oak stands for heroism

ACORN

As the seed of the mighty oak, the acorn is a widespread symbol of life. In Scandinavia it is sacred to Thor, and is a symbol of fertility, life, and immortality

SEL ALSO

BIECHES TRILMAS N & 100 OTHER TREES ES

BAY BONSA 43 PAIM FO SIKKE 17

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YGGDRASH FR V KING DA 30 N SE 103

PLANTS

PLANTS ECHO THE CYCLE OF BIRTH, DEATH, AND REBIRTH. They were closely connected with the mother goddesses of many cultures and with fertility. Myths from around the world often feature a human or a god changing into a plant, or a plant sprouting from the dead body of a god. Wheat and herbs, for instance, grew from the body of the Egyptian god Osiris. Often the symbolism of plants is more direct, based on their shape, color, smell, or habitat. The fact that ivy, for example, covers many old university buildings has meant that the term "ivy-league" now symbolizes a respected and long-established place of learning.



REEDS Rushes and reeds symbolize flexibility because they sway in the wind. Pan's pipes were made of reeds



DEADLY NIGHTSHADE Also known as devil's berries, the fruits of this plant look edible, yet are highly poisonous It is a symbol of deception and danger

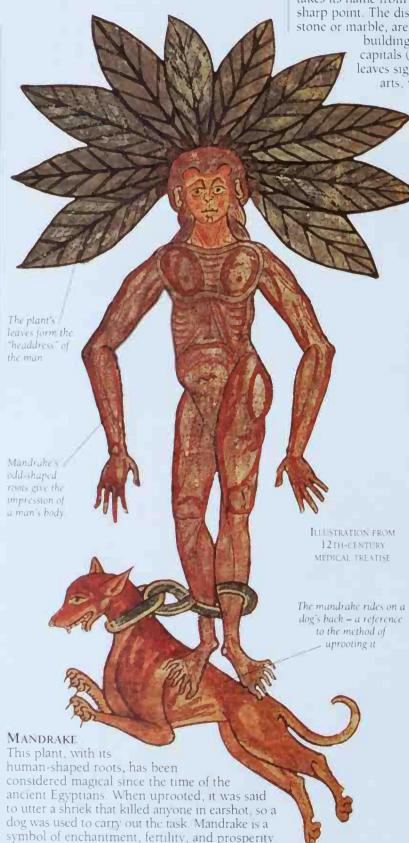


Вамвоо A symbol of pliability, grace, and strength because it bends in the wind but does not break, bamboo is central to the cultures of the Far East. As its shoots are always green, it symbolizes longevity. Bamboo's straight, jointed stem symbolizes the path and the steps toward enlightenment in Chinese philosophy, and it is often depicted in paintings.

Symbol cof

tert lity and







ACANTHUS

takes its name from the Greek ake, meaning sharp point. The distinctive leaves, carved in stone or marble, are commonly seen on classical buildings, particularly on Corinthian capitals (shown above). Acanthus leaves signify the arts, or a love of the arts, while in Christianity the

This thistlelike plant has large, thorny leaves and

thorns symbolize pain and punishment for sin.



SHAMROCK

Once an Arabian religious symbol, the shamrock, or clover, was also adopted by Christians. Its three leaves signify the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The plant is the emblem of Ireland and of its patron saint, St. Patrick. A fourleaved clover is thought to bring the finder luck.



Like most evergreens, ivy is associated with immortality, but it is also a plant of death, drawing vital moisture from trees. Sacred to Dionysus, the Greek god of wine (shown above trailing ivy), it was thought to cure drunkenness when worn as a garland.



In old herbals, fennel seed was thought to improve eyesight and to cause snakes to shed their skin. It was thus a symbol of clarity, and of renewal and revival.



GOURD

The gourd, with its abundance of seeds, is a widespread symbol of fertility. In China it is associated with long life, while in Africa the gourd represents the womb.



MISTLETOE

In Europe mistletoe, once considered magical, is now linked to Christmas. To stand beneath the mistletoe is to invite a kiss. The custom may stem from the idea that mistletoe's power frees people from restrictions.



THISTLE

PLANTS

The national emblem of Scotland, this prickly plant eauses pain but also repels enemies, and so symbolizes both evil and protection. It also represents Christ's suffering and may appear in paintings at the foot of the cross.



This scented herb was used as a purgative and so represents purification and regained innocence As hyssop grows on poor, stony ground, it is a plant of humility.



FUNGUS

In the Far East fungus

is an important symbol

of longevity, and in the

Taoist religion fungus

is the food of the immortals. It is therefore a sacred plant, and carved fungus decorations can be seen on precious objects such as the antique Japanese boxwood scepter shown above

The language of Herbs

Although to many people herbs are simply plants to use in cooking, they have long been an indispensable source of medicine. Their effects can be powerfully healing or harmful, so many acquired magical or sacred powers, while others became associated with evil and suffering. Shapes and scents can be important factors in determining a plant's symbolic meaning.



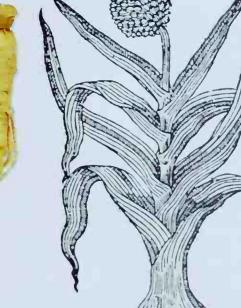
According to Chinese superstition, eating this fingerlike root while pregnant was harmful and could produce a six-fingered child



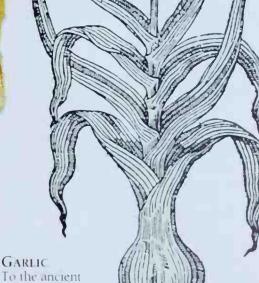


This popular garden herb was so highly prized for its healing powers that regular use was reputed to bestow immortality. In medieval Christian paintings, sage is a symbol of





Ginseng's forked root, To the ancient Greeks garlie, with its pungent smell, provided protection against evil spirits. Offerings of garlic were left at crossroads for the feared Hecate, goddess of the underworld. In Central European myth the



cloves were reputed to ward off vampites. In

China garlic is considered a lucky plant that

will bless parents-to-be with many children

SEE ALSO

GINSENG FO Two 102 I GHING 111

HERBSER Promote All I IVY DO BACTES 15

6 115 45 OTHER PLANTS CO 1111174 HANALAHAN 83

COLOR OF LOT 107 PLANTS CO I TATES 50 53

REEDS CO PANTHES 81 SHAMROCK FOR FILE IN TO

ROSEMARY

Sprigs of this herb, which symbolizes fidelity, were once included in bridal bouquets - tapping your lover with it would ensure constancy Roseinary signifies remembrance and is often planted on graves

PARSLEY

This herb is so slow to germinate that people once imagined its roots went down to the devil Parsley was a symbol of death for the ancient Greeks, who used sprigs in wreaths

GINSENG

like the mandrake's, symbolizes the human body For this reason it is considered a lifegiving herb. Ginseng's Chinese name means man-root, and it is a masculine, or yang. herb reputed to mcrease virility

NATURE'S FOODS

FOOD GIVES US LIFE and thus unity with all other living things. It grows through the interaction of the earth, the sun, and water. Foods that must be harvested, like corn and rice, are linked to the gods of abundance and fertility. Water is symbolic of life and purity, and milk represents the nourishment of mother earth. Food is part of life's cycle: all that lives must

die and return to the earth, fertilizing it for new growth.



The fruit of the fig tree, with its many seeds, represents the feminine realm, fertility, and prosperity. A basket of figs symbolizes woman as goddess or mother. The fruit has erotic symbolism and was sacred to Bacchus, god of wine and vegetation. Adam and Eve covered their nakedness with leaves from the fig tree.



APPLE The apple, especially if red, symbolizes love and fertility and is an emblem of Venus as love and desire. Its round shape indicates eternity and also the earth. In the Bible the apple represents temptation, although as an attribute of the

Virgin Mary, it means

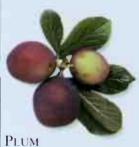
redemption



ORANGE Sometimes shown in the hand of the infant Christ, the orange represents good fortune and fertility. Like the apple, its shape symbolizes eternity and immortality, and due to its distinctive color it is associated with the sun.



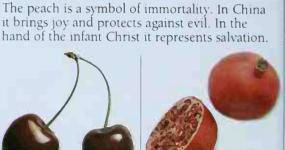
LEMON A symbol of purity and faithfulness, the lemon was traditionally thought to have protective properties that could counter magic spells and poison. In Judaism the lemon represents the human heart.



In the Far East the plum is a symbol of ripening female sexuality, and may be viewed in the same way when it appears in dreams. In Christianity the plum represents fidelity



In the desert regions of North Africa, clusters of dates traditionally represent life and fruitfulness. Because of their shape and abundance, dates are seen as a symbol of male fertility



PORCELAIN DISH, QING

Peach, symbol of immortality

POMEGRANATE Because of its color, the pomegranate

symbolizes the sun, life, and blood, while its many seeds make it a symbol of fertility. In ancient Rome newly married women wore pomegranate wreaths, and pomegranate juice was used as a remedy for infertility.

PINEAPPLE

SCOTLAND

In Japan the cherry is

associated with self-

sacrifice, particularly

in relation to samurai

warriors - the red flesh

of the fruit symbolizing

Christianity cherries

are a fruit of paradise

depicted in the hands

and are sometimes

of the infant Christ.

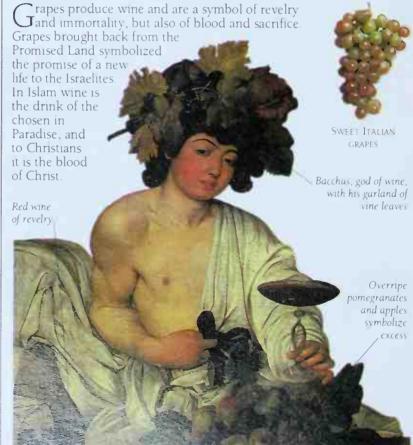
their blood. In

PEACH

of fertility. In parts of America pineapples were a sign of hospitality, and sailors would place a pineapple on the gatepost to tell neighbors that they were home from sea. In the late 1800s, the Scottish Lord Dunmore echoed this custom with a fruit-shaped summer house to announce his return to Scotland from America THE PINEAPPLE,

The pineapple is a life-giving fruit and a symbol

GRAPES







FOOD OF THE GODS



EGG

The egg as origin of the universe is found in myths throughout the world. The egg contains the potential for life and so represents the womb, birth, and the universe. It is also a symbol of hope and of immortality, and in Christianity can represent the virgin

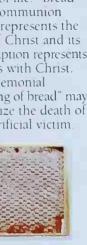


SALT Because of its purity, salt represents immortality. Named after Salus, Roman goddess of health, salt was once used in ceremonies in her honor. A grain dissolving in the ocean symbolizes the union of the human soul with the infinite. In Christianity salt has come to represent suffering.



BREAD

Bread symbolizes spiritual nourishment It is the food of the body and of the soul. Bread is particularly important in Christian symbolism, where Christ is seen as the "bread of life." Bread at the communion service represents the body of Christ and its consumption represents oneness with Christ. The ceremonial "breaking of bread" may symbolize the death of the sacrificial victim.



The leek,

Honey is the food of the gods and represents immortality, rebirth, and fertility. It is associated with the moon and the feminine. To ancient Greeks it represented wisdom, and to Christians it symbolized Christ's gentleness and compassion. Paradise was known as "the land of milk and honey



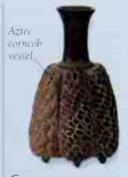
LEEK

The leek represents victory and was thought to protect against wounds. It appears on the British pound coin as the emblem of Wales, and is also an attribute of St. David, patron saint of Wales.



RICE

Rice is an essential food and represents immortality and nourishment, both spiritual and literal. In many parts of Asia it is thought to possess a soul The spint of nce is revered and every stage of cultivation is accompanied by ritual to ensure a good crop. In the Western world rice is traditionally thrown over brides at weddings to ensure the happiness and



CORN

In the Americas corn is a symbol of life, especially when it is intact as corn on the cob, and it is used as a motif in pottery In ancient Mexico a corn plant depicted with a hummingbird symbolized the Sun Hero and new growth In Europe and the Mediterranean corn represents peace, plenty, and the fecundity of fertility of their union the mother goddess



Мнк

The first and most nutritious food, milk symbolizes spiritual nourishment and immortality. It is often associated with the moon due to its color, and is seen as the lood of the gods. In Hindu legend Vishnu reclines on the cosmic milky ocean from which the wonders of creation were churned at the dawn of time in the Bible its symbolism is linked to that of honey



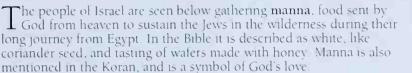
ONION

The many layered onion represents unity It also symbolizes revelation, as one peels off the layers to reveal the center its round shape symbolizes the cosmos and immortality, and, because of its strong smell, it is used to ward off evil It is said to be particularly effective against the dangerous influences of the moon.



OLIVES

An attribute of Athena and Apollo, the olive is a symbol of immortality and fruitlulness in ancient Greece, a crown of wild ohves representing Zeus, was worn by the victor at the Olympic games In the Bible the dove returned to the ark bearing an olive twig This was a sign that the Flood sent by God was receding, and so the olive represents peace and reconciliation



Nectar was the name used by Homer for the beverage of the Greek gods, which conferred immortality and beauty.

Amritsa is the elixir of immortality that emerged during the churning of the milky ocean and was consumed by the gods in Indian mythology



GATHERING OF THE MANNA, DIERIC BOILS C 1464-8

OLIVE OIL

The oil from the olive has its own symbolism In Judaism, it is considered holy and is used as fuel for the sabbath lamp and for the menorah in the lestival of Hanukkah

SEE ALSO

CHERRY ES CHIEF 44 SAMEROU SWOWEN PL

FIG ES THE OF 44 F - LAI 84

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RICE & B B S 83

FLOWERS

From Earliest times and in every culture flowers have held a special place in our hearts and lives. In ancient times certain flowers were viewed as earthly forms of the gods. People treasured them, used them in worship, and imbued them with magical powers. A flower in bud is symbolic of new life and potential, but flowers also accompany the dead to the grave. Flower motifs adorn churches and temples, are incorporated into jewelry, and decorate everything from fabric to furniture. Flowers have even wound their way into our language – we view the world through "rose-tinted glasses" or see life as "no bed of roses." Many flowers have taken on particular meanings, but what a certain flower means can differ vastly from one culture to another.



IRIS

Named after the Greek goddess of the rainbow, who transported women's souls to the underworld, irises were placed on graves. Louis VII adopted the iris as his emblem during the Crusades, and it evolved from the fleur-de-lis, the three leaves symbolizing faith, wisdom, and valor.



FORGET-ME-NOT European legend has it that a youth drowned in a river after picking this flower for his beloved. As he went under, he shouted,

"Forget me not!", so the flower is a symbol of desperate love.



HYACINTH

The Greek god Apollo created this flower from the bloc 1 of his heloved friend Hyacinthus who was mardered while throwing the discus with nini. It is a minimum symbol of



PANSY

The word stems from the French pensees (thoughts), and the flower is poetically linked to thoughts, thoughtfulness, and remembrance, as well as love Placed over the eyes of someone asleep the pansy can impel the dreamer to fall in love with the first person to appear. It is said to he sacred to St. Valentine, and is a Christian emblem of the Trimity



VIOLET

A Greek nymph was spared Apollo's lust by becoming a violet In Christianity it is tied to humility.



CYCLAMEN

Dedicated to the Virgin Mary, the spot at its center symbolizes her bleeding heart. Once used in love potions, it is now associated with voluptuousness.



ORCHID

In China the orchid is a symbol of perfection. In England the purple spots on an orchid's petals are said to represent the hlood of Christ



ANEMONE

From the Greek anemos, meaning wind, this flower denotes the transitory nature of life. In Greek myth anemones sprang from the blood of Adonis and represent death. In Christianity they are the blood of the saints.



PEONY

Passion Flower Olten used in stained-

glass windows, this

flower is a Christian

symbol. The Spanish helieved it grew

others saw in its form

the wounds of Jesus,

and some viewed its

around the cross,

flowering as God

calling for converts.

In ancient times this flower was thought to have magical properties. The Greeks used it to keep evil spirits at bay. The Japanese linked it to masculinity, riches, and good fortune, and adopted it as the Imperial flower. In China it was related to marriage and fertility and much used as a motif on temple walls.



POPPY

An opiate, the poppy symbolizes the ultimate sleep of death. Popular lore has it that the red poppies that sprang up after the Battle of Waterloo grew from the blood of the dead.



CARNATION

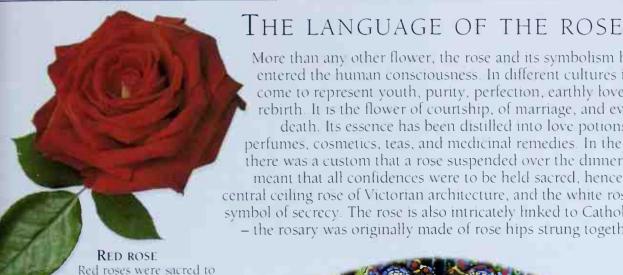
In Renaissance portraits, this is a symbol of betrothal, particularly when held in the sitter's hand. In China the carnation is a common symbol of marriage.

PRE-RAPHAELITE FLOWER IMAGERY: SHAKESPEARE'S OPHELIA



OPHELIA, JOHN EVERETT MILIAIS, 1852

Driven to madness by her beloved Hamlet's murder of her father, Ophelia drowns herself in a stream. The garlands in her hair and the flowers that surround her are all charged with symbolic meaning. The willow represents forsaken love; the nettle growing in its branches represents pain; and the daisies near Ophelia's hand are symbolic of innocence. The chain of violets around her neck is associated with faithfulness, chastity, and untimely death. The poppy is also a symbol of death; other flowers floating in the water are linked to sorrow; and the lorget-me-nots on the bank are an entreaty not to forget Ophelia.



Venus and were - like the goddess - archetypal symbols of love

and beauty. Even today these associations

continue, roses being considered the messengers of love. In Christian tradition the red rose grew from drops of Christ's blood and the

Madonna is sometimes depicted

with a red rose in her hand. Also associated with war, the red rose was adopted by the

Lancastrians in the English

Wars of the Roses.

More than any other flower, the rose and its symbolism have entered the human consciousness. In different cultures it has come to represent youth, purity, perfection, earthly love, and rebirth. It is the flower of courtship, of marriage, and even of death. Its essence has been distilled into love potions, perfumes, cosmetics, teas, and medicinal remedies. In the West there was a custom that a rose suspended over the dinner table meant that all confidences were to be held sacred, hence the central ceiling rose of Victorian architecture, and the white rose as a symbol of secrecy. The rose is also intricately linked to Catholicism the rosary was originally made of rose hips strung together.

PETALS In Roman times rose petals were a valuable currency. Ladies used them to make face packs in the hope of banishing wrinkles; guests at banquets dropped petals into their wine to stave off drunkenness, and victorious armies returned to streets strewn with petals.

The design here incorporates roses within roses

> The focal point of the window is the classic Madonna and child

THE LITANY OF THE VIRGIN MARY. WEST ROSE WINDOW, REIMS CATHEDRAL, FRANCE

WHITE ROSE

Considered the flower of the moon or of the light, the white rose symbolizes purity, virginity, charm, and secrecy. It represents water in contrast to the fire of the red rose. It was the emblem of the House of York in the Wars of the Roses.

ROSE WINDOW

The rose window, so named because of its petallike shapes of glass, represents both the human aspiration for wholeness and coherence and the realization of those same desires. Rose windows, which first appeared in 13th-century France, are thought to be symbols of eternity. They have been likened to mandalas - Eastern objects of meditation – for their perfection of geometry and of form. The many paths that lead to the center are like the paths that lead to enlightenment

adorn this lady from her The carnation hat to the behind this rings on her fingers car is a sign that

Rose monts.

DETAIL OF A

TUDOR ROSE

This 16th-century lady wears a dress embroidered with a least of Tudor roses. The Tudor rose with its red outer petals and white inner ones symbolized the union of the two royal houses - York (the white rose) and Lancaster (the red rose) Henry Tudor adopted this rose as his standard when he married Elizabeth of York in 1485.

Planelle a Lary Harris School 1569



YELLOW ROSE

Symbol of the state of Texas, the yellow rose is also commonly associated with jealousy and infidelity. In 1759 the Order of the Golden Rose was created by papal decree, an honor reserved mainly for female Catholic sovereigns

FLOWER OF PERFECTION The lotus emerges unsullied from swamps and lakes. For this reason, and because its petals open and close with the passing of the day, it is highly symbolic in the East.

THE LOTUS

One of the most ancient symbols to appear in Asian art, the lotus symbolizes both creation and purity. Its long stem is the umbilical cord that holds Man to his origins, while its perfect flower represents enlightenment and the purity to which the human soul aspires. The thousand-petaled lotus represents the sun emerging from the cosmic ocean, the sun and the waters being vital to growth. The lotus symbolizes divine birth, since the god Brahma emerges from Vishnu's navel seated on a lotus, and then creates the universe. It also symbolizes the sun and the cycle of birth and rebirth, since its petals open at dawn and close at sunset.



FERTILITY SYMBOL
This 3rd-century Indian figurine represents a mother goddess, shown here squatting in childbirth. She has a lotus – a symbol of fertility – for a head.



CHRYSANTHEMUM
In China and Japan the chrysanthemum is an emblem of fall and long life, of scholarship and contentment. It was thought to hold the key to cternal life. The Japanese have adopted it as a national emblem and as the badge of the Imperial family.



MARIGOLD
In Chinese belief the marigold is the emblem of long life — "the flower of ten thousand years."
Mexicans claim the flower's color is tinted by the blood of the Aztecs, who were massacred by the Spaniards in their quest for gold.



SUNFLOWER
In Greek myth, Clytte
is turned into this sunworshiping flower as a
consequence of her
blind love for the sun
god, Apollo, hence the
flower's association
with blind infatuation.
Some environmentalists
have adopted the
sunflower as their
symbol because it
absorbs air pollutants.



FIRST FLOWER OF EGYPT

Protective lotus

Often appearing in decoration, the lotus embodies royal power. It is associated with the god Nefertem and the sun god, Re, who is sometimes depicted as a child lying on a lotus. Capitals of Egyptian columns are often carved to resemble lotuses, either in bud or full flower.

The gods are standing on beds of lotuses

In this typically Tibetan example, the Buddha



HE-HE GODS

In China the lotus represents purity, perfection, and spiritual grace combined with fertility and the ripeness of summer. Here, both of the He-he, twin gods of prosperity, carry a lotus in a jar. The garment worn by the god on the left is also decorated with a lotus. The He-he themselves symbolize concord and harmony between married couples.



BUDDHIST JEWEL IN THE LOTUS

In Buddhist cosmology the lotus symbolizes both purity and the primordial waters from which all life is created. Because the beautiful flower grows out of mud and water, it is associated with human aspiration and potential. The Buddha is often represented as the jewel in the lotus, seated on a lotus throne, the pinnacle of perfection

The thousand-petaled lotus supports the Buddha (Akshobya) the two together being a potent symbol of enlightenment

A TIBE AS THANG-KA, SACRED TEMPLE FANNER



NARCISSUS IN GREEK MYTH

ECHO AND NARCISSUS (DETAIL). JW WATERHOUSE, 1903

In Greek mythology the youth Narcissus spurned the love of the beautiful nymph Echo who could only repeat the last words spoken to her, and she wasted away until only her voice remained. As punishment, the gods condemned the vain Narcissus to fall in love with his own image. When he saw his reflection in a pool of water he was unable to tear himself away and died. He was changed into the narcissus flower which grows at the water's edge



NARCISSUS

The sweet, intoxicating scent of the narcissus was once helieved to cause madness

Narcissism means vanity, and the flower symbolizes the dangers of vanity To Christians, the flower is a symbol of divine love In China its flowering at New Year signals good fortune



PRIMROSE

The primrose heralds the spring and an end to winter gloom, and is associated with purity and youth. In Germanic folklore he who wears a primrose will find hidden treasure

THE RESIDENCE



CROCUS

People once believed that wearing garlands of crocuses would ward off drunkenness. The species saffron was highly prized in medieval times when its pigment dyed garments a brilliant yellow, a symbol of light and nobility.



This perfumed flower is prized in India It is a love symbol, and so is earried in Hindu hridal garlands. In China jasmine is an emblem of beauty, in Christianity a symbol of heavenly happiness



HONEYSUCKLE

Given by the French to their loved ones to symbolize their union, the honeysuckle represents more hroadly generous love. It was once used medicinally to charm away hoils.



Originally the day's eye, the daisy represents innocence and is sometimes an attribute of the Virgin It is an emblem of the Germanic mother goddess Freya



LILY

A white lily is the most widely accepted symbol of purity and perfection in the West It is also a symbol of peace, divinity, and innocence. In Greco-Roman mythology the lily was believed to have come from the milk of the goddess Hera/luno. To the lews it is the emblem of the tribe of Judah.



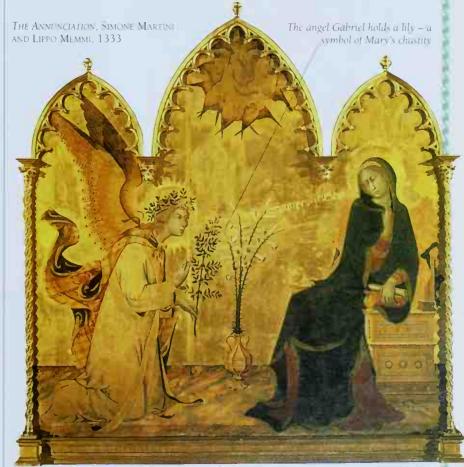
LILY OF THE VALLEY This is the flower of Ostara, Norse goddess of springtime

Throughout Europe it represents spring and new life, and so also symbolizes the advent of Christ. In France, it is the workers' flower, traditionally given to employees on Labor Day, May 1st.



MAGNOLIA

This flower is a Chinese symbol of feminine beauty and gentleness. In ancient China, the plant was the exclusive property of the emperor. A gilt of a magnolia plant to a subject was therefore a sign of special favor. Historically it is also associated with a celebrated heroine who shares her Chinese name, Mu-lan, with that of the flower. Mulan disguised herself as a man in order to battle on behalf of her lather.



THE LILY AND CHRISTIANITY

The fily is associated with the Virgin Mary -I its whiteness representing her purity. untainted by sin. It is often depicted in paintings of the Annunciation either held by the angel Gabriel or in a vase. It is the llower of Easter and is sometimes seen with a sword at the Last Judgment, the two together symbolizing innocenee and guilt. The life is associated with chastity and is the emblem of a number of samts for example Catherine of Sicha, Francis of Assisi, Francis Navier, and Thomas Aguinas. In the New Testament the lilies of the field are referred to by Christ as a symbol of simplicity and of purity

SEE ALSO

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IRIS CF Filespect 105 Investigation loc. [3.03]

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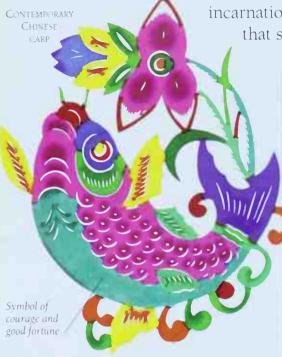
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SEA CREATURES

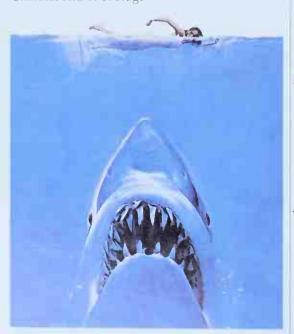
ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT SYMBOLS in world myth, the fish represents fertility, life, and death, and is generally auspicious. It is associated with the mother goddess, the moon, and the primeval waters from which all life grew. It is one of the earliest symbols in Christianity, signifying both Christ and the faithful, swimming in the sea of life. Jonah was swallowed by a great fish, and similar stories abound in other

cultures. In Hinduism the god Vishnu's first incarnation was in the form of a great fish that saved mankind from the flood.



CARP

This is an important symbol in the Far East. In China it represents perseverance and success owing to its ability to leap formidable rapids. In general, the carp symbolizes patience, determination, and long life. Its armorlike scales are linked to valor; in Japan it is a symbol of the Samurai and of courage



SHARK

One of the most potent symbols of terror, the Pacific regions il Polynesia. Melanesia, and the So om in Lands In Hawaii, as in parts of West



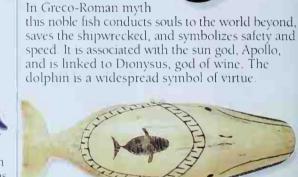
SEA HORSE

The delicate sea horse is the mount of Poseidon/Neptune, the Greco-Roman god of the sea. It also appears in heraldry, often to signify bravery at sea, and as a civic emblem to show overseas trade.



