



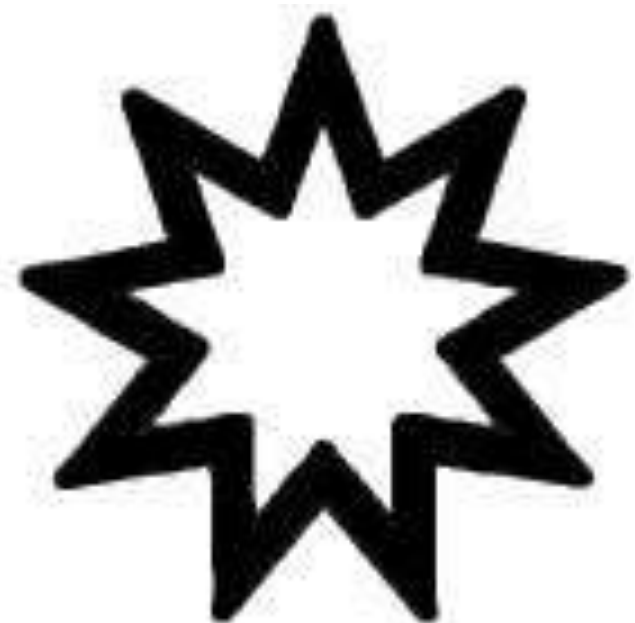
RELIGIOUS SIGN AND SYMBOLS

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RELIGIOUS SYMBOLISM

RELIGIOUS SYMBOLISM IS THE USE OF SYMBOLS, INCLUDING ARCHETYPES, ACTS, ARTWORK, EVENTS, OR NATURAL PHENOMENA, BY A RELIGION. RELIGIONS VIEW RELIGIOUS TEXTS, RITUALS, AND WORKS OF ART AS SYMBOLS OF COMPELLING IDEAS OR IDEALS. SYMBOLS HELP CREATE A RESONANT MYTHOS EXPRESSING THE MORAL VALUES OF THE SOCIETY OR THE TEACHINGS OF THE RELIGION, FOSTER SOLIDARITY AMONG ADHERENTS AND BRING ADHERENTS CLOSER TO THEIR OBJECT OF WORSHIP.





BAHAI

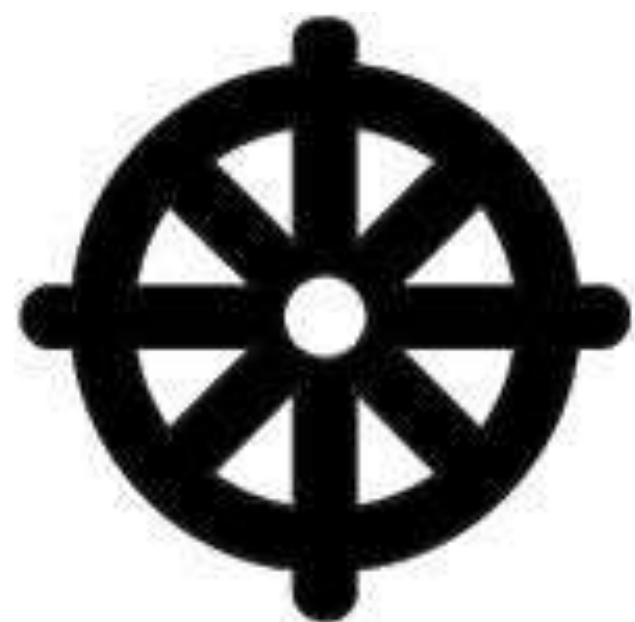


CHRISTIANITY CROSS

THE STUDY OF RELIGIOUS SYMBOLISM IS EITHER UNIVERSALIST, AS A COMPONENT OF COMPARATIVE RELIGION AND MYTHOLOGY, OR IN LOCALIZED SCOPE, WITHIN THE CONFINES OF A RELIGION'S LIMITS AND BOUNDARIES.



HERE ARE SOME OF THE MOST POPULAR RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS FROM OUR PAST.