The eel plays a part in Polynesian flood myths and also has erotic associations. In Tahiti it is an ancestor figure In China it is a symbol of carnal love, while in Britain the term 'slippery as an eel" signifies a person who

wriggles out of trouble.



Grapevines, attributes of Dionysus, god of wine

> turned into dolphins

INUIT IVORY CARVING

WHALE

DOLPHIN

In the Bible, Jonah was swallowed by a great fish, probably a whale, and disgorged alive onto dry land three days later. A similar legend exists among the Inuits. The whale has thus come to signify death and rebirth, and darkness before the light. In Arctic, Slav, and Russian myth the earth rests on the back of a great whale. When the whale moves, there is an earthquake



SALMON

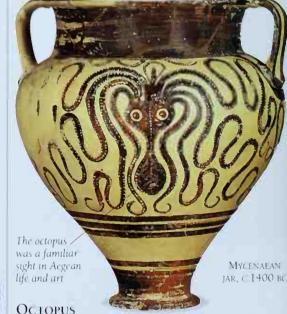
takes the form

of a swordfish

Like the carp, the salmon swims determinedly upstream in search of its birthplace and so symbolizes perseverance and courage. It is associated with the moon, and is a symbol of death and rebirth



dances. The Ainu of Japan worship a sea divinity that



Because of its spiraling tentacles, the octopus is related to the symbolism of the spiral - air, water, and rolling thunder and lightning. It is also a symbol of fickleness and changeability since it alters color when under threat





CRAB Because of its protective shell, the crab is associated with the womb and with motherhood It is the symbol of Cancer, fourth sign of the zodiac, which is ruled by the moon. Due to its habit of walking sideways, the crab also has associations of evasiveness and deceit In Buddhism it is linked to the periods of cosmic night between the ages of Brahma, or the sleep of death between one incarnation and the next. In Africa the crab is considered a symbol of evil

feet of the bodhisattva

wealth and

marital

Kuan Yin, and it

In Japan it

appears on many

New Year presents as a

an emblem of long life



STARFISH

Seen in Europe as a

power of love, the

symbol of the undying

starfish in Christianity

represents Mary guiding

the faithful through the

storms of love

In Celtic lore the sea urchin is known as the serpent's egg, and in its petrified form it is viewed as a symbol of the world It is thought to be able to foretell the approach of a storm when it attaches itself to a rock, using it as an anchor Blind and largely defenseless, it is also a symbol of all weak creatures in God's care

SEE ALSO

CARPLE

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STREET, STREET

INSECTS & OTHERS

INSECTS, SNAILS, AND SPIDERS differ biologically but are commonly referred to as "creepy crawlies" - lowly animals usually shunned and even feared. In ancient times, however, they were the focus of much interest. The Egyptians singled out the beetle as a creature to be revered, incorporating it in the form of a scarab in their art and their jewelry, and even in funerary offerings. For other cultures the spider is particularly important, due in part to its remarkable weaving abilities, and the bee often has powerful associations both because of its poisonous sting and its life-giving honey.



EGYPTIAN SCARAB





struggle to roll balls of dung containing its eggs over long distances. The young

FLY

In many cultures the fly is seen as evil and corrupt, and sometimes represents weakness or insignificance, but in parts of Africa there is a fly god, and among the Navajo of America the Big Fly is a heroic figure. The ancient Egyptians wore fly amulets to keep real flies away.



LADYBUG Named after Our Lady (the Virgin Mary), because of its good works in ridding plants of pests, the ladybug is a symbol of good luck.

DRAGONFLY

Probably so-named because of its long, sinuous body, this beautiful insect shares the symbolism of the butterfly, representing immortality and regeneration. It is the national emblem of Japan, which is known as the "Island of the Dragonfly." It also represents unreliability and instability, perhaps due to its hovering and darting movements. In China the dragonfly is symbolic of summer, but also of weakness. To Native Americans the dragonfly symbolizes change and illusion, and also speed, a whirlwind, and activity.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BEES

amulets were commonly buried with the dead as symbols of regeneration.

popular good-luck charm in ancient Egypt. The beetle was deemed sacred

because it minicked the passage of the sun across the heavens in its own heroic

hatched from these balls, representing new life emerging from the earth. Scarab

Bees evoke feelings both of fear and admiration. The bee is widely seen as a symbol of immortality and rebirth, as well as of diligence and social organization. It is an emblem of several Greco-Roman and Indian gods, including Cupid and Kama, both gods of love. Kama is sometimes depicted with a line of bees following him, representing the sweet pain of love



BEES IN CHRISTIANITY

In Christian allegory a queen bee sometimes represents the Virgin Mary. As Mary gives birth to Christ, so the

queen bee produces is then a symbol





POPE URBAN VIII'S ARMS The coat of arms of Pope Urban VIII features the keys to the kingdom of heaven, plus the Barberini bees, symbols of his family. These same bees grace a 17th-century fountain n Rome Fontana delle Api, clesigned by Bernini to honor the Pope



BUTTERFLY

Because of its metamorphosis from a caterpillar, the butterfly is seen as a symbol of rebirth and resurrection. As it emerges from its chrysalis it represents the soul leaving the body. To ancient Greeks the butterfly represents the soul, and to the Chinese and Japanese it is a sign of both immortality and joy. In Chinese art, butterflies combined with pluin blossoms symbolize long life, and two butterflies together indicate a happy marriage



THE TRANSITORY NATURE OF LIFE



VISE FEE WIR IN CAR WESCAR ___ 1670

The insects in Dutch flower paintings often enhance the symbolism of L the flowers. Here, overblown roses, peomies, tulips, and a variety of other blooms illustrate the transitory nature of worldly joys: youthful beauty soon languishes and fades, love loses its innocence, riches cannot be taken to the grave. The short-lived fly crawling over the white rose in the center is a symbol of transience, the centipede and bugs amid the rose's petals hint at corruption and decay. Butterflies, however - common symbols of everlasting joy – offer signs of hope and renewal



FIRANICEN DE



SNAIL.

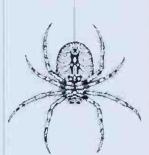
Since it constantly emerges from and withdraws into its shell, the snail is associated with the waxing and waning moon, and symbolizes birth and rebirth. It is generally viewed as lucky, and folklore has it that if a girl places a snail on a piece of slate, it will "write" the name of her husband-to-be.



WORMS

Historically the worm was associated with the devil, and it continues to have rather smister connotations. In the Bible it denotes degradation and humiliation. More generally this legless creature symbolizes the earth or lowly life emerging from the earth, but also darkness





SPIDER

Spider myths occur in many cultures. In China a spider sliding down a thread symbolizes good fortune descending from heaven. In general the spider represents the sun, or a Great Mother as weaver of destiny. A spider controls its web from the center just as the sun generates rays from its hery center Spider-woman, creator-daughter of the sun, appears in the myths of Native Americans, and in Japan a similar spiderwoman can enshare unwary travelers.



ASENT SCREEN



As the moth is irresistibly attracted to the light so the soul is drawn to the divine truth. The moth is thus a symbol of the soul's quest for truth Because of its delicate structure and brief lifespan it also represents tragility and impermanence. frequently dying in its pursuit of ight



ANI

Like the bee, the ant is a symbol of thrift, bard work and diligence, and also of community life. It is respected in most cultures. To the Chinese the ant represents patriotism virtue and orderliness To Hindus it is more like the moth, symbolizing the



WASP

Wasps represent order within a community However, ancient Egyptians and Persian Zoroastrians linked the wasp with evil as did the Greeks and Romans. According to Polish legend bees were created by God. but when the Devil trans tory nature of life they turned into wasps



Locust

Because of its voracious eating habits and capacity to strip large areas of vegetation, the locust is widely associated with calamity, destruction, and greed. In the Bible the locust is an instrument of punishment sent as a plague by God to the Lgyptians



Widely associated with evil, destruction, and death, the scorpion also symbolizes envy and hatred, and represents darkness since it lives below the earth. Ancient Egyptians worshiped the goddess Selket in the form of a scorpion. The Ashanti wore scorpion jewelry to protect against scorpion bites

SEE ALSO

EGYPTIAN SCARABLE

SCORPION CO S 112 SPIDLE US WILLIAM

SIGNIFICANCE OF BEES OF HOMES 49; VIOLENANIE C+ m 82

THE TRANSITORY NATURE OF THE A STATE OF HOUSE 115

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

AMPHIBIOUS CREATURES, ANIMALS THAT LIVE both on land and in the water, take on the symbolic associations of water, the source of all life. Reptiles are mostly associated with the earth and therefore assume the fertility symbolism of the earth, although their appearance often inspires fear and disgust. Reptiles that hold a special place in the popular imagination are

dinosaurs, ancient inhabitants of the earth. Their symbolism is mixed they are both giant monsters, terrifying to behold, and among the most fascinating of all the creatures known to us.

TYRANNOSAURUS REX

A formidable 47ft (15m) high, T rex is certainly the best known and most feared of the dinosaurs. It has been popularized in films, fiction, and children's cartoons, and although a symbol of extinction, is far from extinct in people's minds.



The crocodile has long the symbolism of each, devouring their victims

NEWT

The newt is generally thought of as an evil, harmful creature. Such was its reputation that in Macbeth, Shakespeare listed "eve of newt" as one of the ingredients in the witches' brew designed to conjure up evil spirits that would reveal the future

LAPANESE SYMBOL OF UNGLIFE

TORTOISE OR TURTLE

Linked to the moon and water, the tortoise and turtle symbolize fertility and long life. Various world myths speak of a tortoise supporting the world, and in Hinduism a man-tortoise was the ancestor of mankind. In Acsop's Fables the tortoise represents steady determination.

FROGS AND TOADS

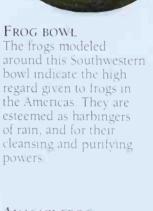
Frogs and toads are both associated with water and the moon, and therefore with fertility and the feminine realin-Both undergo the process of metamorphosis, from tadpole to frog, and so are symbolic of resurrection. The frog was an

emblem of Aphrodite, and Heket, Egyptian goddess of birth, took the form of a frog. The toad, however became associated with witchcraft and with a more sinister symbolism



CHAMELEON QING FROG

The chameleon's In China the frog represents changing color symbolizes inconstancy and changing fortunes. Its eyes, which can see in different directions, see into both the past and future. In parts of Africa it is viewed as magical, and brings rain.



ANASAZI FROG

FROG BOWL

association of the frog part ularly strong among val ve American peoples





LIZARD

The lizard's sun-seeking habit symbolizes the soul's search for awareness. The Romans believed that the lizard hibernated, and so it represented death and resurrection. To Native Americans, lizards have magic powers



FROGS AND TOADS ES WHICH'S FAMIL AR 79

ROD OF AESCULAPIUS EST. DIAMON R H 40; CADU H S 108

SNAKIS CO DE 1 1-HEADED SERPENT, HYDRA 28

THE FALL OF TREE CE RN W F - 1 44 F G 48

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS SNAKES The snake, or serpent, is probably the most widely revered of all creatures because it embodies so many forces. Its underground lair allies it with the underworld and it is associated with the primal waters from which PUEBLO all life was created. The serpent symbol was widespread in agricultural societies where it was used to represent the fertility of the soil. SNAKE STICK Among the Pueblo 19TH-CENTURY peoples of America, the snake is associated with thunder and lightning. Snake sticks such as the SNAKES & LADDERS one above were used This childhood game in annual rituals to represents life's call down the rain journey. Ladders are that ensured a good positive symbols of harvest. The snake success and sticks were achievement. themselves whereas snakes symbols of represent the slippery lightning. slopes of misfortune. Sacred snakes that banish evil spirits SNAKE DEMON MASK This Sri Lankan mask of EGYPT a Naga Rassa, or snake In ancient Egypt the serpent was feared demon, is worn in dances to chase away evil and worshiped. Several deities are spirits causing sickness. Nagas, or sacred snakes, depicted in the form of a snake - in this tomb have the power to be both protective and painting a worshiper is seen kneeling before the destructive. serpent goddess Meretseger, the guardian of the Valley of the Kings THE FALL The fall from grace of Adam and Eve is inextricably linked with the serpent. It was a serpent, here in female form, that tempted Eve to taste the forbidden fruit of the tree EGYPTIAN PAINTING The serpent is therefore viewed as a symbol of smooth-tongued evil and deceitfulness, and as the embodiment of temptation and sin

ROD OF AESCULAPIUS
A serpent coiled around a rod was both the emblem and symbol of

Aesculapius, the Roman god of medicine. Its association with healing comes from the snake's shedding of its skin, making it a symbol of renewal and regeneration. In alchemy a serpent around a pole represents the harnessing of the metal.

quicksilver mercury

MEDUSA
With hair
of writhing
scrpents Medusa's
appearance was so
hideous that all who
looked at her turned to
stone. In addition to being
a symbol of terror, she
embodied enchantment
and cunning

THE TEMPTA TO A CAM AND TAIL
TOMMASS MAY INDICE 142"

EMILIM

MAMMALS

Because of their complex and often intimate relationships with humans, animals have always played a prominent part in our imagination and in our mythology, literature, and art. Many, especially predatory species, have been worshiped and credited with protective powers. Names of animals were given to the constellations, and people even claimed descent from these powerful creatures. Certain animals have been traditionally paired in conflict – the lion and the unicorn, for instance, which

are associated with the sun and the moon. This may represent a balance between the opposing forces in nature.



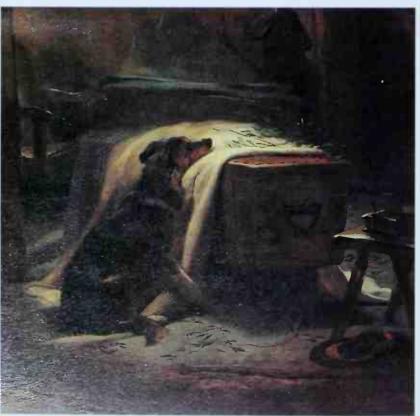
Haki Manadan Sala

HARE

A nocturnal animal, the hare is widely associated with the moon, and also with lust and fertility. To Native Americans the Great Hare represents opposing characters: part clown and part god, creator and transformer of our animal nature. In China it is yin, symbol of the feminine principle. The hare's association with fertility probably accounts for the Easter Bunny, representing spring and the growth of new life.

Mousi

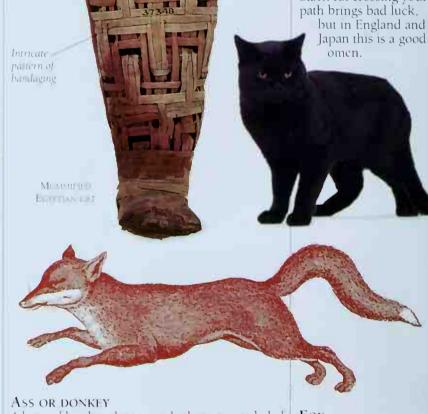
In Western mythology, the mouse is associated with the powers of darkness. The Bible considers it unclean and devilish. Elsewhere, however, the mouse is viewed as orderly and methodical.



TO DESCRIPTION OF MARKET SHEET LANDER 1837

DOG, PROTECTOR AND LOYAL FRIEND

in the buth logy Cerberus was the three-headed dog that guarded the guest buther calm of the dead and acted as a spirit guide. In Judaic and sland tradition, the dog is considered unclean, while in Zoroastrianism it is regarded highly. Everywhere however, the dog is a symbol of a third assume intectiveness of blind love and obedience. The dog is the considered the Chinese zodiac.



EGYPTIAN CAT

In ancient Egypt cats were revered, and the male cat was an emblem of the sun god. Cats were also sacred to the

goddess Bastet who had the head of a

So valued were cats that

of Bastet.

cat and who represented the power of the sun to ripen crops.

thousands were mummified after they died and buried in

special graveyards in honor

BLACK CAT

Being largely nocturnal,

the cat is associated with the moon. It is

also credited with

supernatural powers, both good and evil, and is the companion of witches. In Norse legend, if a black cat crossed your path it was a sign that Satan was thinking about you. In America, a

black cat crossing your

A beast of burden, the ass, or donkey, is a symbol of poverty, of stupidity, and also of fertility. Greek writers used the ass to represent foolishness, and we still use the term "silly ass." For the ancient Egyptians, the wild ass of the desert

symbolized loneliness and isolation.
In Christianity the humble ass is blessed it bore Mary to
Bethlehem and Jesus into
Jerusalem.

The most ill-starred of quadrupeds, pitiful and miserable."
Roman writer

Fox The fox universally represents cunning and deception. In some traditions it has the power to transform its shape in order to deceive, for instance in the East, the fox can become a beautiful maiden who creates trouble. Also, like the wolf in Little Red Riding Hood, a fox sometimes dresses in the clothes of a trustworthy person in order to catch unwary prey. Some Native Americans have lox tribes and clans.



HEDGEHOG

In antiquity the hedgehog was reputed to collect grapes by rolling over them and so catching them on its spikes. Christianity associates it with the Devil and with evil, as this practice was likened to stealing people's souls. The hedgehog sometimes symbolizes witcheraft, as witches were thought to assume the form of hedgehogs to drink milk from cows.

RAM The ram embodies virility and creative energy. It is associated with many gods and is a common sacrificial animal, its blood symbolically

returning fertility to the soil. The Hebrew ritual horn, the shofar, blown at the feast of Rosh Hashanah, is made from a ram's horn.



Goat's-head wine cup, symbol of Bacchus and

drunken revelry

Crescent-shaped horns associated with the moon

Horses

The horse represents speed, grace, and nobility. It is both a solar and lunar symbol the heavenly chariots of Apollo and the Indian sun god Surya were drawn by fiery or white horses, as was Neptune's ocean chariot

BUCKING BRONCO

In parts of the US and Canada men compete at riding untrained horses, the goal being to complete a round without being thrown. This challenge emphasizes the horse's reputation as a wild and noble creature.



GOAT

Because of its agility and urge to climb, the goat is a symbol of the far-seeking quest for truth However, the goat also stands for lawlessness, demonic powers, lust, and lertility. Satyrs were half human, half goat. and the devil is often depicted with the horns and hooves of a goat

Ox

when their warlike ancestors rode horses into

battle and had to keep their hands free to fight.

The symbolism of the ox has much in common with that of the bull and the buffalo. While clearly symbolizing male power and strength, all three animals, because of their crescent-shaped horns, also have lunar, hence feminine, attributes. The bull is the mount of the Hindu god Shiva, and in Taoism the sage Lao Tzu is shown riding an ox to represent the

taming of the ego.

MACOL

a SAFII

PIG

The boar is a symbol ol courage its head was eaten as protection against danger and the sow is associated in many cultures with lertility and a mother goddess. In Judaism and Islam the pig is viewed as the most unclean of all animals, and in Christianity it is linked to Satan and symbolizes gluttony

ky some mans

GREKIK SKIN

HEADINGS THOSE ISTRICESTERS

LION, KING OF BEASTS

The lion is the king of the beasts in most parts of the world. Its golden color, fiery mane, and great strength associate it with the sun,

LION FAMILY. 13th-CENTURY ARAB MANUSCRIPT

although the lioness may also be linked with the moon and great mother goddess figures. Lions have often been carved into thrones and are also sculpted at entrances, where they act as guardians.

ORIENTAL LIONS

In antiquity lions were found not just in Africa, but also in the Middle East and India. They were kept by kings as a symbol of royal power and were used in hunting. The lion is also a symbol of the wisdom of the Buddha.





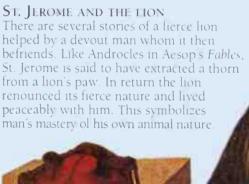
GUARDIAN LION

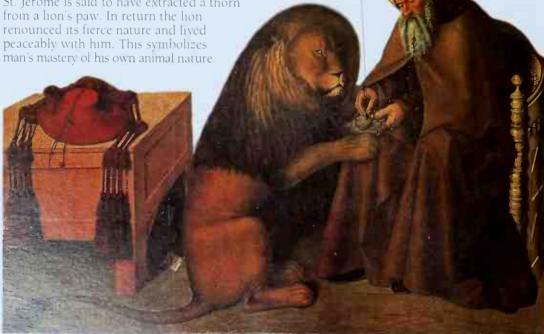
A lion's image is often placed on buildings. perhaps to add protection. As a gargoyle it carries water away from the roof, its solar nature combining with water as a symbol of fertility.



Lion in the "sejant" position, seated with one paw raised

seated





THE STREET, SHE WAS ASSESSED.

EM LET

St Jerome

removing thorn

frem lion's pais

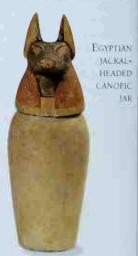
SE JUREMU VADEHI LIEN, NEGOCIO COLA ITORIO, 1450



CHINESE TIGER, 13TH CENTURY

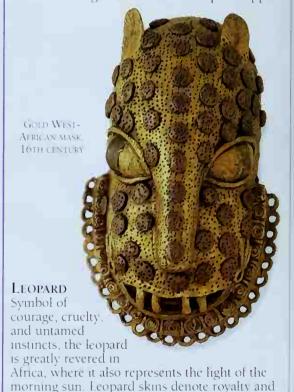
TIGER

Like the lion, the tiger symbolizes royalty. courage, and strength. It is particularly important in the Far East, where it replaces the lion as king of beasts. In China, where it is the emblem of the West, if a tiger devours a man, that man's soul becomes the tiger's slave and preys upon other men.



JACKAL

The head of the Egyptian god Anubis is that of a jackal. Jackals were thought to haunt graveyards and were reputed to see both by day and night. Clear-sighted Anubis was a pathlinder, guiding spirits to the next world. Canopic jars, which contained embalmed organs, had Anubis-shaped stoppers.



are worn to ward off danger. Because its

markings resemble eyes, the leopard is sometimes known as the Great Watcher



STAG

Associated with hunting, the stag is a solar animal and an enemy of the serpent The shape of its antlers recalls the Tree of Life. and because the antlers are renewed each year, the stag is a symbol of regeneration. In European and Asian mythology stag hunts often lead to a supernatural encounter



GAZELLE

The swift-running gazelle is a symbol of beauty and of the soul, particularly in Arabic literature. It can also be used as a metaphor for the beloved. In Christianity, when the gazelle is shown fleeing from an animal of prey, such as a panther or lion, it represents the soul fleeing from earthly passions.



Because of its bulk and strength, the elephant

is generally a symbol of power. It also signifies patience, wisdom, and chastity - probably

because, according to Aristotle, a bull elephant

remained celibate during the two-year long

gestation period of his mate. The Hindu god

huge belly, represents prosperity and

Ganesha has an elephant's head and, with his

benevolence. The white elephant is a symbol.

of royalty and is associated with the Buddha

ACTUALIAN CARE PLEATURE

KANGAROO

Among some Australian Aboriginals the kangaroo is an ancestorspirit that protects and guides them and plays a major part in their myths Each Aboriginal group has a different animal ancestor and feels a kinship with that species The kangaroo ancestor left many traces of its journey at the time of creation, seen today in features of the landscape



According to Native American myth, the beaver brought mud from the ocean bed to create land. There are many beaver clans and the beaver is seen as an ancestor figure. In Europe it is a symbol of



ELEPHANE

BATS

The bat is generally seen as un lean and is associated with darkness and death. In Lurope it can be a form of the devil and vampires such as Dracula often took the form of bats. In contrast to the Chinese the but symbolizes happiness and good lack

BEAVER

energy and

well as earth, the hippopotamus is associated with fertility. It was known to the Greeks and the Romans as the beast of the Nile and it played a particularly important role in ancient Egyptian mythology - the Tertility goddess Taueret was depicted with the head of a hippopot imus.

The monkey is sacred to some West African tribes, for whom it is an ancestor figure Generally it represents mischief and inquisitiveness, but the monkey-god Hanuman is highly regarded in Hinduism From Japan comes a well-known motif of the three Mystic Monkeys, which see no evil, hear no evil, and speak no evil.



In northern countries the bear replaces the lion as king of the beasts. It was an ancestor of the Lapps, who called it grandfather. Because it hibernates, and then wakes in the spring, it symbolizes resurrection. The bear also represents



CAMEL

the camet, or ship of the desert. is highly valued in Middle Eastern cultures in Arabia it is regarded as ennobled by God - the prophet Mohammed took an oath on one and where his camel is said to have knelt on the flight to Meeca, the holiest spot in Islam now stands As a pack animal the camel represents stamina. obedience and temperance It is a classic symbol of Arabia

DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTY OF THE

SIE ALSO BEAR C 1 14 Dog to Marion 40 Will 70 D - 13 114 ELIPHANT OF GREEN 20 Horses C S 25 PERSONAL TRANSPORTER JACKALES A 14 LION DE L. L. 28 MONKEY to 11 M 20 OTHER ASIMALS DO SELE CON 21 Rd MINE 113 01130 113 RIMES STATE TIGIREN T 113

THE RESIDENCE AND ADDRESS.

BIRDS

THERE IS A WIDESPREAD AND ANCIENT BELIEF that after death, the soul leaves the body in the form of a bird. Consequently the bird is a symbol of the spirit. Birds can be mediators between gods and men, and can act as vehicles for the gods. Many religions have heavenly beings or spirits with wings: angels, cherubs, and seraphim for example. Birds are seen in myths involving a Tree of Life, and are sometimes depicted fighting with or carrying a serpent, symbolizing the uneasy balance between the sun (as bird) and the waters (as serpent). In Christian art this symbolizes the struggle between good and evil.



Cuckoo

Because of its habit of laying its eggs in other birds' nests, the cuckoo is sometimes regarded as evil. It is a symbol of unfaithfulness in marriage and, in Japan, of unrequited love. But it also has positive associations, linked to fertility and rain. The song of the first cuckoo heralds the arrival of spring and the sowing of crops. If it is heard too early, it is taken as a sign of frosts and a poor harvest.



Spärrow

In the Old Testament the sparrow is viewed as a symbol of solitude and loneliness, while in the New Testament this small bird represents lowliness and insignificance However, it is also associated with fertility, and in Greek mythology it is linked to Aphrodite, goddess of love. In Japan the sparrow is traditionally a symbol of loyalty perhaps because of its sociable nature.

ROOSTERS AND HENS

the entrails of the hen.

R oosters and hens have long been used in ritual. In some places roosters are sacrificed

so that their blood returns fertility to the soil,

and seers foretell the future from



SWALLOW

Returning north from its summer habitat only with the arrival of warmer weather, the swallow symbolizes spring, renewed life, and fertility. Because the swallow is almost always airborne, in parts of Africa it is seen as a symbol of purity it does not soil its feathers by walking on the ground In China two swallows flying together represent marital happiness.



PILICAN

The pelican stands for self-sacrifice and parental devotion. According to early Christian legend, either the female pelican or a serpent killed the newborn chicks. The female then mourned them for three days, after which she stabbed her own chest to resuscitate them with her blood. Thus, for Christians, the pelican represents Christ, who shed his blood for mankind and was raised from the dead alter three days. The bird is often carved

on church lecterns.



FALCON PECTORAL





1-1 (E) RYB

ROOSTER
The rooster is associated with courage and battle, with masculinity and the sun. Its crow heralds the dawn and

the dawn and symbolizes the victory of light

over darkness. It is equated with fertility, and its sacrifice forms part of many harvest rites. In Christianity the rooster is a symbol of resurrection, and on a weathervane it represents vigilance.



HEÑ

The hen is widely seen as a symbol of maternal care and protectiveness. In Christianity the hen with its chicks represents Christ and his believers.



Although often seen as an evil omen and a sign of war, illness, or death, the raven was viewed in China, Japan, and Persia as a messenger of the gods and as a symbol of the sun. In Norse legend the god Odin is accompanied by two ravens, and according to Native American myth the earth was created by a raven that dropped pebbles to make islands in the sea.



with wisdom.

In China, as
elsewhere, the
crane is seen as a
good omen, a
messenger of the
gods, and a bearer
of maternal love and
happiness. It brings
high status, longevity,
and immortality, and
symbolizes spiritual
enlightenment. In
parts of Africa and
North America the
crane was associated

CROW The black crow is widely regarded as a bird of ill omen and to many Native Americans, a crow's black feather spells death to an enemy. To the Chinese the black crow paired with the white heron represents the yin/yang, male/female principle, and in Japanese Shintoism the crow is a messenger of

Talon holds the

"shenu" symbol

of eternity

PARROT

The parrot symbolizes spring and fertility, as well as imitation and mockery due to its gift of mimicry. It is held sacred by the Hopi peoples of North America. In Hinduism the bird is associated with Kama, god of love, and also with prophecy and rainmaking.

KINGFISHER

the gods.

In the East the kingfisher denotes married bliss and its feathers are prized for their color and are thought to be magical. According to medieval legend, after the Flood the kingfisher flew too close to the sun and scorched its breast red while its back took on the color of the sky



PLACOCK

This royal bird with its fan shaped tail is a symbol of the sun, its circular tail represents the vault of heaven and the eyes the stars. In Buddhism the many eyes symbolize watchlulness, although the feathers are often thought to be unlucky, a form of the evil eye. In Hinduism the peacock is the mount of Karttikeya, the god of war. The male peacock courts its mate with such pride that it has become synonymous with vanity.

DOVES OF LOVE AND PEACE

The dove is a symbol of the soul, and of peace, innocence, gentleness, and purity. Two doves together are considered a sign of marital love and fidelity. Doves are held sacred in many countries. In Greek legend the dove was linked to Aphrodite, the infant Zeus, the Fates, and the Furies



SEVEN GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

In Christianity the white dove is a symbol of the Holy Spirit and sometimes of martyrdom. Seven doves encircling a cross represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

GREENPEACE DOVE

Greenpeace, the international movement for protecting the environment, has adopted a dove bearing an olive branch as its emblem. It is symbolic of peace and also of hope.



To the lncas condors were revered and were thought to be the embodiment of the gods of the air. Condor feathers were prized and used in religious ornaments.



GOOSE

The goose is a bird of the sun. It was associated with many Greek and Roman gods and was kept to guard temples. It thus came to symbolize watchfulness and love In Hinduism the goose is the mount of the god Brahma and in China and Japan it is associated with the fall moon and is a bearer of good.

news



SWAN

In Greek myth Zeus took on the form of a swan to seduce the beautiful Leda. The swan is also associated with Venus/Aphrodite her chanot is sometimes borne through the air by swans. In Native American lore the swan is a symbol of trust and submission The song of the dying swan is said to be one ol joy at the prospect ol entering the alterlife



DUCK

In Native American myth the duck acts as mediator between the sky and the water, and it was one of the creatures that helped renew the earth after the Flood According to Hebrew tradition the duck symbolizes immortality, while in China and Japan it represents contentment, marital bliss, and fidelity

STORK

In ancient Egypt and Greece young storks were believed to treat their elders kindly, and so they symbolized lilial duty. In Europe the stork is associated with the spring and with binh, babies are said to have been brought by the stork.



guests. Two magpies

together symbolize

marita bliss

According to legend.

flightless and without

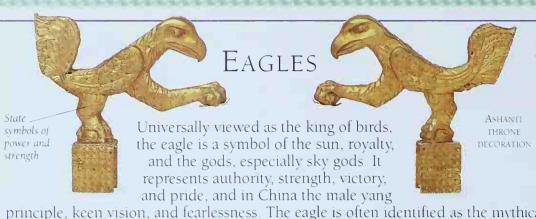
god. It is the emblem of New Zealand

a tail, was created from

the kiwi, which is

a gourd by Tane, a Polynesian ancestor

NAPOLEONIC



principle, keen vision, and fearlessness. The eagle is often identified as the mythical Indian garuda, seen in deadly combat with the serpent. Like the hawk, the eagle is reputed to gaze straight at the sun as it flies upward and so, in medieval Europe, it came to be associated with prayer ascending to God, and with the ascension of Christ. In Australian lore the sea eagle carries the souls of the dead back to Dreamtime.

Napoleonic Eagle

Perhaps inspired by the Roman practice, every French regiment in Napoleon's army carried a bronze standard in the form of an eagle. The example shown here was the emblem of the 105th regiment, and was captured by the British at Waterloo. In its right talon the eagle holds Jupiter's emblem of a thunderbolt



US BALD EAGLE

In 1782 the United States adopted the bald eagle as a national emblem. It appears both on US coins and paper money and is symbolic of power and strength

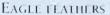
The eagle's outstretched wings demonstrate its strength, and it rests above an olive branch of peace.





LIP ORNAMENT

To the Aztecs the eagle symbolized the rising sun and celestial power. It was associated with the warrior clans, and this eagle head was worn as protective jewelry.



To the Sioux the spotted eagle represents the essence of all life. The eagle's feathers are regarded as rays of the sun, and the eagle-feathered headdress is a symbol of Thunderbird, the Universal Spirit. By putting the headdress on before battle the warrior identified himself with the





GOLDFINCH

Essentially a Christian symbol, the goldlinch represents both the soul and the passion ol Christ. Goldfinches like to eat thistles and thorns, and so the bird has become associated with Christ's sulfering on the cross. The red spot on its throat is said to represent the drop of blood that fell as the goldfinch drew a thorn from Christ's brow



BIRD OF PARADISE

The feathers of this magnificent bird, found in New Guinea, are so beautiful that it was thought in Europe that the bird came from paradise. The bird achieved mythical status – people believed that it lived on dew drops and would moan in pain if captured. Its feathers were prized and were once worn as a fashion item.



HUMMINGBIRD

The hummingbird is seen as a symbol of joy, giving pleasure through its loveliness. In Native American myth it is a truthful bird that represents beauty, harmony, and enjoyment. The Aztec war god, Huitzilopochtli, and Quetzalcoatl, the Mayan god, both wore its feathers, which were widely thought to have magical properties.



IBIS

In ancient Egypt the ibis was a symbol of the soul. It was sacred to the lunar deities Isis and Thoth, and represented the moon (with the hawk as the sun). However the ibis also had a solar significance when seen in battle with serpents, emblems of the water. In Christian art the ibis symbolizes devotion and perseverance.

power and strength of the eagle god



BLACKBIRD

The much-loved blackbird was sacred to the Greeks for its sweet song, but because this song is so alluring the bird is also a symbol of the temptations of the flesh. In some Christian writings the black plumage makes the blackbird a symbol of evil



ROBIN

The robin is a symbol of compassion. Its red breast is said to be the result of scorching when it carried water to the parched souls in hell Alternatively, the robin was pncked when trying to remove nails from Christ's cross.



NIGHTINGALE

The song of the nightingale, both sweet and plaintive, was particularly meaningful in Persia, where it was seen as a symbol of love, longing, and pain. Because its song heralds the dawn, it is said by Christians to represent the soul's yearning for Christ.



WREN

Although killing a wren is considered unlucky, it was not always so. In England and France it was once a part of Christmas rites to hunt and kill wrens, burying them in the churchyard as a symbol of the ending of the old year.



described as a messenger of love. However, it also has negative associations. It is said to betray secrets, and in Europe it is a symbol of the devil and of witchcraft





Dodo

The dodo, which was hunted to extinction in the 17th century, has become a symbol of final death, hence the phrase "dead as a dodo."



HAWK

This predatory bird is one of the great solar birds, with similar associations to the eagle and the falcon. To Greeks and Romans II was the messenger of Apollo. The god Horus was also depicted with the head of a hawk. In Native American myth the hawk helped fire the sun and recreate the world after the Flood. The eagle hawk is a deity and totem for Australian Aboriginals.



QUAIL

In Russian lore the quail symbolizes the sun, with the hare as the moon. The quail was also a symbol of the tzars. To the Chinese, as to the Romans, it was a symbol of courage and victory in battle, although when caged it symbolized the soul imprisoned in the body Elsewhere it is associated with good luck and the spnng, and because it is thought to have an extremely amorous nature, it has sexual associations



OWLS

In ancient Greece the owl was sacred to Athena, goddess of wisdom and night, and came to symbolize the city named after her, as well as wisdom. The owl was then incorporated into the design of Greek coins, and was so popular that countries such as Italy, Egypt, and Turkey issued similar coins.

BIRD OF THE NIGHT

Because of its association with the night, the owl is widely seen as a bird of ill omen with a cry that heralds death and misfortune. To the Celts the owl was a "night hag" linked to corpses. In parts of Africa it was associated with magic, and its head was used in preparing spells.



ALBATROSS

Because of its ability to fly great distances over water, the albatross is a symbol of the sea and long ocean journeys. When it circles a ship it is thought to herald the advent of a storm and is symbolic of rough weather. In the West there is an ancient belief that the albatross embodied the soul of a dead sailor, and so it was considered extremely unlucky to kill one, as reflected in Coleridge's Rime of the Ancient Manner



WOODPECKER

The woodpecker was widely believed to have magical powers and to bring good luck. It was sacred to Mars, Roman god of war, and was seen as a symbol of lightning and fire by Germanic peoples. The Ainu of Japan viewed it as evil, but also believed that the woodpecker was sent by God to show them how to hollow out tree trunks to make boats



OSTRICH

In medieval times the ostrich was reputed to leave its eggs to hatch in the heat of the sun. In some cultures this was seen as a sign of cruelty to its young; in others as a symbol of belief in the power of the heavens The ostrich also represents those who hide from the truth, owing to its reputation for burying its head in the sand An ostrich egg is a symbol of rebirth



VULTURE

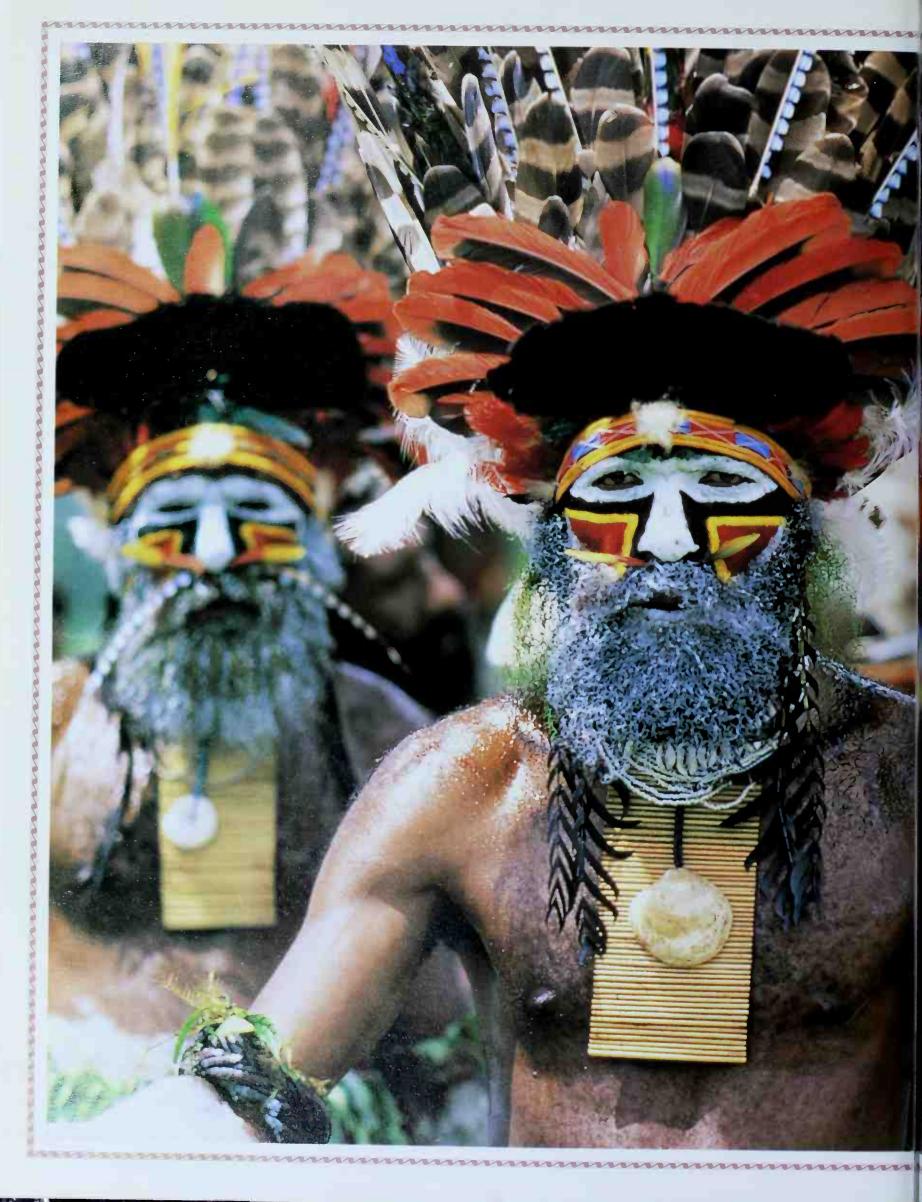
Closely associated with several Egyptian deities. the vulture is seen as feminine and represents maternal instinct, as vultures were supposed to feed their young with their own blood if necessary. Zoroastnans view them as compassionate punfiers since, according to their rites, the dead are left for vultures to devour. However, vultures are also feated because of their carnivorous appetite.

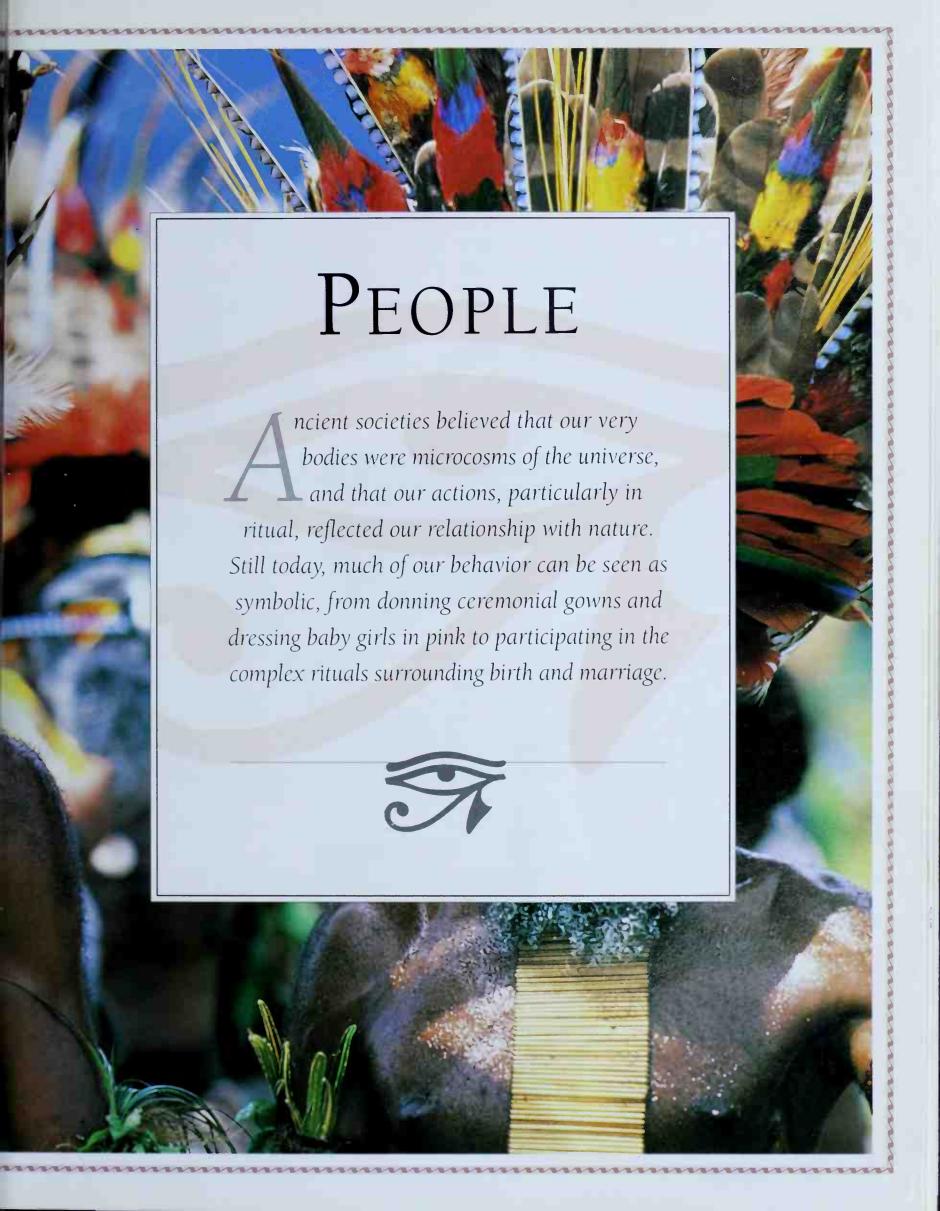


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SEX & FERTILITY

FOR MANY PEOPLE NOWADAYS, especially city dwellers, the fertility of soil is a rather remote concept. But for thousands of years the fertility of the earth, along with human fertility and thus the continuation of the species, was the greatest preoccupation of humankind. All societies have had fertility gods and goddesses. And there are countless images imbued with sexual symbolism, which thus essentially have to do with fertility. Many are

straightforward sex symbols and relate to the union of man and woman; others have to do with Three stripes of the earth's bounty. Shiva worship Shiva's face protected by two cobras



many items connected with fertility and may have been a gift to a young bride. Hanging from its garland of flowers are silver keys, a fish. pomegranates, grapes, and a festive tambourine.



FERTILITY DOLLS

Dolls such as these were worn by women and young girls in Angola to enhance their fertility. They are made variously of corn cobs or forked sticks and beeswax - the corn cob being itself a symbol of fertility.

LINGA AND YONI

The linga is the most commonly worshiped form of Shiva, its phallus-shaped pillar representing the god as the male creative principle. Here it is set into the yon, the vulva-shaped feminine element. Together they represent fertility and creation.

SEX SYMBOLS

The symbolism of sex varies greatly from culture to culture according to lifestyle, social etiquette, and taboos. In the Western world classic sex symbols tend to be young and glamorous, and are often film stars or musicians. Objects that symbolize male sexuality tend to be associated with a phallic shape and with power, whereas female sexuality is related to rounded shapes, receptivity, and abundance.



ROCKET

The rocket is a classic phallic shape and an object of great power and thrust. In addition, it is symbolic of what is essentially a male urge to conquer: man-the-hunter sets out to penetrate the ultimate new frontier – space.









The foliate head has continued to be a symbol of life and fertility from pre-Christian times well into this century. In church architecture it stands for the regenerative force of Christ. More recently it has been adopted as an ecological symbol for preserving and protecting nature.



PINECONE

This vast bronze pinecone is part of an ancient Roman fountain As the fruit of the pine tree it is a powerful symbol of life and fertility The Romans associated it with Venus, goddess of love, and it is one of her emblems



WHEAT SHEAF

A sheaf of wheat or corn is a well-known symbol of the fertility of the earth and of growth and abundance. It represents the fruitful union of the sun and the soil.

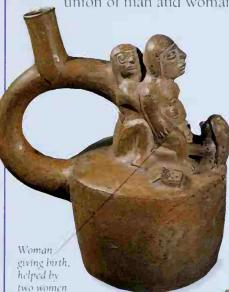


CORNUCOPIA

The cornucopia is the horn of plenty, spilling over with fruit. It is a symbol of fertility and an attribute of the gods of vegetation. Its shape, - a hollow horn - is both female and male



iving birth is the ultimate Usymbol of creation, and as such is mythologized throughout the world. In the West babies often appear as if by miracle, snatched by storks from the cosmic waters. In other parts of the world the process is more direct - resulting from the blessed union of man and woman.



BIRTH PLATE

In this commemorative plate a stork delivers a baby to its crib. In folklore storks became associated with birth because of their renowned devotion to their young.

PERUVIAN CHILDBIRTH

A single act of creation mirroring the whole of creation, childbirth is seen as a moment of spiritual vulnerability and is often accompanied by rituals. The umbilical cord is treated with respect as a link between worlds and sometimes, as in

Peru, may be preserved by the lamily



This gold figure represents Astarte, the Canaanite goddess of fertility, and dates from the 16th century BC Although highly stylized, with a pubic triangle set within a larger one, the sexual organs are clearly defined.



LOVERS

This Japanese print is an illustration from an 18th-century pillow poem. It is one of thousands of erotic paintings depicting the union of male and female. The union can be seen as a purely sexual act or as the male and female principle combined in a symbolic act of creation Illustrated stories about men taking their pleasure with courtesans were highly popular at the



SEE ALSO

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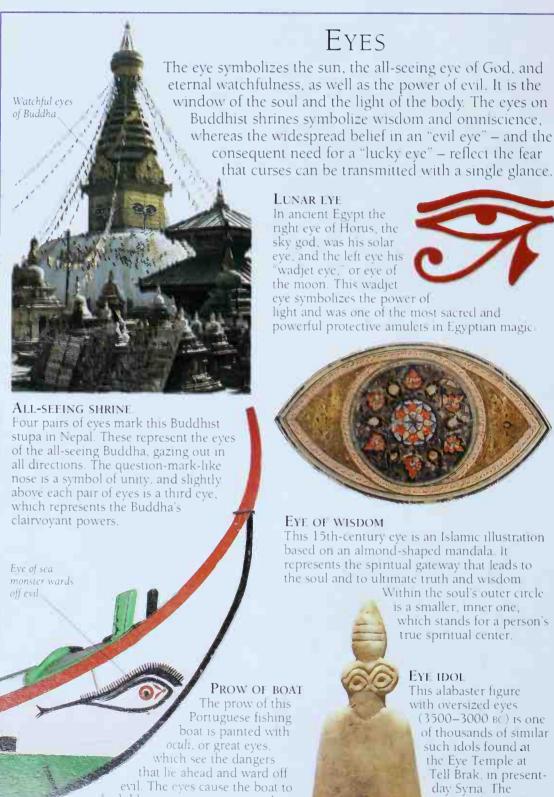
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HUMAN BODY

THE HUMAN BODY is seen by many people as a microcosm of the universe. In some parts of the world buildings are laid out with this symbolism in mind. A Southeast Asian house, for example, has sections that correspond to the human head, body, and feet, the head area being the most sacred. In other parts of the world the body is referred to as the "temple of the soul." Composed metaphorically of the four elements, it can be seen as representing life, and linking gods and humans. Gods, in fact, frequently appear in human form, and the Bible tells us that "God made man in his own image."



evil. The eyes cause the boat to

look like a great sea monster, thus

deep ng the dangerous spirits of the

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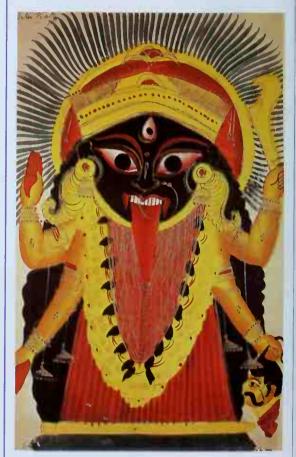
SKULL

In this famous scene from Shakespeare's play, the prince holds the skull of Yorick, a former servant. The scene stresses the impermanence of life and the pointless vanity of worldly matters, both symbolized by the skull.



SKULL-AND-CROSSBONES In the 1600s, variations of the skull-and-crossbones emblem were adopted by pirates as a sinister warning of their evil intentions.

The emblem filled sailors with dread, and signaled death to all who saw it.



TONGUE

The tongue is likened to a flame because of its color and quick movements. It can be a fertility symbol and also represents the voice of the deity. In some churches, devotees speak "in tongues." Here the Indian goddess Kali's protuding tongue is a symbol of her creative and destructive energy

temple derived its

of visionary figures.

name from its cache





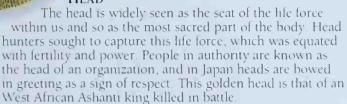
EARS

In the East, large earrings were once worn by kings and princes. The Buddha is usually shown with long ears, perhaps stretched by such earrings during his youth as a prince. Long ear lobes thus signify both royalty and spiritual authority.



BRAIN

The brain is equated with the intellect and its location in the skull gives the head its Western connotation as being the seat of the intelligence.





Nose

The nose may signify arrogance if it is raised or wrinkled. In literature it is often linked to the phallus – its size used as a veiled reference to male prowess. In the story *Pinocchio*, a big nose symbolizes dishonesty since the puppet's nose grew with every lie that he told.



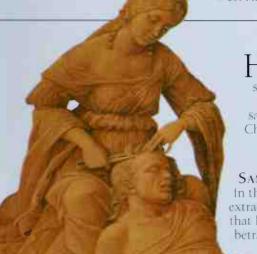
PETTI

In many parts of the world teeth are ritually filed at puberty as a sign of beauty. In the animal world baring the teeth is a sign of defense or threat, but in the well-known story of *Dracula* the fangs of the vampire draw blood from innocent victims.



Mouth

The mouth gives judgment and so symbolizes the word. It can represent the all-devouring earth or a door into the realm of the unconscious. The demon above, from a Baroque Italian garden, invites passers-by into his cavernous mouth.



mmmmmmm mm

A HANT

SALL & THE ALL

ANDRIA MANTE

HAIR

Hair is often seen as holding the strength and energy of the body as it grows from the head, seat of spiritual power. In popular stories, hair worn loose denotes a free spirit, even wantonness, although in Christianity it represents penitence or the virgin saints. Often when hair is covered it is a sign of respect for God. Christian nuns cut their hair short to symbolize their renunciation of worldly vanity.

SAMSON AND DELILAH

In the Bible, Samson performs leats of extraordinary strength. Delilah discovers that his power lies in his long hair and betrays him to his enemies by cutting it off while he sleeps, thus rendering him as weak

nile he sleeps, thus rendering him as weal and vulnerable as any other man



Dreadlocks Dreadlocks are worn

partly to show membership in the Rastafarian community, which though mostly West Indian looks back to the ancient culture of Ethiopia Wearing hair long and matted challenges the norms of everyday fashion

SHAVEN HEADS

MANAGEMENT PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE PART

In many Buddhist sects monks and nuns shave their heads as a sign of humility. They are inutating the actions of the Buddha, who cut off his long hair when he embraced a life of asceticism.

THE HEART

To Christians the heart is the source of love, joy, sorrow, and compassion. Many Christian saints hold a heart as an attribute, sometimes pierced by arrows or crowned with thorns. In ancient Greece, the heart was the center of thought, feeling, and will, while in Islam, it is the spiritual center.



SACRED HEART

This French greeting card depicts the sacred heart of lesus within a stylized crucifix. It combines a flaming heart surrounded by a crown of thorns with other Christian imagery

LOVE This is the classic symbol of love: Cupid's arrow pierces a heart and his victim is struck by the unexpected pleasure and

pain of desire.

PLAYING CARDS

Hearts are one of the four suits in a standard pack of playing cards. They represent warmth and the heart of the world. The queen of hearts stands for love. The king is more powerful than her, but the ace is generally even more so, and to be "ace" is thus to be best.



In Mesoamerica, human sacrifice was ritually practiced as a form of communion with the gods, the deities were periodically fed to maintain cosmic order. For the Aztecs the heart was the center of the life force, and it was this that had to

be offered to the gods to ensure the fertility and the renewal

In European and Arab countries the spleen is the seat of the humors: laughter, anger,

ill-humor, and melancholy. To be "splenetic" is to be melancholy.

LIVER

In China the liver is linked to courage and filial duty Elsewhere, to be "lily-livered" is to be cowardly.

INTESTINES

The twisting nature of the intestines gives them their

symbolic relationship with the labyrinth of life. In some places the intestines are associated with compassion.



The personification of Death. the skeleton is often shown carrying a scythe or an hourglass as a reminder of



In the Bible, after God created Adam, he decided that Adam needed a companion. He therefore caused him to fall into a deep sleep and, according to Genesis, took out one of Adam's ribs and fashioned it into a woman -Eve. The rib is thus a symbol of wife, born from the body of

man.



the speedy passing of time.



This strange palm nut, known as a double coconut or coco-demer, is seen as a symbol of the female genitalia and so of fertility and creation. In India it was worshiped as a manifestation of the vulva of the earth goddess, and thus of all creative energy.



BREASTS

Nowadays breasts are often seen as simply erotic. However, in the past, and still in many cultures, they have primarily symbolized motherhood and abundance Fertility goddesses thousands of years old are depicted as large-breasted women, sometimes in the act of giving birth, making the link with creation clear

STONE-AGE VEN S, AUSTRIA





The ancient Greeks placed this huge stone carving in the sacred city of Delphi to mark the center of the world They believed that two birds flying from opposite ends of the earth would meet here, and so erected the omphalos, or navel, to physically represent the center of the world, from which all creation originated. Its rounded top was a symbol of the point of connection between the realms of the gods, of humans, and of the dead



EARLY CHALK MAN, ENGLAND

PHALLUS

As symbol of fertility the male sexual organ represents the generative forces of nature and the Creator. An erect phallus is depicted in the art of many countries as a powerful symbol of regeneration and renewal. This English chalk figure from Cerne Abbas is 180ft (55m) high



COCO-DE-MER, SOUTH INDIA





HAND OF THE FUTURE This Roman hand was used in divination. It bears symbols such as a rooster's head and a pinecone, which were linked to the cult of Bacchus and the visions of the future that arose out of drunken revelry.