BUDDHISM



SHINTO



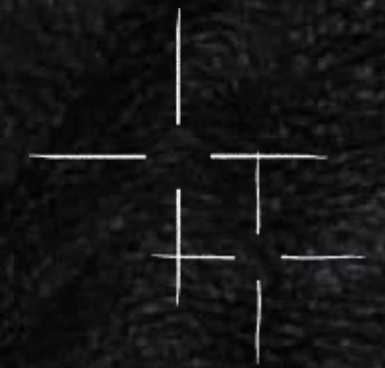
EGYPTIAN ANKH



SIKHISM

UPRIGHT PENTACLE

Upright pentacles and pentagrams are among the most widely used religious symbols. They have been used in many eras and by many cultures and religions of the world: by ancient Pagans, ancient Israelites, Christians, magicians, Wiccans and others.





HAPPY HUMAN

THE HAPPY MAN IS A SECULAR ICON AND THE OFFICIAL SYMBOL OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMANIST AND ETHICAL UNION (IHEU), A WORLD BODY FOR HUMANISM, AND HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY MANY HUMANIST ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS WORLDWIDE. ITS ORIGIN WAS A COMPETITION ORGANIZED IN 1965 BY THE BRITISH HUMANIST ASSOCIATION TO FIND A SYMBOL FOR ITSELF. DENIS BARRINGTON CREATED THE WINNING DESIGN.

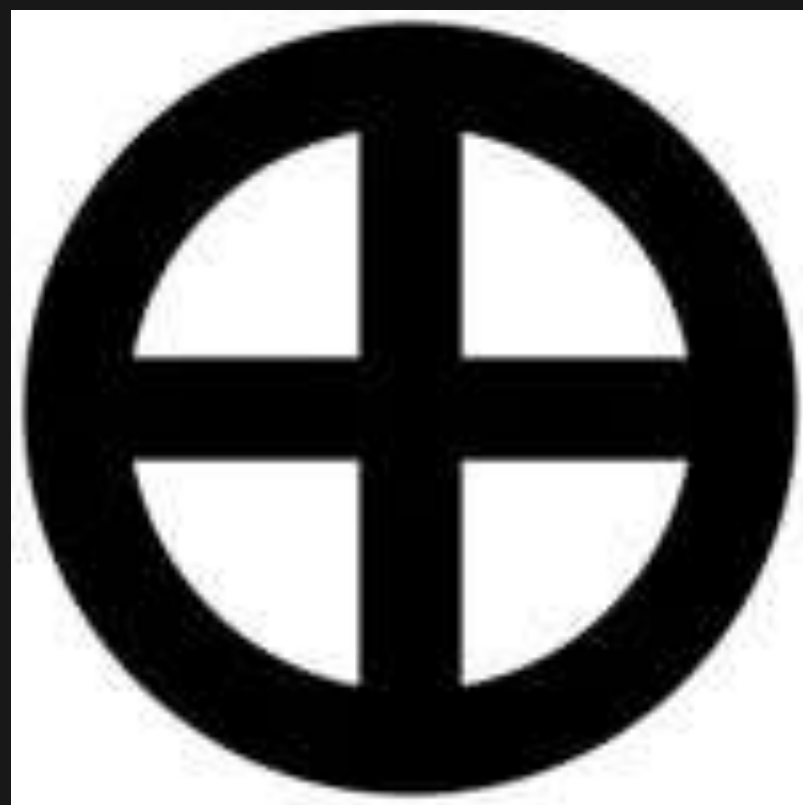
THE OUBOROS

OFTEN REPRESENTS SELF-REFLEXIVITY OR CYCLICALITY, ESPECIALLY IN THE SENSE OF SOMETHING CONSTANTLY RE-CREATING ITSELF, THE ETERNAL RETURN, AND OTHER THINGS PERCEIVED AS CYCLES THAT BEGIN ANEW AS SOON AS THEY END.