HANDS

Hands, by their gestures, can signify blessing, protection, justice, and authority. Healers often work through the "laying on of hands," and we speak of giving a "helping hand" when we assist someone. Two people holding hands is a sign of love and affection.



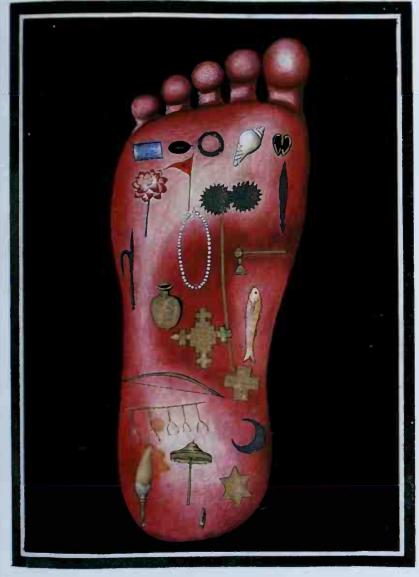
HANDPRINTS OF THE STARS In Hollywood film stars leave their handprints in wet cement as a lasting testament to their fame. Thousands of fans try out the impressions to see how they match up to their idols.



JOINED HANDS In 1973 a special fifty-pence piece was minted to commemorate Britain joining the European Economic Community. It features a series of hands clasped in a continuous circle of friendship.

HAND OF GOD This Jewish symbol of strength and power is worn as a good-luck charm.





In the West, bare feet are a sign of humility and poverty, thus pilgrims often went barefoot. The foot is the most lowly part of the body and in parts of Asia it is rude to sit with one's feet pointing at another person. In the footprint of Vishnu, above, the symbols on the sole relate to his nature or incarnation. Buddha's footprints bear auspicious symbols of the universe to demonstrate how far above worldly considerations he has risen-

mmmmmmmm



The three-legged symbol has various meanings. It represents the swift-footed sun as it rises, sets, and ebbs each day. It is a symbol of good luck, like the swastika, symbolizing fertility and regeneration with its continuous cycle of footsteps, and it is also the chosen emblem of Sicily and the Isle of Man The motto of the Isle of Man is Quocunque Jeceris Stabit - whichever

way it is thrown, it will stand.



ARMS

If raised, the arms may signify supplication or prayer. They may be raised in battle (bearing weapons) or in surrender (openpalmed) Generally, the arm symbolizes action The arm of justice is a common metaphor, as is the "strong arm of the law." In Eastern religious iconography arms represent power Thus a many-armed deity represents the many-powered nature of the god

......



SPINE

This Egyptian diedpillar represents the backbone of Ostris and symbolizes stability both the stability of the Pharaoh's rule and that of the heavens, which the pillar supported The spinal column as the central support of the body is a symbol of the world axis



FINGERNAILS

In the 19th century, long nails were evidence of wealth in eastern Asia, since they implied an absence of manual work, which was left to others. Some African cultures share this belief, although often restricting the practice to the little finger

SEEALSO

Erista Manager WARE VO4 Door in 188 Doors S 1 1 1 1 1 100

FELLOW FLOREN 22 HANDS OF HANDE GO 24 COLX 38 EXCHINE Marie Involves 87

LIGNES TRAFFIT 105 DETRUG TOOLE FAME 79

DANCE & THEATER

DANCING IS MOVEMENT, ENERGY, EXCITEMENT. It is a part of everyday life as a symbol of pleasure and as a ritual of courtship. In different cultures it is associated with initiation ceremonies, fertility rites, rain, war, and death. It is used in harvest festivals to improve the crop and in war rituals to induce a state of frenzy. Many of today's dances have developed from earlier rituals; the maypole dance, for example, has its roots in Greek and Roman rites of spring. Drama, with its more controlled actions and gestures, provides us with a symbolic representation of the world we live in.



Native American tribes of the plains, such as the Hidatsa, were formed into military "Dog Societies." The Dog dancer, Pehriska-Ruhpa (Two Ravens), enacts a war dance to enlist the aid of spirits and to prepare the warrriors for battle.



WHIRLING DERVISHES

In their ecstatic dances the whirling dervishes (holy men) of Turkey pace out the turning of the earth on its axis as it orbits the sun. Through the dance, a dervish symbolically brings the spiraling of the universe into being.

PUPPETS

Puppets are scaled-down versions of men and women, or the gods they believe in, and their performances often concern human behavior. The design of the puppets, their clothing, and their actions are all symbolic.

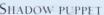




MARIONETTES In Burma string

puppets are used to act out epic stories involving princes and deeds of valor

These moral fables leave their audiences with food for thought



The famous shadow puppets of Java and Balı enact the great epics of Hinduism. The flickering shadows, projected onto a white screen, create a world of mystery in which the stories of are filled with mbolic meaning.



Dances involving swords occur all over the world They were probably originally used to ward off evil spirits and to strengthen the power of the sword in battle. Some sword dances end with a motion symbolizing the cutting off of a head. suggesting a link with ancient rites of sacrifice

are ind the



The dance around the maypole has been performed since Greek and Roman times to celebrate spring. It is often associated with May Day celebrations The maypole represents the earth's axis and also acts as a phallic symbol. representing male fertility





Flames in ring of

fire symbolize

destruction of

illusion

purification and

Dwarf of ign mance under Shiva's feet

GREEK TRAGEDY In ancient Greece drama presented a powerfully symbolic portrayal of human behavior and emotions. By resolving huge issues such as jealousy, love, and incest, such performances enabled the audience to identify with the characters and overcome anxieties in the process. Thus drama often had a healing effect.

THAI DANCERS

The costumes of

make them look

creatures. Their

stylized dance movements

reinforce this

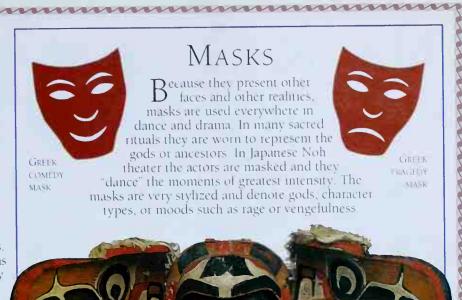
impression.

Thai dancers

like heavenly



Mime is a symbolic form of drama that is enacted without words. It uses only expressions and gestures to convey meaning, and so can be "read" universally.



MASKS Because they present other faces and other realities, masks are used everywhere in dance and drama. In many sacred rituals they are worn to represent the gods or ancestors. In Japanese Nohtheater the actors are masked and they 'dance" the moments of greatest intensity. The masks are very stylized and denote gods, character types, or moods such as rage or vengefulness

RAGENY MASK

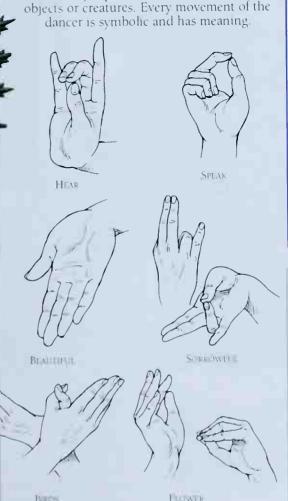
Strings pull back CHANGING FACES to form beaked Native American Kwakiutl eagle head

dancers can take on more than one identity with a "transformation mask. When the dancer pulls levers and strings, the outer mask opens up to reveal another.



NOH MASK Japanese Noh theater is distinctive for its use of painted wooden masks. The masks represent five general groups - male, female, the aged, deities, and monsters as well as certain emotions.

HUSK MASK Nauve American Iroquois dancers wear masks of braided corn husks for their midwinter ceremonies, when they call on spirits for a good harvest



CLASSICAL INDIAN DANCE GESTURES Hand gestures used in classical Indian dance are also used in modified form in Southeast Asia They represent moods, actions, and



convincingly suggest the death throcs of a swan

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MAGIC & CHARMS

THROUGH FAIRY TALES WE BECOME AWARE OF the world of magic and ritual at an early age. As adults, many things in life remain mysterious to us what we cannot explain by rational means we may try to explain by

> magic. Similarly, when we find ourselves powerless to control the forces that affect us, we may look to magic. Many people still use spells to cure illness, to harm enemies, or to ensnare a lover. Even the skeptical among us may wear lucky charms, avoid walking under ladders, and consult fortune tellers. Magic and ritual, though disparaged by some as superstition, are still

practiced by many people throughout the world.



According to folklore, witches could fly on broomsticks, brew magic potions, and cast spells. Once they were thought to be in league with the devil and thus were symbols of evil. Women healers were often branded as witches. By 1700 more than 200,000 had been put to death



FIVE-POINTED STAR An upside-down fivepointed star was a symbol of evil. Rightside up, as here, it symbolized light and spirituality, and was painted on houses to ward off witches



MIRROR

The mirror symbolizes divine truth and the wisdom of the universe This 'vision' shattered if a mirror Is broken, and it is a ma mar jear bad

LOVE POTION



THE LOVE POTION, LVELYN DE MORGAN, 1903

When all else fails, unsuccessful lovers often resort to magic to heguile the object of their desires in literature. This could take the form of love potions, usually made from phallic-shaped ingredients such as the mandrake root, ginseng, or ginger, plus an appropriate spell. Many foods are reputed to be aphrodisiacs or love enhancers, and are used in much the same way as the age-old love potion



LOVE-STRUCK PAIR

FENG SHUL COMPASS Feng Shui is an ancient Chinese art based on living in harmony with one's surroundings. Using this compass, Feng Shui diviners locate the right combinations of elements, such as time, wind, and water, which determine the best sites for homes, temples, or burial grounds



Money is a symbol of power, and so hy extension it has come to be imbued with spiritual, as well as practical, properties. In China a sword made of coins was hung over the hed of a sick person to dispel the demons or evil spirits that might be causing the illness.

LOVE DOLLS

These male (right) and female (left) dolls are traditional Native American medicine charms. In the

Menominee tribe, the dolls were given the names of a couple and tied facing each other to make sure they remained faithful to one other. In the Potawatomi tribe they were used as love charms to draw two people together.



EGYPTIAN KNIFE

This curved knife of animal bone was used in ancient Egypt to strengthen the weak parts of a house. It would have been drawn against the relevant area to create a magical protective barrier. The various animals and patterns depicted on it endow the knife with their collective power.





FOUR-LEAF CLOVER

Finding a clover with four rather than three leaves is so rare that a four-leaved clover has become a widespread symbol of good luck The four leaves represent fame, wealth, a faithful lover, and good health - all important components of happiness.



HORSESHOE

mmmmmmm

The horseshoe is made of iron, which has power over the Evil Eye. It brings luck if it is hung on a door with the open end uppermost, because it will then catch good luck and hold it safely. If it is hung upside down, it is considered unlucky - the luck will run out.



DICE

Dice represent chance - the random pairing of numbers symbolizing life's unpredictability. Thus the phrase "the die is cast means that one's fate has been decided. Dice are also a Christian symbol: after the Crucifixion. soldiers threw dice for Christ's cloak.



MAGIC EYE

A belief in the Evil Eye is widespread in the Mediterranean and the Near East. Charms that look like eyes are thought to turn away the Evil Eye or deflect the look of anyone with evil intentions. Such charms are often made of glass to make them seem lifelike.

MAGIC CARPET

Riding on a magic carpet is the stuff of many dreams. Flying symbolizes release of the spirit and the overcoming of all physical limitations. King Solomon had a flying carpet that carried him, his throne, and both his armies wherever he wished In The 1,001 Nights, Aladdin also flew on a carpet

Power to protect

Many people wear charms to protect themselves from illness and danger. Certain objects and images are also used in healing the sick and are thought to be able to absorb illness, thus ridding a sick person of disease. Other objects are thought to give off energy, repel evil, or instill powers.





VOTIVE LEG Gifts are often promised to gods in return for a favor, such as curing an illness This bronze votive leg, dedicated by a Roman named Caledus, was probably a symbol of his gratifude for having been cured of a leg injury or infection



FOR GOOD HEALTH

The Nie'va people of the Upper Congo in West Africa use little figures, such as this one made up of rags, bone, leather, nuts, and wood, to watch over Till one's body, providing protection from illness SEHIFT



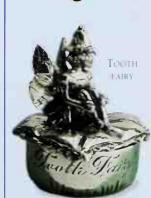
WITCH'S FAMILIAR

Because toads eat spiders, they are thought to be able to repel evil and poisonous things. Parts of a toad were olten included in magic potions.



AFRICAN CURL

This Nigerian figure, covered in spots representing the smallpox rash, symbolizes the disease itself. When treated with spells and incantations by witch doctors, the figure can cure the illness - or cause it



ALADDIN'S MAGIC CARPET

TOOTH FAIRY

Fairies people children's stories as well as their imaginations. They have magical powers and are generally symbols of good lairy godinothers can right the wrongs of the world Here a tooth lairy guards a lost tooth, and collects money lor it

SEE ALSO

CLOVER LA STAM DE & 46 POWER TO PROTECT F3 CR1 38 A THE F MASK R 40 ACHT CHILLIAN JADE TET HAND 41 ROSCIAN SHISTING IND MAG 11 1 50 PALL HAMSO

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WEIGHT BAKA 60. WITE HEALT TO

probably in battle. In the past, many Burmese men had tattoos with similar markings

PROTECTIVE GARMENT

This Burmese undershirt is

covered with charms, spells

made to project its wearer,

and horoscope details. It was

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

MUSIC REPRESENTS THE ORDERED PATTERN of the universe, and musical instruments symbolize harmony and oneness with

nature. They bring pleasure but may spell danger, pipes in particular having the power to lure listeners to their doom. Stringed instruments represent

the sounds of the heavens, while percussion instruments are associated with divine truth, revelation, and ecstasy.

MANUAL MA



WILLIAM TO THE TOTAL THE T

GONG

The gong is traditionally used in Buddhist temples to mark the stages of the service and to ward off evil spirits. It is a valued religious object in the East and is often highly ornate, as in this example found in Borneo. In secular use, sounding the gong signals a call to dinner, particularly in a formal setting.



CYMBALS

These ancient percussion instruments date back to 3000 BC and are still widely used today. In worship they symbolize contact with the heavens, and in Tibetan temples they are sounded in the worship of Buddhist deities.



Mu-yu means wooden fish in Chinese. These instruments are played in temples and are symbolic of ceaseless prayer because, like fish, they never seem to rest





to create the loudest sounds. The guitar itself has male associations, with certain musicians using it in performance as an exaggerated phallic symbol.



CHINESE ZITHER A Chinese scholar should be accomplished in the four arts literature, painting, chess, and music - and the zither, or qin, was the symbol of music. According to Chinese lore, a zither played by a sage had the power to reveal to him the essential truth. The mother-of-pearl disks mark finger positions.

mmm

Drums

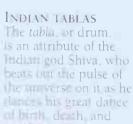
The drum symbolizes the first sounds, divine truth, and speech. It is associated with the symbolism of thunder and lightning and to Native Americans it represents the heart of the universe. Drums were traditionally used to accompany dance throughout the world and were a vital component of ecstatic dance. The motto



MILITARY DRUM

and a second second second

Once used to accompany soldiers into battle, the rousing, regular beat of the drum became associated with warfare Nowadays this military rhythm is an integral part of the brass or marching band





ment and the second sec

AFRICAN DRUM

of ritual dance. It

In Africa the drum is highly symbolic and

forms an essential part

represents the beat of

the human heart and is

played to summon up



The bell symbolizes contact between heaven and earth. It rings out the voice of the divine and the harmony of the cosmos. In the Western world the church bell is a call to prayer, but can also be sounded as a warning. The sanctus bell at the altar announces the coming of Christ In Buddhist countries it is rung or struck after devotions. while small bells sounding in the wind represent the gentle



sounds of



ORPHEUS'S LYRE

Orpheus, musician to the gods, enchanted all animals through his playing of the lyre and even succeeded in calming a storm-tossed ocean. In his hands the music of the lyre calmed all beings, causing them to be aware only of him. The lyre's seven strings corresponded to the seven known planets, and its sides to the relationship between heaven and earth.



LUTE

Popular in Europe from the mid-15th century, the lute is an attribute of music. It is also a symbol of purity and faithfulness. In Western art, when shown with a broken string it signifies discord.



The trumpet or bugle was blown as a call to arms in Roman times and has been associated with battle or fame ever since. Traditionally, a

trumpet fanfare heralds the arrival of royalty or important persons. Fame personified is often shown holding a trumpet.



Horse Guards flag

BUGLE
The bugle is a valveless

trumpet. In military camps it is sounded to play the reveille that heralds the morning and taps to mark the end of the day.

THE LAST JUDGMENT (DETAIL), MICHELANGELO. 1536-41

CEREMONIAL TRUMPET

THE LAST JUDGMENT

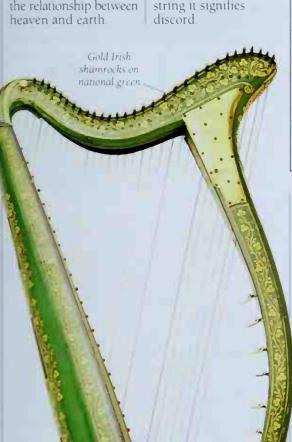
shall be raised.

Both the Bible and the Koran state that the trumpet will be sounded

on the Last Day, when the dead

The trumpet, with its masculine and authoritative associations, is used at ceremonies and grand occasions in many countries.

Moroccan ceremonial trumpet



HARP

An attribute of King David in the Bible, the harp symbolizes sacred music in both Judaism and Christianity, and angels are frequently depicted playing harps. St. Augustine explains the ten commandments in terms of the ten strings in David's harp. In Celtic lore the harp is an attribute of the fire god Dagda, and the harp is a symbol both of Ireland and of Wales.



SHENG

DEPOSIT

mmmmmmmmm

The Chinese mouth organ originated 3,000 years ago and is made up of 17 individual bamboo pipes bound together and held within a mouthpiece. It is a very ancient symbol of the phoenix which it is said to resemble. The sheng is played at weddings and funerals.



The shape of the flute gives it a phallic masculine dimension, while its tone is gentle and feminine. In Hinduism Krishna's flute is said to be the voice of eternity calling all living beings to himself. More generally, the flute is sometimes associated with anguish and extremes of emotion. In Christianity it symbolizes the soul's

longing for God

PAN PIPES

munum munum

Played nowadays in

the Andean region of South

America, pan pipes represent the

harmony of nature. In Greek

god Pan and by satyrs, and had the

power to entrance all who heard them

legend they were carried by the



ORGAN

A church instrument, the organ has come to symbolize the praise of God. St Cecilia, patron saint of music, is said to have invented it and dedicated it to the service of the Lord.

SEE ALSO

BILLER PLEASE AR 16
DRUMS ET 1 1111

GONG CO BEODELM 22-23

KRISHNA CO KESHEN 20

KESHEN 82

BODSKESH 2005 107

LOVE & MARRIAGE

A POPULAR VIEW IS THAT LOVE MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND. Love is central to life – its force has inspired poets, writers, and artists from time immemorial the world over. Love binds man to woman, mother to child. It can be sexual, the powerful attraction of opposing and complementary

forces found in nature, or platonic, the deep, binding emotion that forms the fabric of our society. In a more spiritual context, love reflects the longing of the soul for God or ultimate truth. The sexual act is then an expression of the soul's urge to merge with the cosmos.

Lips pursed into a kiss are a classic symbol of love or sexual attraction - the red lipstick kiss ends many a passionate love letter. Lipstick on the collar, though, signals infidelity

Lovers transformed into doves

The willow, which shed its leaves as the lovers made their escape_

> CHINESE WILLOW-PATTERN PLATE



WILLOW PATTERN

This plate shows the Chinese story of Koongsee and her lover, Chang. The girl's father forbids their marriage, so the lovers flee just as the leaves fall from the willow. Soldiers pursue them and kill Chang, so Koong-see, heartbroken, sets fire to herself. The lovers are then transformed into doves, emblems of their constancy

THE TWO SIDES OF LOVE



VENUS AND CUPID, LUCAS CRANACH THE ELDER, 1545

his painting shows L Cupid at his mother's side, in tears because he has been stung by bees. Venus, in response, reproves Cupid for inflicting more painful wounds on others than bee stings. Both Venus and Cupid arc gods of love and here represent the two sides of love – the pleasure and the pain. Cupid covered in bees is symbolic of love's sting in the tail.

PURITY AND



Winged Cupid

Twin hearts aflame

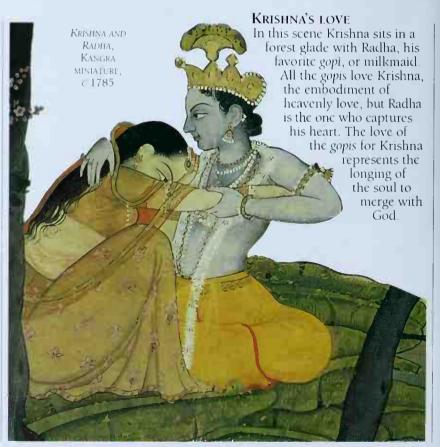
Red roses, symbols of passionate love

> Valentine's card speeding to its destination

White turtle dove of love and fidelity

> orget-me-nots symbols of vearning

VALENTINE CARD The valentine card first appeared in the 16th century, with its imagery reaching the height of sentimentality in Victorian times. Exchanged on Valentine's Day, February 14, these cards often depict love symbols such as hearts, doves, and cupids. Valentine's Day was originally known as the birds wedding day" duc to an old belief that birds selected their mates on That day. People then followed suit, and made it a day for declarations of love.

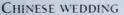




Marriage

The ritual of marriage is conducted in some form in every society and is traditionally a contract uniting two families. In some cases a man may marry more than one wife, while occasionally, as in Nepal and Tibet, a woman marries several brothers. Whatever form the marriage takes, it is a celebration that symbolizes the union of god and goddess, heaven and earth, man and woman, and the uniting of opposites to form a complete whole.

Bright clothes symbolize luck and fertility



Chinese legend recounts how the man in the moon ties invisible threads around the legs of newborn boys and girls

to link their destinies. When they grow up, they are irresistibly drawn to each other, and marriage is inevitable.

WEDDING BANDS

The custom of giving engagement rings goes back to Roman times

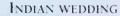
although the traditional diamond ring – symbol of faithfulness – dates only from the 15th century. The plain gold band of the wedding ring symbolizes eternity and the cycle of life.



BLESSINGS

The practice of showering newly married couples with confetti or rice comes from the East, where rice is a symbol of fertility. It is thrown so that the couple might be blessed with many children. In Saxon times red and white rose petals were thrown to represent the union of passion and purity





mmmmmm

An Indian bride's red san stands for fertility. Here the bridal couple is literally bedecked with good wishes. The fragrant garlands of roses and tuberoses represent beauty and happiness, while the bank notes are symbolic of prosperity.

Decorative lace

like tracery is

considered

auspicious

Silver bells to ward of evil spirits

A chimney sweep wishing a bride happiness is a good omen

> HENNAED HANDS In the Mtddle East and India brides' hands are intricately painted in red for good luck. The red coloning comes from the dye of the henna plant. A bride's appearance would be incomplete without it





SHVER LOCKET

The heart is the classic symbol of love, although it also represents sincerity and compassion. Heart-shaped lockets, with a photo of a loved one, or perhaps a lock of their hair, are common gifts of friendship.



WINGED HEART

This symbol combines the emblem of the heart, representing love, with the characteristic wings of Cupid or Eros, god of love A doubly powerful image, it represents the power of love to fly into the heart of anyone



B ME STEKE

HEART AS WORD
In the "I love New
York logo the heart is
universally recognized
as a symbol of love,
making the use of the
word itself
unnecessary. This is
one of the most
familiar latter-day
pictograms in use
today.



CHOCOLATE HEART

With aphrodistac as well as romantic connotations, chocolate has long been the food of love, given at times of celebration or as a token of affection. This heart-shaped chocolate is probably a Valentine's Day gift.



HEARTBROKEN

The phrase 'to be brokenhearted' has wound its way into our language and imagery. The heart splits in two, representing the ultimate pain of grief or loss. Spurned lovers have broken hearts, as do those separated from the ones they love



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CLOTHING

CLOTHING IS AN EMOTIVE ISSUE, reflecting the ways in which society regards individuals in terms of sex and status, and also how individuals regard themselves. What you wear says a great deal about who you are, or who

you wish to be. More powerful members of society tend to wear more elaborate clothing in public, for instance, and it is often of finer, more expensive, cloth. Clothes can be sensible or seductive, businesslike or frivolous. Youth characteristically dons clothing to denote rebellion, although youth fashions

often develop into mainstream fashions.

FIG LEAF The fig leaf, as the very first item of clothing.

symbolizes a loss of innocence and a fall from grace. Adam and Eve donned fig leaves when they first noticed their nakedness.



R' SSIAN NAVY SAFORS SURT

SAHOR'S TOP

The traditional sailorsuit, or matelot shirt, is woven with horizontal blue and white stripes. The blue of the stripes is called navy blue, or just navy, and is thought to represent the color of the sca.





BELT BUCKLES

For men, buckles are one of few outlets for showing individuality The lower one belonged to a South-American gaucho



BLUE JEANS Jeans arc essential items

for young people throughout the world. Designs seen as fashionable can be surprisingly expensive.

MATERIALS

The materials we choose to wear are right, significant. Slinky synthetics, for example, show a pride in one's body and flirtatiousness. Cotton, by contrast, is functional and economic; Gandhi spun his own as a symbol of India's independence and would wear nothing else.



SIEK

COTTON

Spun by silkworms fed on mulberry leaves. silk has always represented luxury.

Traditionally worn by

homespun cotton is a

symbol of simplicity.

Functional in some

item, or a symbol of

cruel death, in others.

cultures, fur is a luxury

working people,



Lace was a symbol of privilege. It was made by working women for the upper classes.



TARTAN

The checkered patterns of tartans are like heraldic devices, each denoting a Scottish clan.



Leather is functional and readily available. Today it is often associated with youth culture.

FASHIONS IN FOOTWEAR

Shoe styles reflect social and cultural attitudes and tell us something about a person. To remove shoes on entering a temple or home is symbolic of leaving earthly matters outside the door as a mark of respect



JAPANESE CLOG These Japanese shoes are for

outdoor use. Their deep wooden soles some 4in (10cm) high - add stature to the wearer and induce a delicate gait.



DOC MARTEN

Doc Marten first made protective working boots in 1967, and they were the runaway success story of the '80s and '90s, symbolizing a reaction against glamour by both men and women.



GLASS SLIPPER

In the tale of Cinderella, the glass slipper represents truth and transformation. When Cinderella's foot fits into the shoe she left at the ball, the prince recognizes her, and she is transformed from pauper to princess.



SNEAKER

tiny feet

reinforced

the image

of women as

CHINESE SHOE Until early this century it was

common in China

to bind women's

feet. Symbolically

Sports shoes have become the status symbols of our time, with accompanyingly high prices. They

delicate and helpless, and it also

prevented them from straying.



purpose, but as for both men and

This East-African warmor wears simple clothing and distinctive jewelry This suits his active hunting lifestyle - and

KENYAN TRIBESMAN



PLATFORM SHOE Platform shoes have been in and out of

fashion for centuries. These date from the 1970s. They are the literal embodiment of the human desire to 'walk tall.



14TH-CENTURY SHOP

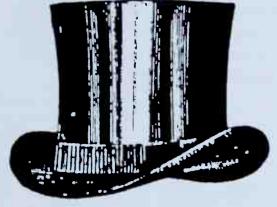
These shoes, worn by noblemen, reached an amazing 18in (46cm) A status symbol to some, the clergy viewed them as the work of the devil.

HEADGEAR

In most cultures the covering or uncovering of the head is redolent with meaning. Depending on the religion, places of worship require covered heads or uncovered ones. Hats are a sign of respect as well as an immediate indication of status and occupation.



SILSCHEE



Immortalized by the dancer Fred Astaire, the top hat came into fashion in the 1820s and remains the ultimate symbol of male elegance. Worn less often nowadays, it complements the tailcoat at weddings and other formal occasions.



CHEF'S ORDER

The relationship

between height and

status is evident in

the range of chef's

hats, from lowly dish-

washer to respected

master chef.



BERET

The circular beret is associated both with peace and war. In navy blue it is the classic symbol of the French working man; in other colors, notably red and green, it is a symbol of military courage and excellence.



18th-Century wig

Wigs were worn by both sexes in the 18th century. They were a sign of affluence and high status



This was part of Turkish national dress until the country became a republic in 1923, and the hat was outlawed



CHADAR WITH VEIL

In orthodox Muslim countries women are veiled outside the home so as not to draw male attention



MORTARBOARD

Derived from a cap worn by the Roman Catholic clergy, the mortarboard is now a symbol of crudition



EXTRAVAGANZA

At Laclies Day at the Ascot race course in England women traditionally wear outrageous hats



TURBAN

Made of bright material, this West-African turban is worn on important occasions and confers status



CORSET

The high lace

neck suggests

modesty

fem nine

Corsets of the early 1900s were reinforced with whalebone and were designed to exaggerate the natural curves of a woman's body. A tiny waist was the ideal, and corsets have come to symbolize the way in which women willingly subject themselves to pain in the pursuit of fashion.



GLOVES

Originally gloves were a symbol of power and were presented at investiture ceremonies Until recently, a lady or a gentleman was always expected to wear gloves in public To handle with kid gloves is to treat someone or something with the utmost care.



HEDGEFFIG PRESERVATION

TIES

Given the fairly rigid code of dress that men are expected to conform to, ties are one of the few areas of self-expression open to them. A man may choose to wear a club tie or military tie to signify his affiliation to that organization, or he can strike out in any number of more individual ways.

EDWARDIAN DRESS

This fashionable figure shows how Edwardian dresses distorted the body. The bust was pushed forward and the hips back in what was known as the S-shape It was not unusual for women to faint from the pressure on their lungs.



SEE ALSO

BILLBUCKLISES VICTORAN MICKEL BRA EL T 87

SILLER SHOW TO FIG LEAF ES F . 48

THE FALL 59 FURES EMIL 88

HEADGEAR DE LAURE 44 CR 31 89 EXILL PLANTING



EWELRY

TRADITIONALLY JEWELRY IS BOUGHT AS A GIFT, usually celebrating the important stages or events in a person's life – from christening presents to 21st birthdays, weddings, and anniversaries - or a particular relationship of love or friendship. Its symbolism lies not so much in its form as in what the item represents; whether it is the plain

NECKLACE c.1870

gold ring that binds a man and woman together or a locket with a loved one's photograph. Much of our jewelry has ancient origins a child's charm bracelet is essentially a modern version of amuletic jewelry: the charms protect the wearer from harm.



BEAR CLAWS This necklace. made from the

claws of several bears, was the prize possession of a Native American chief. Like other pieces made from nails. teeth, or tusks, it denoted status, partly because of the prowess involved in killing the bear to obtain the claws



A love of intricacy and delicacy is visible in these 18th-century earrings. Made from gold-painted animal skin, they represent mythical creatures.

EGYPTIAN COINS Although jewelry often symbolizes wealth, in many cultures the relationship is more direct - jewelry actually is wealth. On marrying, girls are given coin necklaces, headbands, and even belts as part of their dowry. The wealthier the family, the greater the value of the coins.



AFRICAN BEADS

In Africa, beads are a form of communication as well as decoration. They have particular meanings according to their color and the order in which they are strung. Young girls will make "love letter" necklets for their boyfriends to wear. After marriage, girls are allowed to adorn themselves with more and more strings to show their heightened status



LEG ORNAMENT In parts of Africa, jewelry denoted the wealth of a woman. just as the number of goats or sheep signified that of a man. Leg ornaments were prized both for their their bulk, some weighing as much as influences, as Muslims prefer s lver signifying



PACIFIC CHARM This 17th-century necklet from the Cook power and protection on its wearer. Although jewelry made from wild beasts was quite common in many cultures, this piece is unusual The bones and teeth are carved into talismanic shapes. rather than worn in







SIGNET RING

Examples of swiveling signet rings date back to the 15th century BC. They were both functional and a mark of status since only a person of considerable wealth could have his image carved onto a stone. By pressing the ring onto damp clay the owner was able to seal and identify his goods.



CHARM BRACELET

Silver charm bracelets

are thought to protect

the wearer - often a

This one has a lucky

horseshoe, a wishing

monkey, plus a fish

and a frog for fertility

The fashion of wearing

child - from harm

well, and a wise

charm bracelets is

relatively recent, a

amuletic jewelry

specifically Western,

20th-century form of

hunting, jewel-studded

riders were very much

and were also symbols

toxes, hounds and

in vogue. The items

were worn for luck

of the landed gentry

CHINESE PADLOCK

This lock is traditionally given by a father to his young child in order to lock in the child's spirit and stop evil forces from stealing it. One hundred families contribute toward the purchase of the lock. In so doing they become the child's honorary guardians, bound to protect the child throughout his or her life



VICTORIAN BUCKLE BRACELET

Jewelry with buckles was popular in the 1800s. both as rings and as bracelets. What they all represented, however subtly, was an era of male dominance. The man gave the piece to a loved one and in doing up the buckle, she willingly or unwittingly – acknowledged him as her owner





LUCKY AT THE HUNT During the heyday of

This 18th-century choker with clasped hands is a classic emblem of love. Hands are often represented in jewelry and take on different meanings depending on the position of the fingers. A single hand with thumb and forefinger touching for example, is a talisman against evil. a list instead is a symbol of fertility

Mourning Jewelry

The death of a loved one is marked by a series of ritual and symbolic acts. People adopt different colors of dress and shed their everyday jewelry in favor of more somber forms of adornment, demonstrating that they are in mourning. In the Western world, black is the traditional color of mourning, and jet the classic stone.

LOCK OF HAIR RING In the 17th century,

finger rings such

as the one above

would have been

handed out to

relatives at a funeral.

The brooch below swivels so that it can be viewed from both sides. The back holds a lock of hair, symbol of an absent friend





This dove bears the heart of a loved one



UNDYING LOVE

Jet became popular during Qucen Victoria's reign when mourning jewelry was at its most fashionable



The custom of giving engagement rings goes

back to Roman times. The rings were often plain iron circles, the shape symbolizing the cycle of life and eternity In the 15th century diamonds - emblems of fidelity - were added to these simple bands. In addition to fidelity, diamonds were thought to protect against all the forces of evil.



FAMILY MEMENTO tashionable in the Before the era of the camera, those who could afford it they had hands that commissioned clasped together to miniature enameled portraits of their loved ones Fashionable symbolism lies in the ladies could then keep their children close to be pulled apart, but their heart at all times



FORGET-ME-NOT Flower jewelry takes on the symbolism of the particular flower involved In giving this brooch, an admirer

was probably hoping that he would not be forgotten



LOVE RING

Love rings became 18th century Made of interconnecting hoops, enclose a central heart Part of their romantie fact that the rings can can never be separated

SEL ALSO

AFRICAN BLADS EST R sA 18 PHILL LAUS 25 CDRVI 35

CHARM BRACILET EX E mill A HE KY LIKE E 55

ENGAGIMENT RING, LOVERING ES WID NO ND 83

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LIG ORNAMINI CO LEIS 75 VIIII LLC 79

MOURNING JEWEERY ES J T 38 H ARSI 92. BLACK 100



ROYALTY

THE INSTITUTION OF ROYALTY is highly symbolic. Many Asian courts were laid out as microcosms of the universe, with the throne, at the center of the palace, representing the sacred mountain at the axis of the world. A king had four chief queens and four chief ministers, symbolizing North, South, East, and West. The health of the nation and the land depended on his health. In parts of Africa and southern India the king was ritually sacrificed while still strong and virile, so that the shedding of his blood might renew the fertility of the soil and thus ensure the well-being of his people. Kings have been widely believed to rule by divine right, and in some cultures to be semi-divine.

QUEEN As the feminine counterpart of the king, the queen is associated with a mother goddess or Queen of Heaven. Together the king and queen represent the perfect union of opposites, two halves of the whole, the sun and moon, and day and night.

KING

The king is the ultimate symbol of power Traditionally the monarch was surrounded by courtiers, who had the same function as the heavenly beings surrounding God. He was thus seen by his subjects as an earthly counterpart of God and a symbolic link between heavenly and earthly power. The king is also a symbol of consciousness, the ruler over our unconscious urges.

Orb

The king symbolically holds the whole world in his hand

Throne

The throne is the seat of authority. It marks the spiritual center of the kingdom and the metaphorical center of the world Its ornate appearance denotes the rank of the ruler The Virgin Mary who was crowned in heaven, is often depicted enthroned



Originally a magical symbol, the scepter signifies the king's responsibility for his people's prosperity

Ermine

The winter coat of the weasel, ermine is a royal fur It symbolizes purity and incorruptibility

Mantle

The mantle protection, as well as mystery transformation



PHARAOH

The famous mask found on the mummy of the boy king Tutankhamun reflects the glory of the pharaoh For the ancient Egyptians the a mona ch he was a Re. the stray ... d an

CHESS

The ancient game of chess is a symbolic playing out of the conflict between opposing

Кысы

forces in life. The black and white squares represent negative and positive, male and female principles. The pieces, representing the king, his court, and his army, carry the symbolism of their roles. although in the game of chess the queen is more powerful than the king. Each game is an epoch, and each piece makes a ble choice

POWER GAMES

Many games are based on the balance of power and involve kings, queens, courtiers, and armies. The object of the game can be to defeat the other players by conquering their court and army, or to build up a royal power base with which to



QLEIN





Playing

own king, queen, and jack (or prince). Packs of cards also include two jokers or jesters, more powerful than their lowly title suggests. In many games the goal is to build up eards to complete the suits, symbolically placing the king in

his personal court.

cards are divided into

which is headed by its

four suits, each of

RISHME



EMPEROR

In China and Japan the emperor is the Son of Heaven, symbol of the moral order and responsible for maintaining harmony between heaven and earth. The Moghul emperors of India took on a similar role. Here the first Moghul emperor, Babur, receives envoys.



PRINCE & PRINCESS

The prince is usually seen in legends as a hero, an embodiment of courage and moral action. The princess is a symbol of the highest good and beauty. The prince endures hardship to bring about change or rescue a captive princess. In the same way truth can be obtained only after a spiritual struggle.



KNIGHT

When seated on a horse which represents speed the knight denote a superior human. He maintains order in the kingdom and symbolizes moral courage, devotion to duty, and nobility. Clad in shining armor, he represents invincibility.



FOOL OR JESTER

As a simpleton the fool was exempt from court etiquette. But often he was the wisest member of the court and the only one able to speak his mind to the king. The fool represents innocence in a world of human experience.

mmmmmmm



UMBRELLA

The umbrella, or more properly the parasol, represents the canopy of heaven and, with its raylike spokes, the sun itself. It is a symbol of royalty in parts of Asia.



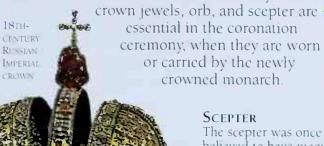
SEAL

All documents of state or letters written by a king would be sealed with the monarch's own seal, representing authority and power. The seal can be a symbol of belonging to God

FLY
WHISK
Possibly
originating
from the flail,
an instrument
of submission,
the fly whisk is a
symbol of royalty
in Eastern and
African cultures

CROWN JEWELS

The crown jewels, the essential accourrements of royal office, have assumed almost mystical significance for a ruling monarch. Without them, he or she would lose all authority. The



The scepter was once believed to have magical properties, much like a magic wand, and is a phallic symbol. The orb and scepter together symbolize completeness and the creative power of male and female.



Made of precious metal and jewels, a crown symbolizes sovereignty. It adorns the noblest part of a person, the head, or intellect. Jesus was crowned with an ironic crown of thorns. A crown also denotes supreme accomplishment, as in "crowning glory."

Orb

The orb is composed of a globe, representing the world, with a cross on top, which symbolizes the king's spiritual authority over his subjects, mirroring that of God over mankind



CORONATION CEREMONY

Queen Elizabeth II of England was crowned in Westminster Abbey in 1953 in a solemn and highly symbolic ceremony. She was invested with the state regalia, which symbolized her role as head of state and the Anglican church.



The new monarch is anointed with holy oil, poured into the anointing spoon from the ampulla, here in the shape of an eagle



As the residence of royalty, a palace can symbolize heaven or the heart of the realm. A palace figures in many legends and fairy tales. Of its many chambers, some arc secret, holding treasures, and represent the unconscious with its hidden spiritual truths.

SEE ALSO

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TOOLS & WEAPONS

ALTHOUGH THEY ARE PRACTICAL OBJECTS, tools and weapons make powerful symbols of the inner or spiritual world. In myth, their obvious functions take on symbolic meaning. Gods are often associated with the implements they use, and while these may appear purely functional, they always symbolize concepts such as fertility, death, and war. Sometimes the implement itself denotes the god. Weapons generally represent power, protection, and destruction. In the hands of the gods, they symbolize the defeat of ignorance and thus liberation. Weapons also stand for the state of conflict that the god or hero overcomes.



LADDER

The ladder represents our urge to climb from ignorance into the light. In ancient Egypt an image of a ladder was placed inside the tomb with the dead. In the Bible Jacob dreamed of angels ascending and descending a ladder to heaven. Buddhists believe the Buddha climbed a ladder to preach to his mother in heaven.

ANVIL

The anvil is often seen as the feminine, receptive counterpart of the hammer, with its masculine associations. Together they represent the opposing but complementary forces of the active and the passive







HAMMER

Widely seen as a symbol of thunder, the hammer is an attribute of the Norse god Thor. whose hammer always hit its target and came back to him. The Greek god Hephaestos, the blacksmith, also wielded a hammer. In Japan the hammer is an

attribute of Daikoku, god of riches. Along with the nail, the hammer is a symbol of the Passion of Christ.



HAMMER & SICKLE

The sickle lends its name to the new moon because of its shape. It therefore symbolizes time and death, but also the annual cycle of renewal. The Greek goddess of agriculture, Demeter, carries a sickle The hammer and sickle were brought together in the symbol of the former Soviet Union. That symbol now represents movement

mmmmm



The ax is an emblem of sky gods such as Zeus. It is a symbol of power, associated with many deities, for example, Shiva and Agni in India, and the Yoruba storm god of West Africa. In China it represents justice, authority, and punishment. The ax is also symbolic of death ordered by a wrathful deity. For Hindus and Buddhists, the ax removes ignorance and thus severs the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth



Scales of Justice

Sword of

retribution

STATUE OF TUSTICE

A pair of balanced scales represents justice and judgment, both in court and in the afterlife. In the Egyptian Hall of Judgment, the heart of the deceased was weighed against the Feather of Truth before the god Osiris, who passed judgment. In Roman art, Justice holds a sword and a pair of scales. The archangel Michael weighs the souls of the dead before Christ.



ROPE

Rope represents bondage and captivity. It also connects heaven and earth, acting like a cosmic umbilical cord. In the form of a noose, it is a symbol of death and despair. In Christianity it is a symbol of the betrayal of Christ who was bound by his captors.



Balanced scales

signify impartiality

PLOW

The plow is usually an attribute of Greek pastoral gods such as Demeter and Dionysus. As a phallic symbol it represents impregnation of the earth by the gods, the furrow being feminine and receptive. It also represents the act of creation, when primal matter broke up into different life forms.



SIMON AND ANDREW, GABRIEL LOIRE 1975

The net symbolizes the power of the gods to bind and hold humans helpless in the mesh of hife. In Christian art, a net with fish represents the church. St. Peter (originally the fisherman Simon) was a "fisher of men," and St. Andrew (also a fisherman) carries a net



SPINNING WHEEL

The spindle is an attribute of goddesses concerned with destiny. They are often shown as three spinners who govern birth, life, and death. The turning wheel is a symbol of the universe. The loom is the loom of life, with masculine, active threads and feminine, passive threads united in harmony. According to Buddhism, the loom weaves the fabric of illusion

Gun

The gun is a symbol of masculine power and aggression. Because of its projectile capabilities, the gun is associated with virtlity, along with other firearms and missiles. In Freudian thought the gun is an obvious phallic symbol, an association echoed in gangster movies, where it has become linked to male prowess.

Double-edged sword for truth and justice

DAGGER

The dagger is generally a phallic symbol and stands for maseulinity. It is an attribute of military gods such as Mars and Mithras. To Muslims the sacred dagger kris represents the word of Allah and absolute truth. The kris, with its characteristic undulating form, is usually beautifully decorated, often with words from the Koran.

SWORDS

In all cultures the sword stands for power and strength. A sword taken from an enemy is a symbol of victory, and to receive a sword – when knighted, for example – is to be given authority. The sword divides good from evil and cuts through ignorance. Many gods, heroes, and saints, including St. George, hold a sword.

ASHANTI SWORD

This late 19th-century sword of the Ashanti kingdom of Ghana has an unsharpened iron blade because it was used for ceremonial purposes only. The gilded beads on the handle are

symbols of wealth and fertility.

SAMURAI SWORD

In Japan the sword is a symbol of courage and strength. For the aristocratic warriors of Japan, the Samurai, the sword was the chosen symbol of honor. It represented the noble cause and the fight for truth and justice.



CROSSED SWORDS

The arms of Saddam Hussein hold the crossed swords of the Martyrs' Monument in Baghdad, Iraq. The arch faces east (for birth) and west (for martyrdom).

KNIGHTING

The custom of knighting is very ancient. By touching both shoulders with the blade, the monarch confers authority. As a symbol of punfication, the sword also cleanses the soul.



EMPEROR SIGNMEND DUBS HEINRICH OF ULM, 1473

SIKH EMBLEM

Curved

sword for

God's power

The Nishan Sahib, the emblem of the Sikhs, contains a two-edged sword, symbolizing truth and justice, and two crossed swords for God's spiritual power. In the center is a *chakram*, a circular throwing weapon, or quoit.

Bow & ARROW

With its crescent shape and powerful function, the bow is both feminine and masculine and represents the moon and the arc of heaven. With the arrow, a penetrative, masculine symbol, it is an attribute of Diana and Apollo. To Chinese Taoists it is the Way, the Tao.

SHIELD The chie

Quoit - round

throwing weapon

The shield protects and has come to symbolize feminine power and chastity. In some cultures, however, it personifies the power of a male god or ancestor and can also represent a hero. It is an attribute of the Greek goddess Athena.

Indian shield covered in hide and decorated with mythological figures.

SPEA

With its elongated, phallic shape, the spear represents war, power, and fertility. In Christian art an animal impaled on a spear or lance represents a vice overcome For this reason, figures personilying virtue often carry a lance Because of the spear thrust into Christ's side when he was on the cross, it is also a symbol of the Passion The spear can be a symbol of the earth's axis as well

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DEATH & MOURNING

THE CERTAINTY OF DEATH unites us all, rich, poor, and of every culture or faith. The many different rites and rituals surrounding death and mourning illustrate how each society deals with its fear of the unknown. Ancient beliefs speak of the body being reunited with Mother Earth, or the soul rejoining the cosmic ocean or entering heaven. In other words, life returning to a state of oneness with nature. In other beliefs

> death can be the door into another future that will be favorable if the deceased was devout in this life. A source of great fear and an occasion for both sorrow and joy, death is laden with symbolism. Many death rituals are symbolic enactments to aid the soul's journey into the afterlife and to console the bereaved.



DAY OF THE DEAD

HEARSE

This magnificent hearse

era The hearse and the

horses were always black,

symbolic of mourning,

as was the livery. Though

more streamlined, such

modern funerals are

is typical of a bygone

On November 1, Mexicans celebrate the Day of the Dead. Images of Death in the form of skeletons are made, and to welcome the dead back to earth candles are lit in the graveyards and offerings of food set out. This is a symbolic way of maintaining a link with the past

Although viewed in many cultures as an auspicious symbol of wisdom, fertility. and creation, the prophetic raven is seen in the Christian tradition as a bird of ill omen. It heralds evil, warfare, and death This is probably due to its black color, associated with the night. The raven is thought to haunt graveyards and foretell death and destruction.



DOE HE TH. AFT RHOEN 1786

DEATHLY DANCE

The Danse Macabre was used to illustrate the concept that death is the great leveler. A procession of figures representing the various classes – from Pope to peasant - each alternating with a skeleton, is led towards a grave, showing all are ultimately linked by death. Another popular medieval belief, the Dance of Death, held that the dead rose at midnight and danced about in the graveyard. The two themes were often intermingled.



CHINESE PAPER FOR RITUAL BURNING AT A FUNERAL

LUCK FOR THE DEAD

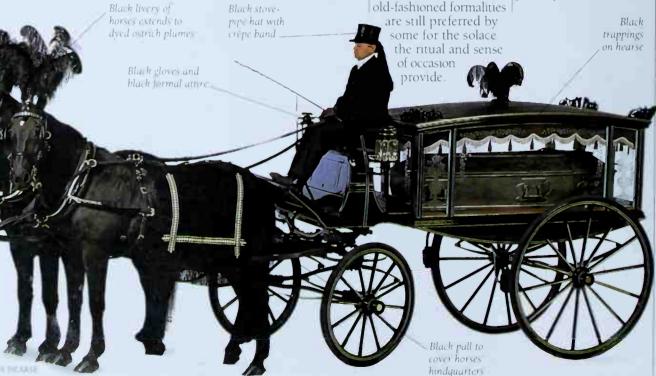
At Chinese funerals it is the custom for mourners to burn auspicious squares of colored paper on the funeral pyre to bring good luck to the soul of the deceased on its journey to the afterlife.



TAROT CARD

In the Tarot, Death is not the last card but marks a transition from one state to another. This might signify the end - or death - of one phase be nning of a new one. Either phase would be accompanied seven with which he movs around living House





Once upon a time even slaves were buried along with their dead owner.

The Vikings buried items of

gold, the most precious metal, in the graves of important

men. These objects may have belonged to the deceased or

Steering

Rigging up for

the afterlife.

In many cultures precious goods are buried with the dead as a sign of their prestige in life and also to accompany them on their journey to the afterlife.

VIKING GOLD

they may have

been made

burial.

SHIP OF DEATH

There is a widespread association of death with a journey across water. Model ships buried in a grave were believed to

VIKING GOLD

TREASURE

specially for

GRAVE GOODS



HEADSTONE, 1913. NAPIER, NEW ZEALAND

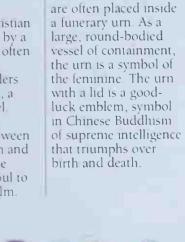
GRAVESTONE

The site of a Christian burial is marked by a memorial stone, often accompanied by symbolic reminders such as a wreath, a Bible, or an angel. An angel is an intermediary between heaven and earth and so symbolizes the passage of the soul to the heavenly realm.



ROMAN CREMATION URN

FUNERARY URN After a cremation the ashes of the deceased a funerary urn. As a large, round-bodied the urn is a symbol of the feminine. The urn with a lid is a goodluck emblem, symbol in Chinese Buddhism that triumphs over





RITUAL MOURNING

Mourners at a Taoist funeral in Gansu province in China are completely covered out of respect for the dead The chief mourners wear white robes, and the principal mourner carries a green sash Hessian veils are used, as it would be disrespectful to use fine cloth. Mourners will not eat fine food for the first two or three years after the death

FLAG AT HALL MAST The custom of flying a flag hallway up the pole as a sign of mourning began as a naval custom in the 17th century. The top of the mast was left empty for an

The custom continues as a public sign of mourning

invisible flag of death

Fach tath t milinn inni



LIEY

The white lily, the flower of the Madonna, is traditionally associated with purity in the West, and this may explain why it has become customary to place lilies on the grave at a funeral Death is seen as a return to a pure state white as opposed to the black of death



carry the deceased to the afterlife.

ETERNAL FLAME, MOSCOW



slaughter of war

WREATH OF RED

Red poppies have become a symbol ol lives lost during the two World Wars. The flowers stem from a poem by Canadian John McCrae In Flanders fields where poppies blow/ Between the crosses row on row poppy is also a symbol of sleep and dreams



RIBBON

The red ribbon devised in New York in 1991 by a group called Visual AIDS, has become a worldwide symbol of the fight against AIDS Wearing the red ribbon symbolizes support for the fight against the chsease and the need for continuing research toward a cure



FOOD OFFERINGS

Bowls containing food were a common offering in many

cultures. They symbolize

3rd century.

Helmsman

EGYPTIAN SHIP

OF DEATH

the spiritual nourishment of the soul after death.

These Japanese funerary

bowls date from the

I MAIN ART DOL

MAUSOLEUM

The Tai Mahal is the tomb of the wife of the Indian emperor Shah Jahan Built in the 17th century, it was planned as the most magnificent memorial on earth, a symbol of the emperor's great love for his wife His own tomb, across the river, was never finished, so he is buried beside her

SEE ALSO

DEATHER C RESS 45. RAVIN 04 SKILLIN 74 SATEL 90

MOURNING DE ME SIGN WE RY 85 BLACK WHILE 106

RAVINES RAVINGS RID WRIAIN CO POUR 50

TAROL CARD CO THE ANDLAS OF THE TARCT 111

ARCHITECTURE

THE SYMBOLIC MEANING OF A BUILDING and its components can be very complex, especially in religious buildings. Stepped terraces may represent heavenly levels and a spire points symbolically to heaven, while a dome represents the vaults of heaven itself. Differently shaped buildings represent differing symbolic ideals: skyscrapers, for instance, represent status and achievement in the material world, while modern, environmentally sensitive buildings

symbolize union with nature. Separate elements have their own symbolism: doors and windows, often mark boundaries between worlds.

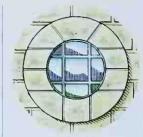


102nd floor

Door knockers in animal shapes proteet a house and keep evil spirits at bay. The ominous knock at the door has long been a symbol in literature and music - of inexorable fate or death.







Window

Just as the eye is known as the "window of the soul," the window is the "eye of the soul," symbolie of eonsciousness and of an individual's perception of the world. A round window is appropriately ealled an oculus or oxeye window. Since it lets in light, the window also symbolizes the light of truth entering the soul.



BALCONY

The baleony represents mystery and ambivalence due to its partly concealing, partly revealing nature. and also its position, both inside and outside a building. Enclosed baleonies add to the mystery. In eolder countries bay and oriel windows aet as enclosed balconies.



ENGLISH CHURCH DO DRWAY, 12TH CENTURY

DOORWAY

The doorway marks the passage between the sacred and profane, between safety and danger It also symbolizes the transition from one stage of life to another or the passage from life to death. Temple doorways in particular are often earved with guardian spirits and fabulous beasts to dispel evil and offer protection



THE BER IN WALL

A wal no uses and protects the sheltering interest of a building or a garden, suggesting arengit preserved above, it may be divisive. man lyme the separation of East and West.

REACH FOR THE SKY Humankind has always been

fascinated by tall buildings that reach upward to the sky, building them both for religious reasons and for reasons of power. Whether ancient pyramids or modern skyscrapers, such buildings represent man's need to reach up to the heavens and also to gain supremacy over his surroundings.



PYRAMIDS

For the ancient Egyptians the pyramid stood symbolically as a world axis at the eenter of the universe. Its apex represents the highest level of spiritual attainment. A stepped pyramid signifies the stages of consciousness through which the soul must pass on its ascent.



THE TOWER OF BABLL, PIETER BRUEGHEL THE ELDER, 1560

TOWER OF BABEL

The fabled tower of Babel was a ziggurat, or stepped pyramid, in ancient Babylonia. It is a symbol of man's arrogance. In the Bible the Babylonians were determined to build such a tower to reach the heavens. God divided the speech of the builders into many languages so that they could not understand each other, and the tower was never completed

SKYSCRAPER

The Empire State Building in New York was for decades the tallest building in the world. It stands as an obviously phallic symbol of man's achievement, instantly reeognizable to people all over the world



BRIDGE OF SIGHS, OXFORD

BRIDGE

The bndge is a symbolic link between heaven and earth. It is the passage from life to death, and from death to immortality. The original Bndge of Sighs in Venice led from the courtrooms to the dungeons.



STAIRS

A staircase represents the steps in spiritual development. Its symbolism is related to that of the ladder and the stepped pyramid. One can either ascend toward Enlightenment or descend into darkness and ignorance. A spiral staircase, with its winding steps leading towards an unknown and unseen end, represents the mysterious



LIGHTHOUSE

A lighthouse provides a beacon of light to guide ships to safety It is a symbol of the teachings of Christ, which guide the soul to the safety of faith and understanding



THE PARTHENON, ATHENS

CLASSICAL TEMPLE

Temples in Greek and Roman times were believed to be the houses of gods. They could be square, polygonal, or round. Round has been considered the perfect form, because the circle itself is a symbol of the cosmic mind and nature's perfection. Classical temples were erected in commanding positions, for example, the Acropolis in Athens, site of the Parthenon.



The arch symbolizes passage from one state to another. Victorious Roman armies marched through triumphal arches. In initiation rites, to pass under an arch is to be reborn.



ARCH OF CONSTANTINE, ROME



THE NATURE SANCTUARY BUILDING, FINDHORN, SCOTLAND

EARTH DWELLING

In many countries people live in houses made entirely of natural materials found around them, from adobe huts in Africa to igloos in the Arctic. This keeps them, literally, in touch with nature and more in tune with their surroundings. A modern earth-integrated house, roofed with turf, represents a return to this more natural way of life with its related symbolism of union with nature.