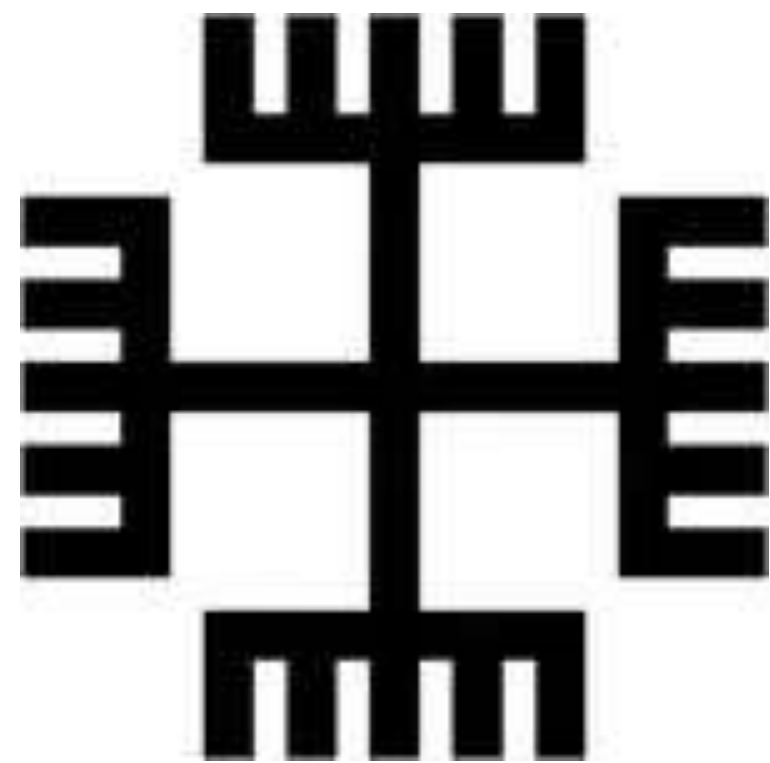
SUN CROSS

The sun cross, or more commonly known as the sun wheel, a cross inside a circle, is a common symbol in artifacts of Prehistoric Europe, particularly during the Neolithic to Bronze Age periods.



TRISKELION

A triskelion or triskele is a motif consisting of three interlocked spirals, or three bent human legs, or any similar symbol with three protrusions and threefold rotational symmetry. A triskelion is the symbol of Brittany, as well as the Isle of Man and Sicily (where it is called Trinacria).



HANDS OF GOD

A SYMBOL POPULARLY USED AS REPRESENTING SLAVIC NEOPAGANISM, OR MORE SPECIFICALLY THE PANENTHEISM ADVOCATED BY THE RPK, IS KNOWN AS “HANDS OF GOD.”

UNCURSAL HEXAGRAM

THE UNCURSAL HEXAGRAM IS A HEXAGRAM OR SIX-POINTED STAR THAT CAN BE TRACED OR DRAWN UNCURSALLY, IN ONE CONTINUOUS LINE RATHER THAN BY TWO OVERLAPING TRIANGLES. THE HEXAGRAM CAN ALSO BE DEPICTED INSIDE A CIRCLE WITH THE POINTS TOUCHING IT. IT IS USED IN THE GREEK AND HINDU MYTHOLOGIES AS A SYMBOL OF DEDICATION TO THE DIVINE RULERS.



RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS

Being religious is defined as the outward act or form by which a person indicates their recognition of the existence of a god or of gods having power over their destiny, to whom obedience, service, and honor are due. Having a religious belief or faith is being in awe of some superhuman and overruling power, whether by profession of belief, by observance of rites and ceremonies, or by the conduct of life. Religion is a framework of beliefs relating to supernatural or superhuman beings or forces that transcend the everyday material world. Being religious is to have a strong belief, a faith in a supernatural power or powers that control human destiny; "he lost his faith but not his morality".

CONCLUSION

THERE ARE MANY RELIGIONS WORSHIPPED ALL OVER THE WORLD, THE LARGEST OF THESE ARE CHRISTIANITY, ISLAM, JUDAISM, SIKHISM, SHINTOISM, BUDDHISM, HINDUISM, CONFUCIANISM AND TAOISM. SYMBOLS ARE A VITAL PART OF EVERY RELIGION, THEY ARE OBJECTS THAT FOLLOWERS WORSHIP AND PRAY TO. THEY ARE TOOLS FOR TEACHING THE RELIGION TO OTHERS AND ITEMS ARE OFTEN PASSED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION. EACH INDIVIDUAL RELIGIOUS SYMBOL HAS ITS OWN DEEP SIGNIFICANCE; THE MUSLIM PRAYER MAT AND THE CATHOLIC ROSARY BEADS ARE JUST TWO EXAMPLES THAT HAVE HUGE SIGNIFICANCE TO FOLLOWERS OF THESE FAITHS.

REFERENCES:



Religious symbolism and iconography-
Kurt Moritz Artur Goldammer