NAT THE SWEET

GLASS HOUSE

Mainly built of glass, this house provides full access to the natural elements and all their associated symbolism – a window to the world. The glass lets in the maximum amount of light and stores heat. The garden is visible and fresh air from it is scented with flowers and plants.



DOME

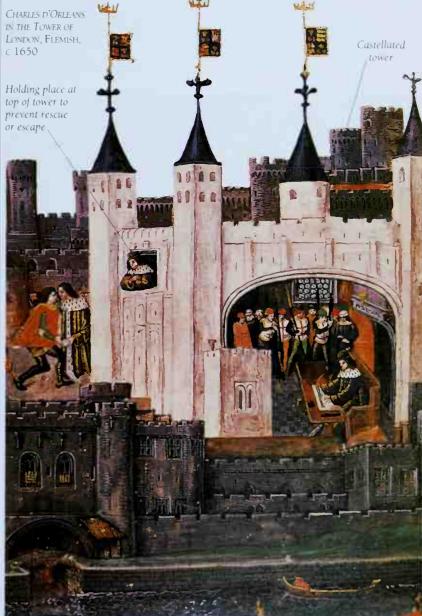
The dome is used as a symbol of the heavens. Religious buildings often incorporate a dome that may be decorated on the inside with paintings of the sun, moon, and stars, as well as angels.



NOBLES HOUSE INDINESIA

Roor

The roof symbolizes the feminine, sheltering principle. Some societies hang treasures and powerful hunting trophies in the roof space 10 increase its protective power.



TOWER AND CASELE

The tower is a symbol of inaccessibility and protection. With its castellated towers, moats and drawbridge, the castle is a symbol of territorial power and security, and is often a heraldic symbol. A castle is also seen in fairy tales as an enchanted place that houses a giant of demon In order to release the captive princess or treasure inside (symbols of spiritual knowledge), the giant (the burden of ignorance) has to be defeated

SEE ALSO

ARCH E

CLASSICAL TEMPLE ED T. M. L. 21, S. S. A. T. T. A. 100

TOWER AND CASILLE CO

STAIRS ES LA DO

EVERYDAY OBJECTS

THERE ARE MANY ORDINARY OBJECTS that do not fit easily into obvious categories but which are so much part of our everyday world that they have become imbued with symbolic meaning. These range from different types of container, associated with the feminine, secrecy, or protection, to objects connected with

human frailty and the passage of time. Items linked to fire or light are also rich in meaning, signifying enlightenment, as are

> keys, which unlock secrets or mark a coming of age.

The key has the power to open and close. It gives access to another realm, symbolizing wisdom, maturity, or success. Many keys dangling from a key chain symbolize power and status, since they denote the ownership of valued property. Keys are the attribute of St. Peter as the guardian of the gates of heaven.

The basket is an attribute of the four seasons and, when full, it symbolizes fertility, fruition,

and abundance therefore also life In Buddhism the 'three baskets" are the scriptures of the Buddhist canon.



The fan is a common symbol of high rank or royalty. It is also thought to ward off evil spirits, and to Taoists it represents the flight of a bird and release into the world of the Immortals. In contrast, the fan also has longstanding associations with femininity and flirtation.



EGYPTIAN DRINKING CUP

CUP

Because they are containers, cups, like bowls, are symbols of the receptive, feminine realm. In this Egyptian example, the lotus pattern shows the flower's relationship to water, and thus adds to its links with the feminine.



OPENS

THE BOX

symbol. When closed, it symbolizes the unconscious, and when opened, it may unleash a storm of devastation, disease, and death upon the world, as did Pandora's box.



The swing is associated with fertility because its mo ements represent the rhythms of the seasons and the rang and setting of the sun and moon, as well as the rhythms of love-making. In this Traille 18th-century French painting, the

THE SWING, JEAN-HONORE FRAGONARD, 1767

swing, with its backward and forward motion, is a playful symbol of amorous flirtation. A stone Cupid presides over the secluded corner of the garden, while the lush vegetation provides a fertile backdrop for the lovers' games



MONEY PURSE

The purse represents worldly vanity and the transience of wealth. In Christian art a purse is an

attribute of Judas Iscariot and of St. Matthew, the tax collector. Coins spilling out of a purse are a symbol of worldly attachment and greed



LAMP

The flame of the oil lamp represents life and the light of the spirit, wisdom, and immortality Through the stories of the Arabian Nights the lamp has become associated with the genie who lives within it and grants wishes to the person who sets him free Aladdin's lamp is thus a symbol of magic as well as of good fortune.

LIGHTBULB

of a bright idea

MIRROR

Since thought is

reflection, the mirror

indicates truth, clanty,

and self-knowledge, as

well as vanity; thus to

break a mirror brings

form of harming

the sage and the

reflection of the

oneself. To Taoists a

mirror is the calm of

bad luck because it is a

Invented c 1880, the

lightbulb has become

the archetypal symbol

Cartoon characters often

have one "flashing" over

their head to signify a

moment of inspiration.



ANCHOR

The anchor is a symbol of safety, stability, and hope Christ is often referred to as an anchor in the sea of life. An anchor depicted with a dolphin is a symbol of Christ on the cross, and to be anchored means to be rooted



MEASURING TIME

Deople have always been fascinated by the concept of time, and have linked the many objects related to it to their own mortality. Thus the aging process may be seen as "time marching on," and heart problems as a failure of the "old ticker.



EARLY HOURGLASS

HOURGLASS

This simple instrument for measuring time operates on the principle of sand filtering down over a period of an hour under the force of gravity. The process has given rise to the notion of life being like "sand ebbing away.

SUNDIAL

The sundial shows the time via the shadow cast by the sun as it moves through the heavens. This ancient method thus relied on the activity of a sun god



WATCH

Like the clock, the watch is a symbol of the passing hours and a reminder of the brevity of life - "time stands still for no man '



18th-Century Sundial



OPEN BOOK Books are symbols of knowledge

and the wisdom

of the universe. An "open book" is a person or subject that can be easily understood, whereas a closed book remains a mystery



THREAD

A thread is a symbol of life and of human destiny spun by a divine power. In Greek myth, Ariadne gives Theseus a ball of varn by which to escape from the labyrinth In Hinduism a thread connects this world with the next, and high-caste Hindus wear a sacred thread.



LIPSTICK

Bright red lipstick is a symbol of sexuality. It accentuates the erogenous zone of the lips, and, with its winding, upright mechanism, combines male and lemale imagery



PEN AND INK

Like the brush used in Chinese calligraphy, the pen is a symbol of learning and the intellect, and it marks out destiny on the blank sheet of life. It is also a mascufine symbol. dipping into the bowlshaped inkwell to derive its power.



SHVER SPOON

In Europe a silver spoon is often given to a baby at the time of its christening and symbolizes nurture and life. The expression that someone is born with a silver spoon in their mouth indicates that they were born into a life of privilege



CANDLE & M. 11.52 COMPASS DE COM 1 25 FISE SHILLEOME VS 78 F = 102

KIY to TW --- 103 LAMP DO M 1 AM 25 MIRROR CO MOROL S

> MONTY PLRSE OF Meny dus 18. ECTETATION SC

COMPASS.

CANDLE

A candle is a symbol of

the individual soul

and the flame that

and spiritual

lights the darkness of

illumination, and an

extinguished candle

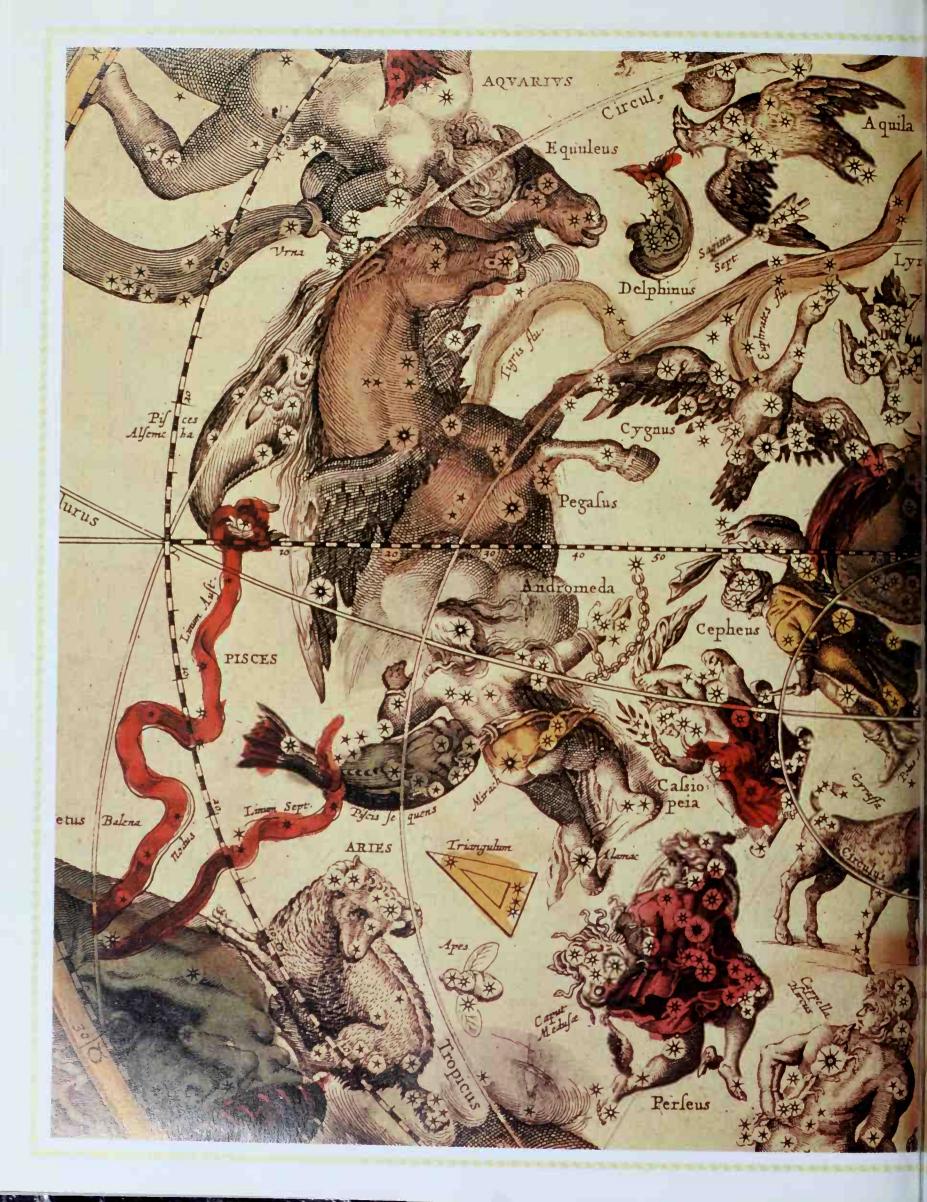
many religious rites

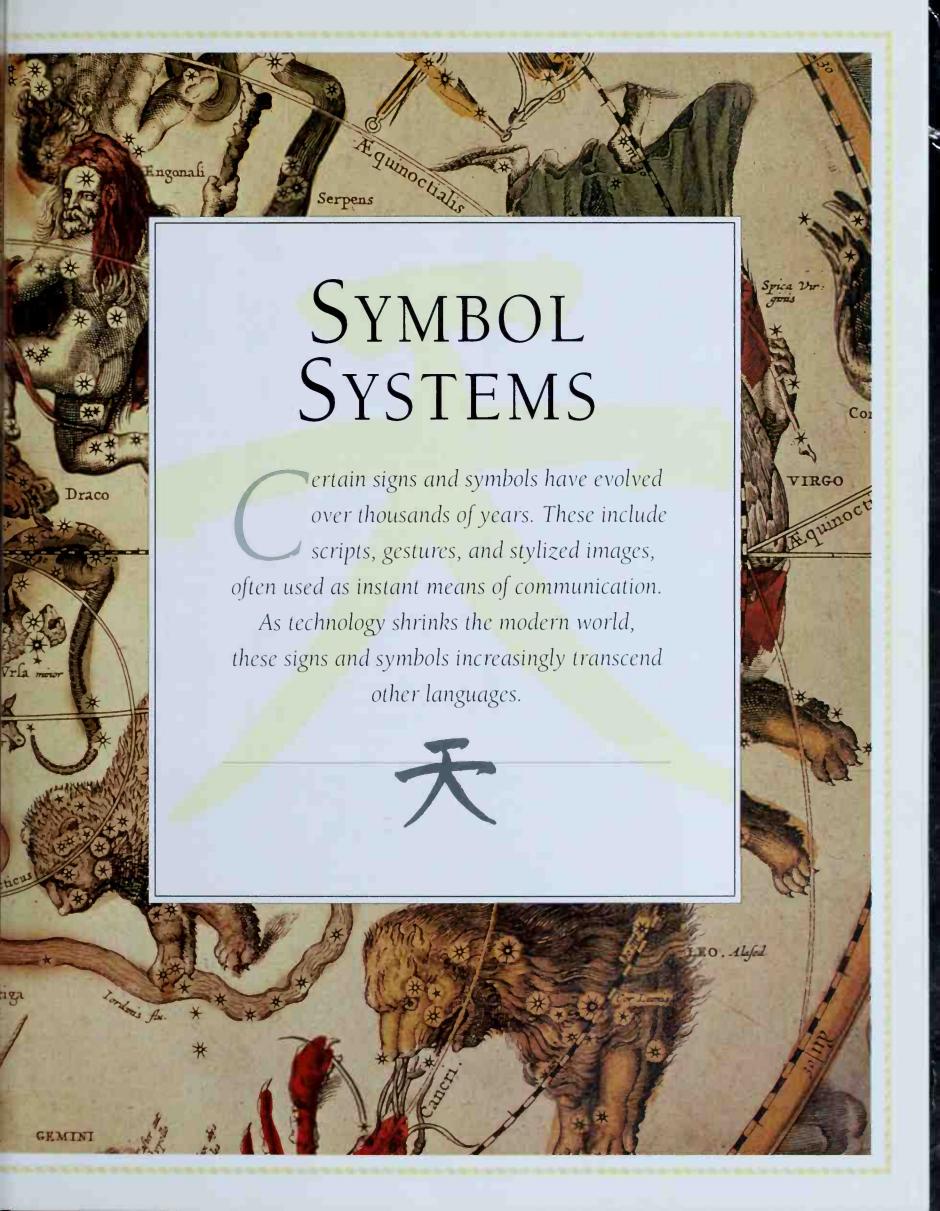
Candles play a part in

can signify death

ignorance. It is the sun-

The compass points out the lour primary directions, North, South, Fast, and West and the four secondary directions. echoing symbolically the directions of the cosmos I gyptian pyramids are built on an east/west axis, with the





PICTURE WRITING

In cultures throughout the world, picture writing represents the earliest attempt at setting down words in a non-verbal, non-gestural form of communication. Picture writing differs from drawing in that it uses a standardized set of picture signs, or "pictograms." These picture signs came to represent particular objects that were then easily recognized by the reader. As the need for more complex forms grew, signs that represent actual word sounds were introduced, and in addition, simple signs were combined to create a more complex script.

IDEOGRAMS hese Hittite ideograms These finance abstract development of pictograms. A picture of a foot, for example, may mean the verb "to walk." STOOL God Ox GREAT

CLAY TOKENS

These Sumerian tablets date from c.3000 BC Large numbers of representational clay tablets have been unearthed in modern Iraq and Iran. Some 1,500 different symbols have been decoded, most of them relating to agricultural and commercial matters.



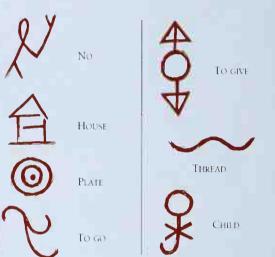




GRANARY

PICTOGRAMS

These particular pictograms are quite modern, dating from the early 1900s. King Njoya of Bamum, in a remote area of Cameroon, set about creating a written language for his people. Bamum has only single-syllable words, and so each picture sign is also just one syllable. The meanings of the symbols are fairly easy to decipher.













HEART

WOMB



EGYPTIAN HIEROGLYPHS

Hieroglyphs, literally "sacred writings," originated long before 3000 BC, but were not deciphered until the 19th century, when the Rosetta Stone was discovered in Egypt. This had inscriptions in three scripts, one of them Greek, which could be translated and compared with the hieroglyphs. Hieroglyphs are a combination of pictograms - mostly stylized drawings of animals, plants, and flowers – and "phonograms," or signs representing sounds. This script was therefore a true form of writing in the modern sense.





CARTOUCHE

LUCKY EYE

The "wadjet eye, or Eye

of Horus (sky god), was thought to have magical powers. Scribes often included this symbol in their writing for good luck.

The names of Egyptian kings and queens were always enclosed in oval borders, known as cartouches. The cartouche was a symbol of the ruler's power, signifying that he or she reigned over "all that the sun encircles. It was a French Egyptologist, Jeanwho in 1822 cracked the code of these particular





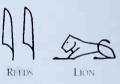


ENERARY

The owl indicates the flow of the text

Four lines of inscription detailing the King's funeral offering for the priest Merra

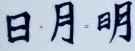




READING THE STELA A hieroglyphic text can be read from left to right, right to left, or top to bottom. The symbols of animals or people tell you which way to read. Here the faces point to the right, so the text is to be read from right to left.

CHINESE

The Chinese script, the oldest script still in use today, is more than 4,000 years old. The earliest examples were inscribed onto tortoise shells or carved into ox bones. Some pictographic elements remain, but the Chinese characters also include phonetic components and an added element to characterize the word



Some Chinese words are compounds, being the sum of two other words.



CHEROKEE

MA

Cherokee script was invented in 1821 and

shows the influence of the Latin alphabet. It is a phonological system, that is, there is a clear relationship between the written symbol and

the sound, shown here in phonetic symbols.

LITTER

DRA 10%

B

Mayan script is made up of compounds of signs and is a mixture

MAYAN

of pictograms and phonetic elements. It is written in double columns from left to right and top to bottom. The hieroglyphs below are phonetic-syllabic -they each contain several elements and sounds, and yet are still representational



BURDEN



OFFN





WEST



TURKEY



VI TURE

LIMESTONE IN ELLANE FROM MIXICAN TEMPLE AD 725

The inscription records the names and dates of Mayan rulers



MAYAN STORY

This panel comes from the temple of Yaxchilan, close to the present border between Mexico and Guatemala. It depicts the sacrificial offering of blood to bring forth ancestral spirits. Lady Xoc, the wife of Lord Shield Jaguar, is gazing up at Yat-Balam, a spirit who has emerged from the jaws of a huge, double-headed serpent

CUNEIFORM This form of writing was L used for more than 3,000 years throughout the Near East by Sumerians Assyrians Babylonians and Hittites It developed from a system of pictograms and changed gradually to a more complex phonological system. The script is made up of wedgeshaped signs created with a stylus At first symbols were written vertically, as shown in the table to the right, but later many symbols were



MEANING	3000 вс	2400 вс	650 вс
BIRD	~	土	₽¥¶
HAND	YIII	Zani	追
HEAD	8	仓	当年
Ricci	*		<u> </u>
WALKER	Z	Z	
W (IEE	\approx		TF

SEE ALSO

CALLIGRAPHY FO CALLE LAND KOLLS 25 PELASI NE 97

CARTOLCHI 13

PRINCIPALITY AMEN 34 STREET 39 ROTALLY 88-87

EGYPTIAN HIEROGLYPHS 6-8

Francis 14. PHA AL 155. PY AM 5 94

LUCKY EYE CO' ISD AND House 14 11 - 4 m = 22

MAYAN STORY ES

A FILL & NAIL I Shim 26-27 Dome HEAD SELEN 28

PICTOGRAMS FR CON

NUMBERS

IN MOST CULTURES numbers are imbued with symbolic meaning. The practice of numerology is the study of their influence. Numbers have long been seen as expressions of cosmic order, possibly deriving from ancient Babylonian observations of regular cosmic events, such as night and day, the phases of the moon, and cycles of the year. Viewed symbolically, numbers represent more than quantities; they also have qualities. To the Greek mathematician Pythagoras, even numbers were feminine, divisible into two equal parts, and were considered passive; odd numbers were masculine, and active.

O Zero was invented in ancient India. Represented by a continuous circle, it signifies non-being and eternity. To Pythagoras it was the perfect form, containing all and from which all is created. In Islam it is limitless light and the Divine Essence.



To be number one Its to be the best. Spiritually, one stands for the state before the creation of the myriad forms of life. It also symbolizes the oneness to which all living things must return. It is God. but also the individual

Many cultures view the 2 world as made up of opposing dualities: life and death, light and dark, male and female. heaven and hell. Others see these pairs as complementary, such as the Chinese yan and yang left. Two is the number of discord and conflict, but also of balance and marriage.



4 Four is the number of the square, the four elements – earth, fire, water, and air, and the cardinal points of the compass. It is associated with the Farth and with completeness. In medieval Europe human nature was characterized by the four humors (seen above) phlegmatic, sanguine, choleric, and melancholic

NUMBER SYSTEMS

DEVANAGARI

Most Western languages use Arabic numerals. These derive from those written in Devanagari, the script used for Sanskrit, the classical language of India.



ROMAN

The Roman system uses seven alphabetical signs: I, V, X, L, C, D, and M. Numbers are formed by adding (6 = V + I = VI) or subtracting (4 = I) less than V = IV). Larger numbers come from Latin words, for example C=centum=100; M= mille=1,000.

I	I	HREL	IV	FIVE
VI	VII	VIII	IX	X
L	LII NDRI		D IVI NDRED	MIHOUSAND

Numerals in Hebrew (read from right to left). correspond to the alphabet. One is the first letter, aleph, two, the second, and so on. After the tenth letter, the value of each letter goes up in tens



THREE

3 Sacred to most religions, the number three combines the numbers one and two and so includes all life and experience. It is birth. life, and death; mind, body, and soul; past. present, and future; man, woman, and child



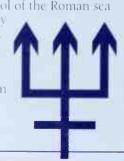
HINDL TRINETY powerful trinity of gods. Between them they create

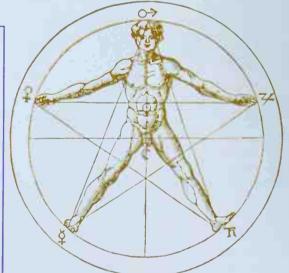
TREFOIL OF THE TRINITY

Three geometric shapes coming together can express the Christian Trinity, one God in three persons the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Thus the architectural device of the treloil is olten found in churches.

NEPTUNE'S TRIDENT

The trident is a symbol of the Roman sea god, Neptune, possibly representing the past. the present, and the luture. The trident of the Hindu god Shiva stands for his function as creator, preserver, and destroyer. Satan





5 As the sum of two, a ferminic figure 5 three, a masculine number, five is important As the sum of two, a feminine number, and in many cultures. It is a symbol for man. There are live human senses. On a human ligure, a line joining the head to outstretched arms and legs forms a pentagram. Muslims pray live times a day, and there are five pillars of piety in Islam



THE CREATION FRENCH BILLE, 14 H CENTURY

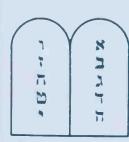
According to the Bible, God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh Six represents balance, love, health, and also luck, because it is the winning throw of a die



8 As the first cubic number $(2 \times 2 \times 2)$, eight is considered the perfect number. Chinese life is ruled by eight, at eight months a child has milk teeth. at eight years he loses them, at twice eight he reaches maturity, and at 8 x 8 he loses the power of procreation The Buddhist wheel of life has eight spokes, for the eight-fold path to Enlightenment.



9 Nine is the sacred number: three multiplied by itself to give eternity, completion, and fulfillment. The Norse god Odin hung for nine days and nine nights on the tree Yggdrasil to win the secret of the runes for mankind. In China it is the number of celestial power: the nine-storied pagoda is a symbol of heaven.



COMMANDMENT TABLETS

10 As the number of the fingers, ten is the foundation of most counting systems. Tenalso ligures strongly in the Bible: there are ten commandments, ten Egyptian plagues, ten virgins, and ten lepers. According to some theories, in the decimal system ten is symbolic of the return to unity



THE LAST SUPPER, FEONARDO DA VINC. 149

13 th Christian countries †3 is an unlucky number because there were 13 at the fateful Last Supper. In Leonardo's fresco above, Jesus has just announced that one of the disciples will betray him. In ancient South America there were 13 Mayan heavens and the Aztec calendar was divided into 13-day periods.

Originally the age at which a citizen was 21 Originally the age at which a lowered in entitled to vote (though now lowered in many countries), 21 is still considered a major

landmark in life. A symbolic key signifies entry into adulthood. In many countries this is the age at which a person is allowed to buy and drink alcohol

> 40 Representing wholeness, the number 40 is especially important in the Bible. Moses' sojourn on Sinai lasted 40 days as did that of Christ in the wilderness, and Noah's ark floated in the Flood for 40 days and 40 nights. Forty was also significant

in terms of years the Jews spent 40 years in the wilderness, and the reigns of David and Solomon were both 40 years



60 This marks the division of the minute and hour, and is associated with time In ancient Egypt it represented a long life



WHILLS WITHIN tn Hindu philosophy there are seven chakras, or wheels, in the body. These stand for needs or levels of consciousness ranging from the lowest for physical urvival to the highest for spiritual

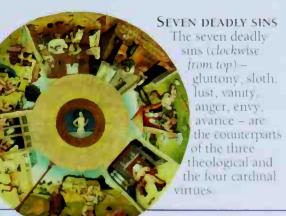
en ghtenment

SEVEN

7 Seven is a sacred number, representing the union of divinity (number three) and earth (number four). Each of the four phases of the moon lasts seven days and there are seven days in the week.

MENORAH The branches of the Jewish eandlestick indicate the seven days of the week as well as the sun, moon, and five principal planets The three U. shaped arms represent wisdom, strength. and beauty







12 As the multiple of the masculine three and the feminine four, 12 represents both spiritual and earthly order there are 12 signs of the Zodiac, 12 months of the year, 12 hours of day and night there are also 12 knights of the Round Table, 12 days of Christmas, 12 disciples, and 12 tribes of tsrael

SEE ALSO

TWOLE CHRIDE CLOCKS 37. C 65 TC 111 SUT K 11 115 FIREL CA TENTE

monan 109

SIVINED Ontibus 1111 81

HALF IN THE PROBLEM 17, PARTIES BUILTY 113

SHAPES & PATTERNS

Many shapes and patterns are universal. For example, similar patterns may decorate objects separated by thousands of miles and thousands of years. Symmetrical shapes appeal to our need for order, intricate shapes, such as puzzles and knots appeal to an urge to unravel mysteries, and labyrinths can express our need to find our true path, despite obstacles. Shapes may be mystical symbols. They are also often used symbolically in architecture - a square temple surmounted by a circular dome, for instance, represents the solidity of the earth topped by the dome of the sky.

YANTRA OR MANDALA

sacred Hindu diagram, the yantra is used A sacred findu diagram, the fathers as a focus for meditation. Concentrating on the geometric shapes draws the mind into the diagram and beyond, into ultimate reality. Yantras often form the basis for the ground plans of temples. The mandala is a circular yantra, usually enclosing a square.



DOORS OF PERCEPTION

The four projections from the middle of each side of the inner square are the "doors" of the yantra, through which the mind may enter or leave the center during contemplation.



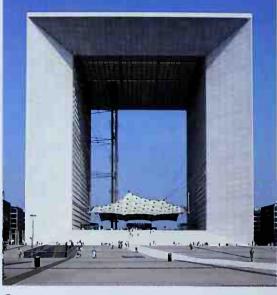
SHRI YANTRA, NEPAL, C. 1700



The enclosing circles serve to unify the opposing triangles. They are made up of lotus petals to signify the unfolding of reality as perceived by meditating on the yantra

Triangle

The upward-pointing triangles represent the male principle and the downward-pointing triangles the female principle. They interlock to show the creative activity of the cosmos.



SQUARE WITHIN SQUARE

The square represents the earth, solidity, order. and safety. It also represents the four compass directions and the balance of opposites. The immense Grande Arche in Paris seems to embody these qualities by its location, size, and function. Where one square sits inside another, the outer square symbolizes awareness of the physical world, the inner square the unconscious.



STONE CIRCLE

Certain stone-age peoples have left behind huge standing stones as monuments The original function of the stone circle at Stonehenge in England is still a mystery. It was probably a form of temple, maybe representing the eye



WHEEL

This wheel, which is one of twelve from the base of the Sun Temple at Konarak, India, symbolizes samsara, the endless round of existence. The wheel in Buddhism is a symbol of the Buddhist law, or doctrine, set in motion in the Buddha's first sermon.



STAR

The star symbolizes light in darkness and wisdom shining through ignorance. To many people stars are the spirits of the dead, set in the sky. To "reach for the stars" is to set the highest goal. In the US the star is a badge of honor



This is shou, one of the three ways of representing the Chinese symbol for longevity or immortality. It is often seen with other symbols of longevity, such as the pine or the tortoise. When paired with a peach, it is a wish for a long and happy marriage.



SWASTIKA

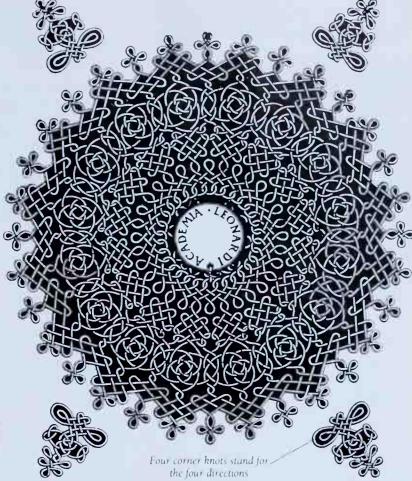
The swastika is a very ancient and auspicious sign with complicated symbolism associated with the sun. Found in most parts of the world, it is especially popular in India However, in the West it is now a symbol of evil because of its association with Adolf Hitler



FLEUR-DE-LIS Emblem of French monarchy, the fleurde-lis may be a sylized iris. Legend also claims an angel gave a lily to Clovis, King of the Franks, in AD 496 when he accepted Christianity.



ALMOND Also known as the mandorla, the almondshaped halo is formed from two intersecting circles. It is used to symbolize Christ's ascension to heaven



This engraving by Leonardo da Vinci is, like a yantra, a contemplative diagram. It is a knot made from a single thread that, if followed, will lead to one's inner self. The knot binds, but also holds the promise of release A knot can be tied for protection, and to "tie the knot" means to get married.



THRESHOLD STONE, NEW GRANGE, EIRE, 3RD/4TH MILLENN UM BO

Energy was once believed to flow in spiral form. The spiral symbolizes masculine and feminine energy and the energy of both sun and moon. It is the great swirling force of the whirlwind and the movement of the heavens. It is a manifestation of the energy in nature, and is related to the powerful imagery of the serpent. The spiral also symbolizes the circlings of the soul, which eventually return to the center, or truth.



The maze, or labyrinth, has appeared in the art of the Egyptians, Indians, Celts, and Mediterranean peoples. Some mazes have a clear path leading to the center, where truth lies, others are puzzles, with the path constantly dividing. Such mazes often occur in dreams, representing indecision. The labyrinth is difficult to enter, but also difficult to leave, and only those with wisdom can find their way through it



the oval of the goddess Isis, it signified life. It was later adopted by the Coptic Christian church in Egypt



TRISKELE This Chinese drum bears the triskele symbol, which, like the swastika, was originally a symbol of good fortune. It may represent the movement of the sun across the heavens.

SEE ALSO

MAZEES M N A R 28 MAZE 43

> STARES" STAR OF DAVID 16

STALLES DE MIN 108 SWASTIKA 68"

SWASEFA 21 F TERN 22 TREANGLE DO

A CHEMICAL SEMELLS 108 YANTRA EST R SI WINDOW 51 FYEDEWSKM72

COLOR



WE ARE SURROUNDED BY COLOR, and its immediate visual effect on our senses has powerful emotional and symbolic overtones. Red is equated with blood, for instance, and green with grass. The two colors traditionally associated with death are black and white. Though it differs from culture to culture – and even from person – color symbolism is among the most universal.

RED

Certain colors, such as red, advance, and are considered lively and stimulating; others, such

as blue, retreat, and tend to be soothing. Rainbows, which contain the full spectrum, are viewed as lucky.

White

White symbolizes purity and perfection, also the Absolute. It is the color most associated with sacredness sacrificial animals are often white. In the Western world brides usually wear white, but it is the color of mourning in much of Asia. Ghosts are thought to be white because it is a color that conceals nothing. A white flag signals truce, and therefore peace.



Oc. 949 III / A III /

LILY WHITE

Sometimes called the Madonna Lily, the white lily is a symbol of purity and the Virgin Mary. The angel Gabriel is traditionally depicted with a white lily when he announces to Mary that she is to be at the end of according the Christian hund white and occurred with the priesthood bubbles and like sommutation.



BLACK In the West, black is the

death, mourning, and the underworld. It also has associations with evil magic. In Hinduisin, Kali, the terrible goddess of destruction, is black. In China it represents the north and



Me

JET BLACK
Jewelry made of jet, a black, semiprecious stone, was commonly used by those in mourning in Victorian times. Queen Victoria of England, in perpetual mourning after her husband's death, thought that displaying bright jewelry showed a lack of respect for the deceased, and this led to a fad for jet jewelry.



RED FLAG Symbol of revolution and the communist party, the red flag was hirst raised during the French Revolution. It was adopted during the Paris Commune in 1871, and then by the

Russian communists



Red is the color of hise – of blood, fire, passion, and war. It is worn

by brides in India and China as a symbol of good luck and fertility.

Christian calendars marked holy days in red,

hence red-letter days. But red is also the color of danger, and warning signs are often marked in red.

> RED DEVIL Since medieval times Satan, or the Devil, has been depicted with red clothes or skin. Red is the color of hellfire and damnation and also of unbridled



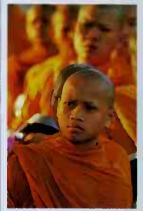
STATUS-SYMBOL RED

The association of red with virility, danger, and sexual excitement makes it one of the most popular colors for flashy sports cars – the ultimate symbol of masculine success in wealthy countries.



ORANGE

Like red,



SAFFRON ROBES
These young initiates wear the saffroncolored robes of
Buddhist monks to
indicate that they have
taken vows of humility
and renunciation.





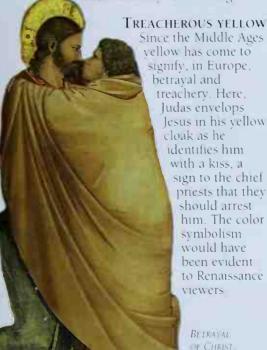
MONK
In the Middle Ages
brown was the color of
mourning. Several
Christian orders
adopted it to signify
retreat from the world



YELLOW Yellow is gold, light, and the sun In Islam golden yellow represents wisdom and good advice, while pale vellow is deceit and betrayal. In

Egypt yellow is the color of envy and disgrace. and in Europe it is associated with cowardice. In China yellow was the color of royalty. Yellow is

the most visible color and is used internationally for warning.



Since the Middle Ages yellow has come to signify, in Europe, color of the Trinity Jesus in his yellow

GIGIT 1305-6

The crescent became a symbol of Islam in the 14th century and the star was later added as a symbol of sovereignty



GREEN FOR GO Green is used universally as a sign giving the go-ahead. Along with red and used for railroad signaling before it was

> VIGILARY. SOCIETY LOCO



20000000000

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IMPERIAL YELLOW

In China vellow is symbolic of the masculine principle vang and the power of the sun-During the Ching dynasty (1644-1911) only the emperor could wear yellow. This 18th-century imperial throne cushion is decorated with dragons, also the emblem of the emperor

FISHVE YELLOW

During the Somavati Amayasya festival in India pilgrims scatter vast amounts of turmene powder over the god Khandoba The yellow powder represents the power of the sun The le tival marks the conjuntion of the sun and moon - the new moch - when it lalls on a Monday



GREEN Green is the color of life spring, and youth It represents hope and joy. It is associated with ecology, the concern with preserving the earth's resources. However, green also represents decay and jealousy In Christianity it is the



PLAC DE PAKISTAN

ISLAMIC GREEN Pakistan's flag declares the nation's faith. Green, Islam's sacred color, is combined with white for purity



yellow, it was originally adopted on the road

COLOR OF THE Chlorophyl gives plants their green color Astylized seedling forms the V of the Vegetarian Society. Its logo is increasingly used in the Western world to draw attention to manufactured foods suitable for vegetarian consumption

BLUE As the color of the sky and water. blue symbolizes calm. reflection, and the intellect. It is also the infinite, and the void from which all life develops.



BLUE STONE Ground lapis lazuli produced a pigment highly prized in Mesopotamia for decorating temple ceilings. The color signified divine favor



BLUE-SKINNED GOD Rama, an incarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu, is usually depicted with blue skin, as is Krishna, another much-loved incarnation. Blue is an appropriate color for Vishnu, since it represents the vastness of the heavens.

BLUE DOME

with its gold

the heavens,

with the cross

that Christ's

dominion encompasses

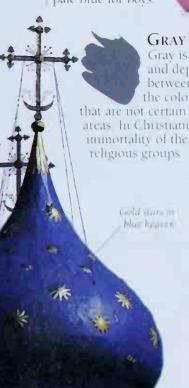
all life

Russian church.

stars, represents

above indicating

The blue dome of this



PURPLE In the West purple signifies royalty and imperial power as it did in ancient South America. It represents pride and grandeur, and also justice

DYED PURPLE

In ancient Greece purple dye. extracted from mollusks, was a luxury that only the rich could afford. Thus the color now symbolizes wealth.



PURPLE HEART

In 1782 George Washington created the first US military medal, a heart-shaped badge of purple cloth. It was revived in 1932 as the Purple Heart, awarded to those wounded or killed in battle.

In Western traditions, pink is the color of flesh, and hence sensuality

A softer tone of red, it is primarily

BABY PINK

More muted than red, pink suggests sensuality in a less aggressive way. Pink is the traditional color for young girls. Baby girls are still olten dressed in pale pink, in contrast to the traditional pale blue for boys.

associated with the feminine.

Grav is associated with gloom and depression. But as a balance between black and white it is the color of mediation. Things that are not certain are considered gray areas. In Christianity gray represents the immortality of the soul and is worn by

SEE ALSO

BLACKE JHT 38 Market ST, 1987 Rates, Hearn 92

BILLER LABOURED BY Invwmm to Imper So Commission 51-93. LILE RITH M. CAMING 93

RED College Locality Rome

> SALLRON ROBLS OF FE UDINIVE MOVISS 23

ALCHEMY

ALCHEMY, THE MEDIEVAL FORERUNNER OF CHEMISTRY, was a richly symbolic science that united practical discovery with a mystical view of nature. The goal of alchemists was to discover the Philosopher's Stone, or the Elixir of

Life, which would create gold from base metals. This change was known as transmutation, but could also be understood as a quest for spiritual perfection. One way of achieving it was to unite opposing elements, such as water and fire, earth and air, the four primary elements. The fifth element or essence,

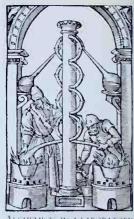
"quintessence," symbolized the spirit.



In alchemy a dragon, or more often a serpent, eating its own tail is known as the uroboros. The dragon was a symbol of the god Mercury and the circle a powerful symbol of the eternal cycle of nature. Because the uroboros recreates itself by feeding on its own body, it is a symbol of transforming matter, i.e. alchemy itself.



CADUCEUS According to alchemical lore, Mercury messenger of the gods, cast his magic wand between two warring serpents. They coiled themselves around it, forming what is called the caduceus, a symbol of opposing forces held in balance.



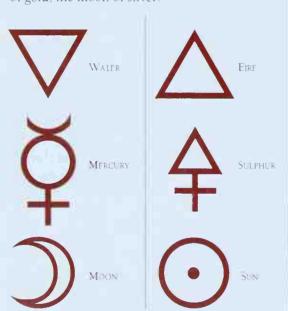
ALCHEMISTS IN A LABORATOR

EARLY ALCHEMISTS Alchemists were philosopher-chemists. Their goal was to distill an elixir that would transform common metals, such as lead, into gold. Through their ceaseless laboratory experiments, they forged a path for

modern chemistry.

ALCHEMICAL SYMBOLS

Alchemists believed all matter was made up of earth, fire, water, and air. The symbol for water flows down like water, the symbol for fire rises up like flames. Sulfur and mercury are often paired together as masculine and feminine symbols repectively. The sun was the symbol of gold; the moon of silver.



SEAL OF SOLOMON This six-pointed star, one of the most powerful magical symbols of all time. combines the alchemical signs for fire and water As descends and the fire ascends, air and



OPUS MEDICO-CHYMICUM, AFTER J. D. MYLIUS, 1618

IMMORTALITY

Because of fear of persecution. alchemists developed a complex vocabulary of symbols to convey their knowledge. This diagrain shows what an alchemist must do to arrive at the Philosopher's Stone, the key to immortality The alchemist brings together all the vital elements around him water and fire, earth



PHOENIX

This mythical bird is the alchemical symbol of rebirth through fire. In medieval legend, the phoenix lives in Arabia but flies to Egypt, the home of alchemy, to undergo its ritual death and regeneration. Here it cradles the all-powerful elements of fire and water under its wings

SEE ALSO

CADUCEUS FOR DIAMOND BROOCH 40. ROD OF AESCULAPIUS 59

EARLY ALCHEMISTS DA GOED, LEAD 39

PHOENIX CO PROENIX 31 SEAL OF SOLOMON FOR

STAR OF DAVID 16. 1SRAFL 115

FREEMASONRY

FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS form the world's oldest association of men. Its members belong to a lodge presided over by a master and wardens. Its principles, or craft, as freemasonry is called, is to "build" good men. Initiation rites, or degrees, concern the biblical Temple of Solomon and use the stonemason's tools as symbols of personal or spiritual growth.



MASONIC EMBLEM As essential tools of a stonemason, the square and compass have become the main symbol of freemasonry. Together they help

TRACING BOARD

create better citizens

The principles of freemasonry are explained to new members using tracing boards covered with symbols. This tracing board, with its three pillars of wisdom, strength, and beauty, represents the first degree of initiation into the fraternity.

Jacob's ladder

This connects the pathway between heaven and earth, with the three principal rungs of Faith Hope and Charity

Compass points

The card nal points of the compass are shown on the border

Pillar

The three pillars stand for the "Rule of Three" the wisdom beauty and strength di-played in the building of the Temple of Solomen

Ashlar

Ih nach ish rermany blob represent un rmed min the amplete a hlar pper est perfect in total

Checkered pavement

The bankwhite quare in pront the track between 1 1 a 1 a 1

ERVEDORS SOUR



LEVEL

The level is used to lay bricks horizontally. It is the symbol of a Senior Warden and signifies equality.

The sun, representing the day



SQUARE

This is the emblem of a Master of a Lodge. It is an instrument that gathers scattered elements into order, and so represents a moral code.

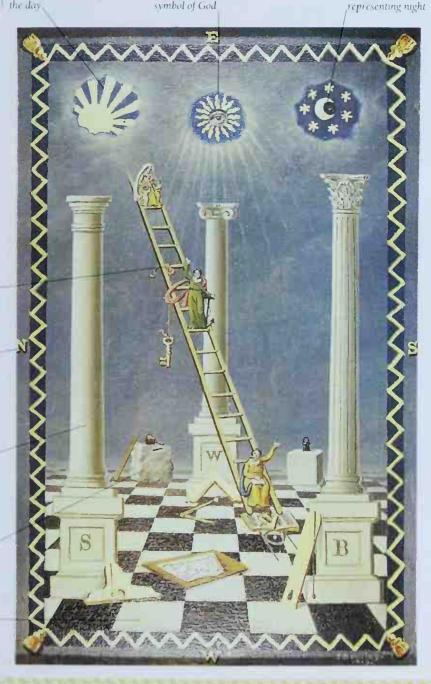
The all-secing eye, with rays of light, an ancient symbol of God



PLUMB RULE Builders use the plumb rule to obtain true verticals. For Masons it is a symbol of rectitude, indicating their upright behavior. It is the emblem of a Junior

Moon and stars,

Warden of a Lodge.





APRON

APRON OF GRAND MASTER

Masonic aprons are richly decorated emblems of office. They hark back to the lambskin aprons worn by stonemasons in ancient times. That of the Grand Master bears the sun – as the sun rises in the East announcing the day, so too the Grand Master opens a lodge, sitting in the East.



SIGN LANGUAGE

Solomon's temple is full of symbols, with winding stairs representing an internal path the individual must climb. On either side are the key to man's secrets and an ear of corn signifying plenty. The trowel "cements" brotherhood.



Pyramid ar 1

Americans eagle CHIEFERFUCIO HUL

US DOLLAR BILL

America's first president, George Washington, was a Freemason. He adopted freemasonry symbols such as the pyramid to denote knowledge and wisdom, and the all seeing eye of God as emblems of the new American nation.

SEE ALSO

SIGN LANGI AGE 138 Destruction Res 8 25

US DOLLAR BILL US.

DIVINATION

To see into the future and predict the course of events is a desire that has preoccupied humankind from time immemorial. In some countries, animal entrails and oxen's shoulder blades are still examined for signs and answers to questions, as are the feeding habits of chickens. In the West the

richly symbolic system of the Tarot, with its pictorial representations of situations or states of mind, has

regained its popularity, and the medieval art of casting runes has reemerged. The ancient art of palmistry, in which the lines etched on the human palm stand for areas of human life, continues to flourish everywhere.



PENDULUM

A pendulum can be used for dowsing – discovering metal objects or water beneath the earth's surface. In especially skilled hands, a pendulum can even be suspended over a map to locate lost items.



DIVINATION BOWL

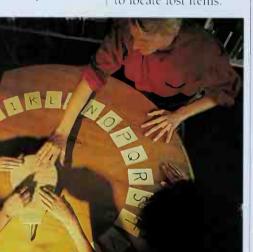
Among the Yoruba of Nigeria, a bowl is filled with sand and then tapped with a stick. The resulting sand formation can be interpreted by a diviner to answer questions such as where to locate water or when the tribe can expect rain.



ROMAN DIVINATION DEVICE

--

ROMAN DIVINATION In Roman times sacred chickens were used as messengers of the gods. They were placed in specially constructed coops and observed. The way they scratched at their food and ate was thought to show whether or not the gods approved of a particular plan. A similar form of divination is still practiced in parts of the world today.



Divination using a Ouija board

CRYSTAL BALI.
Crystal spheres can concentrate the rays of the sun and so have come to represent divine light and celestial powers. In Europe the crystal ball is often used in divination and is now a classic symbol of fortune telling. A medium gazes into the ball and sees "pictures," usually of the future.

CRYSTAL

The ouija board is a means of getting in touch with the dead and has come to represent contact with the spirit world. While many see this as a harmless pastime, others use it seriously to contact those they have lost or to ask questions about the future. A group of people sit together lightly touching a planchette and by their concentration call down a spirit that uses it to spell out particular answers.

Ouija board



OIL IN HAND

In Arab countries, the traditional me hod of looking into the future is to read the original point a part by the part of the p

PALMISTRY

According to palmistry, one's character and future life is written in the lines of the hand. The palm contains numerous lines, three of which – the head line, the heart line, and the life line – are deemed particularly important. The strength and length of these major lines indicate health, relationships, and overall character, as well as destiny.



GYPSY READING THAT EAVES

It was once common practice in England to have one's fortune told by means of tea leaves. The tea was drunk until just one teaspoon remained in the cup. The cup would then be rotated three times before the liquid was poured into the saucer The patterns created by the leaves that were left behind formed the basis of the "reader's' interpretation.

TLA LEAVES

CHINESE THROWING STICKS

In Chinese temples it is common to see men and women shaking cylindrical pots of sticks until one stick clatters to the ground. In this type of divination, cryptic messages are attached to the sticks. The one that falls first is all-important, and books provide detailed interpretations.



Casting runes for divination originated in Iceland in the Middle Ages and has recently come back into vogue. There are 24 runes, each with a symbolic meaning, plus a blank one for the unknown. The order in which the runes fall dictates their meaning.













PROTEIN







PARIN RST







Combinations of dice can reveal the sex of a Liture child



Dice have been thrown in divination since ancient times and are common symbols of luck or chance. In this method of looking into the future, three dice are thrown When they fall, the numbers

that they reveal and the order in which the dice lie are checked against a table of meanings. This in turn provides answers to or interpretations

THE LANGUAGE OF THE TAROT

Tarot cards probably originated in the East. They entered Europe more than 500 years ago. The cards consist of 22 major arcana, or trump cards, and 56 minor arcana, the two sets possibly originating separately. They present a picture of a personality and symbolize the soul's journey along four parallel paths toward spiritual enlightenment.



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THE MARKET



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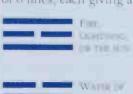
CHS



Waste

1 CHING

The I Ching is an ancient Chinese divinatory text in which answers to questions are set out in the form of trigrams. Each trigram consists of three whole male or broken female lines There are eight basic patterns that can be combined to provide a choice of 64 hexagrams of 6 lines, each giving a different meaning









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Except on I Campo



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113 PREDICTION E 5 57

N 58

ROMAN DIVINATION CO Recognition that prove 64

THE LANGUAGE OF THE LAROLL TO 92

ASTROLOGY

THE IDEA THAT THE MOVEMENTS of the sun, the moon, and the planets through the heavens influence our lives goes back thousands of years. As early as 3000 BC, the ancient Mesopotamian civilizations recorded the movements of these celestial bodies, and endowed their gods and goddesses with the power and attributes of the heavenly bodies. The Greeks saw them as representations of their own deities, and the Romans gave the five known planets – Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn – the names that we still use today.



This astrological wheel shows 12 "houses," each representing one-twelfth of the heavens at the time of birth. The outer ring shows the signs; the inner ring shows the element assigned to each. Fire signs are energetic and forceful; water signs are emotional and intuitive; air signs are objective and logical; earth signs are practical and reliable

THE SUN MONTH IN EACH

EVERYTHING UNDER THE SUN

Our Sun sign is the astrological sign of the zodiac that the powerful Sun is passing through at the time of our birth. Using symbolic language, the Sun sign in astrology describes how we express ourselves most naturally. The Moon in astrology is the feminine counterpart of the Sun. It represents our emotional responses and our links with the past.



THE MOON PASSES THROUGH EVERY SIGN EACH MONTH



ARIES MAR 21-APRIL 20

ARIES Courageous, passionate, enthusiastic, and assertive, Aries people are inclined to rush into things. This fire sign is associated with spring - a time of renewed growth and energy



TALLS AFR. 21-MAY 21

TAURUS Those born under this earth sign are said to be practical and reliable, yet with a stubborn streak. Sensuous Taureans have a love of beauty and may have beautiful voices



GEMN MAY 22-JUN 21

GEMINI Versatile and quick-witted. those born under the sign of the twins can also be changeable. Geminis are communicative people and need to know what is going on



CNCIR J × 22-J-1 22

CANCER Cancerians are said to be sensitive, home-loving types who will retreat into their shell if upset. This water sign is associated with the family, and many Cancerians have

very close family ties.



LEO J 1 23-ALG 23

LEO The typical Leo likes to be the center of attention and can have a powerful personality with a touch of the dramatic Warm and loyal, Leos have a generous and friendly nature



VIRGO ALG 24-SEPT 23

Virgo Cautious and quite private, the practical Virgoan pays attention to detail and likes to be well prepared Virgoans may take a special interest in



I IBRA S PT 24-OCT 23

LIBRA The symbol of the scales indicates that justice and Jurness are



when thr d



SAUTI AP 15 N 23-DE 21

SAGITTARIUS direct, and adventurous. Sagittarians love to learn With a great desire for freedom, Sagittarians can become restless if life becomes routine, and many enjoy traveling.



CAFR R. DEC 22-JAN 20

CAPRICORN Cautious and disciplined, the earthy Capricorn is hardworking and has a marked urge to succeed. Those born under this sign can resist change or be high climbers



AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 19



AQUARIUS Independent and with a reformist

streak, Aquarians are individualists who rarely subscribe to conventional views. Champions of new causes, their opinions can appear dogmatic



their health and diet.

PISCES 20 FEB-20 MAR

PISCES The typical Pisces is imaginative

and intuitive and has a very compassionate nature. The fish symbolism reflects the rather slippery and changeable quality of the sign

PLANETARY RULERS

In astrology, the ten planets (the Sun and Moon are treated as planets, although technically a star and a satellite) represent basic drives or characteristics that are common to everyone. The sign the planet occupies at birth, its position, and the aspects it makes, color the expression of its energies. Below are the main symbols and associations for each planet.

SUN
The central creative force in the zodiac, the
Sun has masculine attributes and is linked with rulers and fathers. It is associated with the heart and its metal is gold. The Sun rules the sign of Leo.

Moon
Associated
with
mothers,
the body,
and childhood, the
Moon is the Sun's
feminine counterpart.
Linked to the stomach
and womb, its metal is
silver. The Moon rules
the sign of Cancer

MERCURY
Fastmoving
Mercury
represents
the mind and the urge
to understand and
communicate Linked
with the shoulders,
arms, and nervous
system, Mercury rules
Virgo and Gemini

VENUS
The planet of love, attraction, beauty, and cooperation, Venus also represents what we value in life it is linked to the kidneys and is the natural ruler of Taurus and Libra

MARS
Named
after the
god of
war, Mars
symbolizes direct
energy and getting
what we want Ruler of
Aries and Scorpio,
Mars is associated with
the head, and with
iron and steel

JUPITER
The largest known planet,
Jupiter represents expansion, exploration, and the search for knowledge and meaning. Jupiter's associated body part is the liver, and it rules Sagittarius and Pisces.

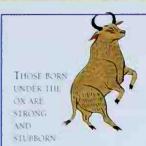
SATURN
Once the
farthest
known
planet,
Saturn represents
order, limitation, and
responsibility. It is
associated with the
skeleton and the skin,
and rules Capricorn
and Aquarius.

URANUS
Discovered
only in the
late 18th
century at
a time of revolutions
and social unrest,
Uranus represents
individual freedom,
new ideas, and
dramatic change. It is
the ruler of Aquanus.

NEPTUNE
Neptune,
discovered
in the
middle of
the 19th century,
symbolizes the
intangible and the
extraordinary. The
planet of fantasy and
dreams, Neptune rules
the sign of Pisces.

PLUTO Pluto represents powerful, hidden forces beyond our control, and is named after the Roman god of the underworld. It is associated with life, death, and renewal.

and rules Scorpio



RAT (e.g. 1948) The rat is ambitious,

hard-working, and liable to accumulate money. Rats may be reserved and shy.

Ox (e.g. 1973) The intelligent and hard-working ox can be stubborn. But once aroused, an ox's feelings are deep.

Tiger (e.g. 1962) The tiger takes risks, but is usually born lucky. Tigers have a sensual nature and often act on impulse.

RABBIT (e.g. 1987)
The rabbit is artistic, thoughtful, intelligent, and lucky, and often pursues a comfortable lifestyle.

DRAGON (e.g. 1940)
Dragons are strong-willed and fiery. They are usually successful, and either marry young or stay single.

CHINESE ASTROLOGY

The Chinese system is based on the year of birth. Each of the 12 animal signs occurs every 12 years according to a lunar calendar that begins around January/February. The signs are further defined by 5 elements, wood, fire, air, metal, and water.



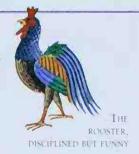
NEPALESE ZODIAC, EARLY 20TH CENTURY

A WHEEL OF YEARS

This Nepalese zodiac displays the 12 images of the Chinese system in the outer circle and the 8 sacred Buddhist symbols in the central circle.

SNAKE (e.g. 1953) Snakes are pleasureloving, with a tendency to be secretive. They are as energetic and self-reliant as dragons.

HORSE (e.g. 1990) Freedom-loving, goodhumored, and generous, the horse is a popular and rather unpredictable character



BOAR (e.g. 1959) Those born under the boar tend to be sociable, loyal, and reliable, with a passionate nature.

Dog Dogs are intelligent, affectionate, honest, and loyal. They are objective, but can be inflexible.

ROOSTER (e.g. 1957)
Disciplined and good at organizing others, the rooster can be eccentric, but has a sense of humor.

MONKEY (e.g. 1992) The charming and conceited monkey can be promiscuous when young, but is more settled later.

SHEEP (e.g. 1943) Those born under this sign tend to feel easily hurt. Their compassionate nature makes them popular.



SIGNS OF THE ZODIAC M HARMONIA MACRO COSMICA, 1708

MAPPING THE SKIES As men and women gazed up at the night sky, the patterns created by the stars suggested familiar objects or animals. They named the stars according to what they saw – Leo for lion and Gemini for twins – and

SEE ALSO

included these images

in their early maps

CHINESE ZODIAC FO

HINDU ZODIAC 68° MAKARA 29. HINDU WHEEF 104

> PIANTIS CO SUN AND MODE, 34-35; PALMISTRY 110

WHELL CO WHITE OF LAW 22, WHITES WHITE 103, HINDU WHELL 104

HERALDIC EMBLEMS

ONE OF THE MOST COLORFUL and attractive uses of symbols is in heraldry. There is no limit to the variety of devices used – plants, animals, humans, mythical beings, geometric shapes, colors, and inscriptions are grouped in a coat of arms or as a flag to represent a family, business, or nation. The practice of heraldry began in medieval times when symbols were used to identify knights on a battlefield or jousting in tournaments. It soon became a highly complicated system that had to be strictly regulated. This was done by the king's messengers, the heralds, which is why it is called heraldry.

VIVID LANGUAGE

Heraldic devices are described in a language called "blazon." It uses terms such as "shield," "charge" (a symbol on the shield), and "supporter" (a figure on either side of a shield).



TRAPPINGS OF CHIVALRY

Knights and their horses dressed sumptuously for battle or tournament. They wore their heraldic symbols on their shields, armor, and surcoats. A surcoat was the garment worn over the armor, and from it we get the term "coat of arms."



MIXED SIGNALS

The charges on this shield are a castle, denoting the Spanish city of Castile, and a lion, for the city of Leon. The surrounding decoration is of Islam longin reflecting Spain's Moon hieritage.



LION
The so-called king of beasts is a natural symbol of royalty.

EAGLE

The double-headed

eagle is of Byzantine

(late Roman) origin.

Symbol of faithfulness

and loyalty, a dog may

signify a Crusader



BEAR
In Central European
heraldry the bear,
standing for strength,
often replaces the lion.















STATUS SYMBOLS

Since coats of arms are ultimately granted by the "fount of all honor," the Crown, they have come to represent power and authority – royal, inherited, or civic.



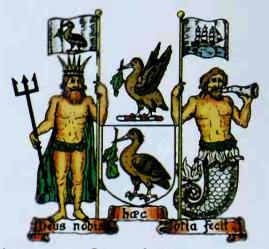
ARMS OF HENRY VIII

At the time of Henry VIII, the British royal coat of arms bore the English lion and the Welsh dragon. The unicorn of Scotland was not represented since Scotland was then a separate kingdom.



ARMS OF THE SWINTON FAMILY

Dating from the 12th century, the Swinton family arms have evolved from a single boar "rampant" (upright) into a herd of six, acquiring along the way the mottos "I hope" and "I think."



ARMS OF THE CITY OF LIVERPOOL

Neptune and a merman, the "supporters," refer to Liverpool's long history as a port, as does the ship. The liver bird (similar to a cormorant), is a visual pun, a device in heraldry called "canting."

ASIAN BADGES OF HONOR

Japan is the only nation that uses a similar system of heraldry to that of Europe, and it also developed in the 12th century. Japanese heraldic symbols are called "mons," and are usually circular. The red sun on the Japanese flag is the mon of the Land of the Rising Sun. Symbolic patterns were also used on Chinese court dress to denote rank.

PACLOWNIA, THE NATIVE LEDWIRING IRLL, PRIVATE MON OF THE IMPERIAL



IMPERIAL FLOWER The chrysanthemum is the national flower of Japan and a symbol of long life and prosperity. The 16petaled flower is the crest of the emperor;

other imperial males

use a 14-petaled mon.

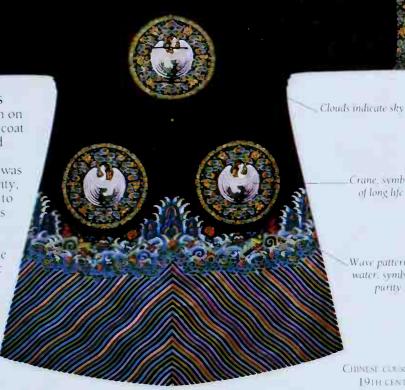


FAT-SI KIE

OFFICIAL'S DRESS Each round pattern on this Chinese court coat is made up of good luck symbols. The Manchurian crane was a symbol of longevity, and was supposed to carry the immortals through the air White cranes were embroidered on the court robes of civic officials of the fourth grade. Here they are encircled by clouds and nny bats, the bats being

symbols of

happiness.



Crane, symbol of long life







MON WITH LIGHT ARROHS



EN ROLLING

FLAGS

Using a range of colors, forms, emblems, and designs, flags represent a wide variety of different peoples, but probably the best-known flags are those of nation states.



PIRATE ENSIGN

A red flag meant no mercy would be shown to the victim. The winged hourglass, arm and sword, and skull-and-crossbones all signified death



SRI LANKA

The lion emblem comes from Kandy heart of the island's Buddhism It is the largest animal on any national llag



CANADA

The maple leaf. representing the local red maple, is the largest plant symbol on a national flag



MALAWI

The sun appears on many flags, sometimes representing royalty. The rising red sun in the top band of Malawi's flag is taken from the arms of the former colony of Nyasaland.



ZAIRE

The hand holding a blazing torch is the emblem of the MPR Movement of the Revolution). Now incorporated on the national flag, it is a symbol of the struggle for independence



SOUTH KOREA

The "yin-yang" symbol in the center represents the two universal opposing forces of Taoism The four trigrams of the I Ching represent sun, moon, earth, and heaven



ISRAEL

The Star of David is a religious symbol. The six points represent the six days of creation; the center the Sabbath The blue stripes come from the prayer shawl Blue stands for heavenwhite for purity



BHUTAN

The dragon – similar to those that appeared on Chinese flags – is a reminder that this Himalayan kingdom's name in its own language, Druk Yul, means "Land of the Thunder Dragon



US

The US flag is the most modified flag in the world. The 13 stripes stand for the original states of the union, but the number of stars has increased with each new state. The 50th, for Hawan, was added in 1900.



KENYA

The sword and crossed spears symbolize the Masar an ancient warrior hunter tribe The colors are those of the main political party at the time of independence, the red is known as Kenya red.



ARMS OF THE CITY OF LIVERPOOL FOR TEIDON 20

BEAR OF BEAR 63 CRESTED LAGEL, EAGLE FO

Evelor FLAGS CO RED V 75 WWW COLET 10

Organization He IMPERIAL FLOWER CS CHEY HITH M 52

EM 1 89 DOLL VIEW VIOL

Lion of Lankson BEA-15-62

INTERNATIONAL SIGNS

PEACE CROSS

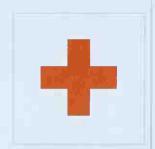
THE NOTION OF A PICTURE BEING "worth a thousand words" is borne out by the vast number of signs and symbols that now represent words and phrases throughout the world. Take, for example, the no smoking sign. The red circle with its diagonal line over a smoldering cigarette is as instantly recognizable in New York as it would be in Kathmandu. This sign, like traffic

signs or the CND peace symbol above, has been designed to communicate immediately and effectively; other signs, such as mathematical and musical notation, have evolved over centuries as virtual languages in their own right.

ORGANIZATIONS

THE RED CROSS

The International Red Cross was founded in Geneva in 1863 to provide medical relief to all during wartime. Its emblem was formed by reversing the colors and symbol of the Swiss flag.





THE OLYMPIC FLAG

The Olympic emblem of five interlocking circles was created to represent five continents – Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and the Americas



THE UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations was founded in 1945 and adopted as its emblem a polar view of the world encircled by two olive branches of peace.

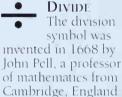


THE EUROPEAN FLAG

The European Union (EU) flag was formally adopted in 1986. The 12 five-pointed gold stars in present perfection according to heraldic code.

MATHEMATICAL SYMBOLS

ADD
The plus sign first appeared in Germany in 1489 in Mercantile Arithmetic by John Widman.



EQUALS
The equals sign was invented by
Robert Recorde, who used it in an algebraic text published in 1557.

The earliest recorded use of the infinity symbol was in 1665, in *De Sectionibus Conicis*, by John Wallis.

The symbol for the minus sign, like the plus sign, was first used in John

Widman's book.

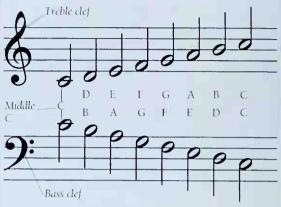
MULTIPLY
The symbol for multiplication first appeared in William Oughtred's Clavis Mathematica, published in 1631.

PERCENT
The percent
sign derives
Irom the formula
/100. The term is from
the Latin, per centum.

SQUARE ROOT
Comed in
1557, the
square root sign
is a modified form of a
division sign

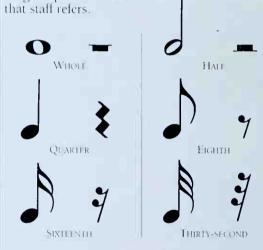
MUSICAL NOTATION

The present system of representing music has evolved over hundreds of years. At the end of the Roman period a system was devised using the letters A-G to represent the 7-note scale. The standardization of the 5-line stave, used to determine pitch, came about in the 17th century.



NOTE VALUES

The duration of notes and rests – the sounds and the silences – is indicated by symbols of different shapes. These notes and rests are related to the beat of the music. A dot after a note or rest extends its value by half. The clef sign (bass or treble) determines the range of pitches to which



QUALITY CONTROL MARKS

The system of stamping precious metals as proof of their purity came into being in the 13th century. Silver had to have at least 92.5 percent silver content in order to be considered sterling. Countries adopted different signs to denote purity, and cities also had individual stamps so that pieces could be located accurately.

SWEDEN

FRANCE

CONTROL MARK

SILVER MARKS

PROOF
OF 92 5
PERCENT SILVER

LALY
(PURITY OF 900/1000, BELOW STERLING)

TI CPARD S

FROM 132











REGISTERED TRADEMARK OWNED BY IWS DENOTING PURE NEW WOOL AND QUALITY ASSURANCE





SYMBOL OF PURE COLTON SYMBOL OF REA

WARNING SIGNS

International highway "sign language" has been devised for maximum visual impact. It involves a clear system of colors and shapes that can be understood instantly. Red, for example, indicates prohibition; yellow, caution; and green, safety. Similarly a triangle is a warning sign and a red circle, with or without a crossbar, is a prohibition sign.

WARNING TRIANGLE A triangular black band on a yellow background color is a cautionary sign.







RATIACTAT



SLIPPERY ROAL





PROHIBITION Circles with red outer bands, with or without crossbars, indicate prohibition.





NOT SUITABLE FOR DRINKING



NO CYCLING



PUBLIC INFORMATION

The standardization of public symbols has f L been in operation since the early 1900s, reflecting the growth of international travel. Most signs are self-explanatory











TOURSE PROPERTY.





PERCOUNT.

WASHING LABELS

An international labeling scheme exists to promote the proper care of clothes and textiles. Words are intentionally kept to a minimum. A cross through any symbol means "do not.













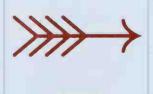


RECYCLE

Ever-increasing awareness of our endangered planet has prompted a return to things natural. or eco-friendly the recycling sign with its constantly revolving arrows, is now a familiar sight on biodegradable products and on garbage cans where they can be disposed for further recycling



The sign indicating direction has varied over the years, from a graphic hand with outstretched finger in Victorian times to more stylized arrows used today



SEE ALSO

DIRECTION 63 HAVE 75 MATHEMATICAL SYMBOLS CO. N MILL WITTEN 102

ORGANIZATIONS DE R 114 100 1 AME CHARLES 107: FDAES 115

QUALITY CONTROL MARKS 68 SINTE 30

WARNING SIGNS ES PRAIL 188 - 115

SYMBOLIC GESTURES

"ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS," and this is particularly true of gestures. The various postures that we assume, both consciously and unconsciously, are highly revealing – although just what they reveal depends on whether or not the action is intentional, and on the context in which it occurs. Some gestures, however, transcend cultures – hands clasped together and held out to another are a symbol of entreaty the world over.

HANDS



FINGERS CROSSED This widespread symbol of protection or good luck is a modified form of the Christian cross



THUMBS UP
Meaning "okay," this
stems from Roman
times, when spectators
would make a similar
gesture covering their
thumbs (symbols of
swords) to spare a
gladiator's life.



V FOR VICTORY
This sign is known
worlding to lit wis a
trace mark of Wilston
Churchill to differ to
the land the little of to
the Natis little of to
the control of the little



HORNS
This "horned" gesture protects against evil or bad luck and is often combined with a backward and forward rotation of the hand



PRAYING HANDS
This familiar symbol of prayer is also one of respect and greeting in India and Southeast Asia. Originally it signified hands bound together in a symbolic offering of oneself to God.



PLEADING HANDS
This is pracer
the cted at nother
tener of wally
tener for assistance.



LOOSE SCREW
This gesture indicates that someone is crazy, that he or she needs to tighten a loose screw in the head



STUPIDITY
Common in Saudi
Arabia, this implies "I
can see clearly that you
are a fool."



QUERY
In Italy this gesture
of fingers and thumb
pressed together, with
the hand twitching up
and down, asks "What
do you want?" or
"What do you mean?"



OKAY
Here the thumb and forefine a form a circle and more back and forth to indicate that something is good



THINKING
People adopt this
posture unconsciously.
It is a modified prayer
with a reassuring
touching of the lips.



TEETH FLICK
This gesture, flicking a thumb-nail against the teeth, is common in Mediterranean countries, where it denotes anger.



JEALOUSY
This gesture has various related meanings, and is generally an insult. In Mediterranean countries it represents the horns of a cuckold; in Japan it denotes an angry or jealous woman.



MOCKERY
Thumbing one's nose

familiar to all ages and

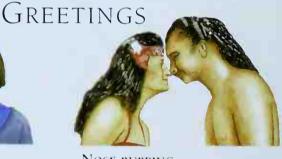
all nationalities. Often

the fingers are wiggled

to emphasize mockery.

is a playful insult,

WAVING
This gesture is often made on meeting or parting. The hand raised with palm upward is a classic way of drawing attention to oneself.



NOSE RUBBING
Although rare in the West, the rubbing of noses is still practiced

in other cultures, notably among Polynesians.

HANDSHAKE

The clasping of hands is a common gesture both on meeting and parting. Unlike a bow or a curtsey, it signifies a certain equality of status.



ARMS



TRIUMPH Arms straight in the air are a sign of success: the person feels this big.

PRAISE

heavenward

SURRENDER

A recognized gesture of

submission, this arms-

raised posture shows

In this gesture, palms,

and head are turned



HAII Depending on the stiffness of the arm, this is a friendly adopted by Hitler in the 1930s



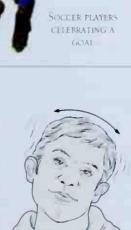
HEAD

in the field of

team sports



No No" can be expressed by turning the head from side to side, or in North Africa with a single, sharp turn to one side and back



YES Although shaking one's head generally means "no," in India and Pakistan this wobbling from side to side means "yes"

Моитн



CHILDHOOD INSULT Children the world over stick their tongues out as a rude gesture perhaps their first learned insult.



I DON'T KNOW This gesture involves pulling down the corners of the mouth a facial equivalent to shrugging shoulders.

EYES

EXASPERATION

A familiar sign of

divine assistance

SKEPTICISM

Raising just one

face are at odds,

of confusion

registering a state

eyebrow is a common

gesture of disbelief

The two sides of the

exasperation, the eyes

are turned heavenward, as though invoking



BE QUIET An easily recognized symbol of silence, the lips are sealed



ANGER Biting one's lower lip while shaking one's head from side to side shows barely contained anger

WINKING

the know

A wink has various

meanings, from sexual

approval by a potential partner, to collusion

between two people in

Kissing



CHEEK KISS This is a friendly gesture practiced in the West, in which both people kiss each other on one or both cheeks.



HAND KISS This gesture is a symbol of respect, and was once commonly performed by a man greeting a woman. Usually the lips barely touch the hand.



THE KISS, GUSTAV KLIMT, 1907-8

LOVERS' KISS

An erotic view of a kiss, in which two people are fused together in total intimacy



BLOWING A KISS A symbol of love, often from a mother to a child, or to a friend too distant to embrace



ANXIETY Eyebrows raised and furrowed is an instinctive response to extreme anxiety. It is a natural expression, common to all cultures



FOOT KISS A gesture symbolizing humility and respect, performed by the Pope during Holy Week





BUDHLATIVA 23 ARM 75 LINGERS CROSSED FO Jes CERS 18 HANDS 60" HAND GOD 24 HANDS 75 CLASICAL INDIAN DANCE GISTURES 77, HUNNA DHAND 83

SEE ALSO ARMS CO DE A SHIN 120

KISSING FOR LISS 82 MOUTH FO TO GLE 72 TEETH 73

GLOSSARY

In references to Greek and Roman mythology in the book, we have generally used the Roman names for the gods rather than their Greek counterparts, because they tend to be more familiar. The Roman gods are listed here with their Greek equivalents.

Absolute, the A term for God or the state of cosmic unity.

Adonis In Greek and Roman mythology, a beautiful youth loved by Venus. He was killed while boar hunting.

Agni Hindu fire god.

Ainu Aboriginal inhabitants of the Japanese island Hokkaido.

Aladdin The main character in *The 1,001*Nights or Arabian Nights, a poor boy who has a magic lamp.

Alchemy The chemistry of medieval scientists, who tried to find a way to turn ordinary metals into gold.

Allah Islamic name for God

allegory A story in which the characters and events are meant to be interpreted symbolically.

amulet A charm, often inscribed with a magic formula, to protect one against evil.

Annunciation The angel Gabriel's visit to the Virgin Mary to tell her that she will give birth to Jesus.

Apollo Greek and Roman sun god, and god of prophecy.

Arabian Nights A collection of Eastern folk tales, also known as the 1,001 Nights.

Ariadne Daughter of Cretan King Minos in Greek mythology, who helped Theseus only to be later abandoned by him.

Aristotle Ancient Greek philosopher advocating reason and moderation.

Ashanti People from central Ghana.

asceticism Denying oneself physical pleasure for religious reasons.

Assyrians Ancient peoples who inhabited what is now Iraq, and who conquered a vast empire.

auspicious Bringing good luck.

avatar Incarnation; one of the Hindu god Vishnu's ten incarnations on earth

Aztecs An American Indian people who inhabited ancient Mexico.

Babylonians Inhabitants of ancient Iraq. Bacchus (Greek Dionysus) Roman god of fertility and wine.

Bodhisattva Future Buddha; one who postpones Nirvana in order to save others.

Brahma The four-headed god who created the universe and who, with Vishnu and Shiva, forms the Hindu trinity.

Buddha Religious leader, founder of Buddhism, who taught that enlightenment is achieved by meditation and detachment.

Cernunnos Celtic horned god, lord of nature and fertility.

Cherokee A Native American people.
Churchill, Winston British Prime Minister during World War II

CND Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

Comanches A native people of North

America.

cosmos, cosmology Universe; study of the universe as an ordered whole.

Crucifixion The execution of Christ by nailing him to a cross.

cuckold Man whose wife is unfaithful to him.

Cupid (Greek Eros) Roman god of earthly love, son of Venus.

David Second Hebrew king, father of Solomon.

Diana (Greek Artemis) Roman goddess of hunting, protector of women.

Donar Teutonic god of thunder.

Dreaming, the In Australian Aboriginal thought, the spiritual and natural order incorporating legends of the ancestors.

Durga A terrifying form of the Goddess in Hinduism.

clixir A liquid giving everlasting life.
crogenous zone Area of body susceptible
to erotic stimulation.

Eve Biblical first woman, who lived with her husband, Adam, in the Garden of

Exodus The escape of the Jews from slavery in Egypt.

Fates Atropos, Clotho, and Lachesis, Greek goddesses controlling destiny.

Flood, the According to many religious traditions, an ancient disaster that drowned all humanity except for a chosen few.

four clements Earth, air, fire, and water, believed in medieval times to be the basic ingredients of the universe.

four humors The four fluids (blood, phlegm, yellow bile, and black bile) that, according to medieval belief, shaped the personality depending on how much of each was present in the body.

Freud, Sigmund (1856–1939) Austrian psychologist who invented psychoanalysis.

Freya In Norse mythology, Odin's wife, goddess of love, marriage, and fertility.

Furies Avenging goddesses in Greek mythology.

Gabriel Archangel in Christian and Muslim belief; God's messenger.

Gandhi, "Mahatma" (1869–1948) Indian nationalist leader, famous for heading a nonviolent freedom struggle.

Garuda Fabulous bird, mount of the Hindu god, Vishnu.

Great Goddess An embodiment of the feminine principle. May take different forms. In Hinduism, may be benign or terrifying.

griffin A mythical beast with a lion's body and eagle's beak and wings.

Hanukkah The Jewish festival of lights. harbinger Forerunner, precursor.

Hathor Egyptian goddess of love and beauty.

Hercules (Greek Herakles) Hero of Roman mythology famous for his strength.

heresy A belief that contradicts authorized religious teaching.

Herod Herod Antipas, governor of the Jews in Jesus' time.

Hittites Inhabitants of ancient Anatolia and Syria.

Homer Blind Greek poet of the 8th century BC, author of the epics *Iliad* and *Odyssey*.

Horus Egyptian hawk-headed sun god, son of Isis and Osiris.

I Ching Ancient Chinese book of divination.

initiation ceremony A rite of admission, often marking the entry into adulthood

Inuits Inhabitants of Greenland and the Arctic region of North America; Eskimos.

Isis Chief goddess of ancient Egypt, sisterwife of Osiris.

Israelites Descendants of the patriarch (Jacob); the Jews.

lacob Hebrew patriarch whose twelve sons were ancestors to Israel's twelve tribes.

Jonah Biblical figure who was swallowed by a great fish.

Judas Iseariot Disciple who betrayed Christ to the Jews

Iudea Southern division of ancient Palestine.

Jung, Carl (1875–1961) Swiss psychologist and colleague of Freud who originated analytical psychology

Juno (Greek Hera) Queen of the Roman pantheon, protector of women.

Jupiter (Greek Zeus) King of the gods in Roman mythology, god of thunder.

Koran The Muslim sacred texts as revealed to the prophet Mohammed.

Krishna Incarnation of the Hindu god

mandala Pictorial symbol of the universe, a Buddhist aid to meditation.

Mars (Greek Ares) Roman god of war.

martyrdom Dying for one's belief.

Mary, Virgin The mother of Jesus Christ.

Maya An ancient Indian people who lived in Central America and Southern Mexico

Mecca The birthplace of Mohammed. Medusa In Greek mythology, a female monster with snakes for hair whose

glance turned people to stone.

Mercury (Greek Hermes) Roman messenger god, god of travelers.

Mesoamerica Central America, between Northern Mexico and Panama

Mesopotamia The ancient name for part of modern Iraq

microeosm The world or universe in miniature

Minerva (Greek Athena) Roman goddess of wisdom and war

Minoan Of prehistoric Crete

Mithras Ancient Persian god of light, worshiped by Romans.

Moghul emperors Northern Indian Mushm dynasty rulers 1526-1857.

Mohammed (c 570-632) The prophet and founder of Islam

monotheistic Believing in one god only

Moses Hebrew lawgiver and judge who led his people out of Egypt

mysticism A way of directly experiencing the Divine through ecstatic or heightened spiritual awareness

Navajo A Native American people of North America

Nefertem Human-headed Egyptian god of the setting sun

Neptune (Greek Poseidon) Roman god of satyrs Half-goat and half-human the sea.

Nirvana Extinction of individuality and absorption into the cosmos, never to be reborn; goal of Buddhism.

Noah Biblical character who, at God's command, built an Ark to save his family from the Flood

Odin Chief deity of Norse mythology, sky

Orpheus Mythical Greek poet and musician with the power to enchant all living creatures.

Osiris Egyptian god of the dead.

Ottoman Belonging to the Ottoman Empire, ruled by the Turks AD 1300-1920.

Pan Greek god of shepherds and hunters, with a goat's horns and hoofs. His pipes had a hypnotic effect.

pantheon All the gods of a mythology collectively.

patriarchs The founding fathers of a nation or religion.

Phaeton Son of Apollo, who drove the chariot of the sun for one day, nearly set the earth on fire, and was killed by Jupiter's thunderbolt.

phoenix Fabulous Arabian bird reborn from the flames of its own destruction.

Pluto (Greek Dis) Roman god of Hades, the Underworld, kingdom of the dead. primordial Existing from the beginning;

primeval

Promised Land Canaan (present-day Israel), which the Jews believed had been promised them by God

Quetzaleoatl Aztec god of learning and of priestly functions, usually depicted as a feathered serpent.

Rama Vishnu's seventh incarnation, the mythical hero of India's war with Lanka

Ramadan The ninth month of the Islamic calendar, when Muslims last by day

Re Egyptian sun-god, father of Osiris and

Renaissance The transitional period between the Middle Ages and modern times, literally the "rebirth" of arts and learning

Samurai Japanese aristocratic warriors, equivalent of England's knights

Sanskrit The ancient literary language of India

Saturn The second largest planet Its influence is believed by astrologers to give rise to a cold, melancholy temperament

woodland gods in Greek mythology

Selket Human-headed Egyptian scorpiongoddess.

shaman Priest-doctor who works directly with the spirit world.

Shiva The Destroyer, one of the three great gods of Hinduism.

Sinai Mountain in Egypt where Moses received the Ten Commandments.

Sioux A Native American people of North

Solomon, King Hebrew king, son of David, famed for wisdom

Soviet Union The former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

stylus Pointed implement for writing on wax tablets.

Taoism Chinese philosophical system teaching harmonious interaction with nature.

Theseus Hero of Greek mythology who killed the minotaur.

Thor Norse god of thunder.

Thoth Ibis-headed god of wisdom and learning in Egyptian mythology

totem. An object or creature regarded as sacred by a clan. Often an ancestor figure.

transeendence The surpassing of all limitations of human knowledge and

tribe of Judah Descendants of Judah, son of Jewish patriarch Jacob

Trojan War Legendary siege of the city of Troy by the Greeks.

tzars Emperors of pre-Revolutionary Russia

Ulysses (Greek Odysseus) Hero of Roman and Greek mythology who fought the Trojans and was famous for his courage and ingenuity

Venus (Greek Aphrodite) Roman goddess of beauty and love.

Venus, sphere of In medieval thought, the earth was encased in nine invisible rotating spheres of increasing size, each holding a planet

Virgin Birth The birth of Jesus to the Virgin Mary after her insemination by

Vishnu The Preserver With Shiva, one of the most important Hindu gods

yin and yang Chinese opposing yet complementary principles, vin being negative, leminine, and dark, while yang is positive, masculine, and bright

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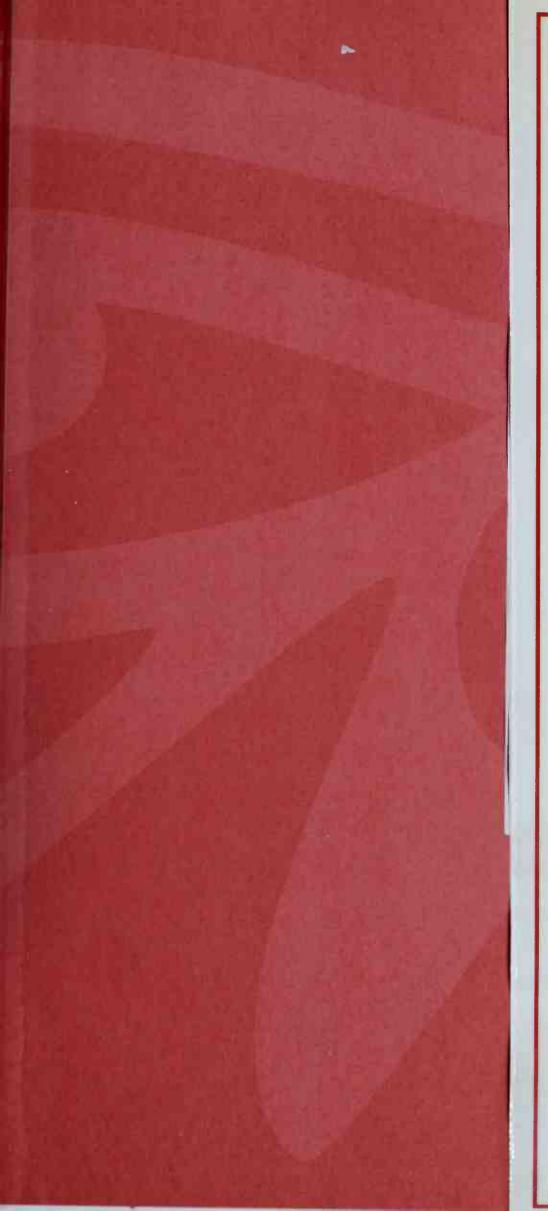
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