

# Paganism

Historical Information on  
Paganism

**Brief Overview:** To reveal the pagan roots of normal celebrated holidays and seasons of man.

# Definition of Paganism

**Paganism** (from Latin *paganus*, meaning "country dweller", "rustic") is a blanket term used to refer to various polytheistic religions. The group so defined includes most of the Eastern religions, Native American religions and mythologies, as well as non-Abrahamic folk religions in general. More narrow definitions will not include any of the world religions and restrict the term to local or rural currents not organized as civil religions. Characteristic of pagan traditions is the absence of proselytism and the presence of a living mythology which explains religious practice.

[www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paganism](http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paganism)

# Etymology

## Pagan

Middle English, from Late Latin *paganus*, from Latin, *country-dweller, civilian*, from *p* *gus*, *country, rural district*,

## Heathen

Middle English *hethen*, from Old English *hthen*; see *kaito-* in Indo-European roots

# Definitions

## Pagan

One who is not a Christian, Muslim, or Jew, especially a worshiper of a polytheistic religion.

One who has no religion.

A non-Christian.

A hedonist.

A Neo-Pagan.

## Heathen

One who adheres to the religion of a people or nation that does not acknowledge the God of Judaism, Christianity, or Islam.

Such persons considered as a group; the unconverted.

One who is regarded as irreligious, uncivilized, or unenlightened.

Such persons considered as a group.

## Hosea 4:6

"My people have perished  
for lack of knowledge.  
Because you have rejected  
knowledge, I reject you  
from being priest for Me.  
Since you have forgotten  
the Torah of your Elohim, I  
also forget your children.

# Exodus 20:3 & 4

"You have no other mighty ones against My face.

"You do not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of that which is in the heavens above, or which is in the earth beneath, or which is in the waters under the earth,"



# Images



**Idolatry** is usually defined as worship of any cult image, idea, or object, as opposed to the worship of a monotheistic God. It is considered a major sin in the Abrahamic religions whereas in religions where such activity is not considered as sin, the term "idolatry" itself is absent. Which *images*, *ideas*, and *objects*, constitute idolatry, and which constitute reasonable worship, is a matter of contention with some religious authorities and groups using the term to describe certain other religions apart from their own (sometimes resulting in iconoclasm).

# Etymology of Idolatry

The word *idolatry* comes (by haplology) from the Greek word *eidololatria*, a compound of *eidolon*, "image" or "figure", and *latreia*, "worship". Although the Greek appears to be a loan translation of the Hebrew phrase *avodat elilim*, which is attested in rabbinic literature (e.g., bChul., 13b, Bar.), the Greek term itself is not found in the Septuagint, Philo, Josephus, or in other Hellenistic Jewish writings. It is also not found in Greek literature. In the New Testament, the Greek word is found only in the letters of Paul, 1 Peter, 1 John, and Revelation, where it has a derogatory meaning. Hebrew terms for idolatry include *avodah zarah* (foreign worship) and *avodat kochavim umazalot* (worship of planets and constellations).

In today's context, idolatry is not limited to religious concepts, however, and considered more of a social phenomenon where false perceptions are created and worshipped, or even used as a term in the entertainment industry.



# Origin of Idolatry

According to the Bible, idolatry originated in the age of Eber,<sup>[citation needed]</sup> though some interpret the text to mean in the time of Serug; traditional Jewish lore traces it back to Enos, the second generation after Adam. Image worship existed in the time of Jacob, from the account of Rachel taking images along with her on leaving her father's house, which is given in the Book of Genesis. According to the midrash Genesis Rabba, Abraham's father, Terah, was both an idol manufacturer and worshipper. It is recounted in both traditional Jewish texts and in the Quran that when Abraham discovered the true God, he destroyed his father's idols. The commandments in the Hebrew Bible against idolatry forbade the adoption of the beliefs and practices of the pagans who lived amongst the Israelites at the time, especially the religions of ancient Akkad, Mesopotamia, and Egypt.

# What is The Image of Yahweh?

## Deuteronomy 4:15

"Therefore, diligently guard yourselves, for you saw no form when Yahweh spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire,"



# Made in the Image of Yahweh

Four Scriptures in the Book of Genesis: 1:26, 1:27, 5:3, 9:6, tell of Whose image man was made in. The original form of man is known to be in the image of the Most High. We are in the image of the fallen Adam...the actual image of man before the fall may have been light. As Yahweh is light and Spirit.

# OR or OR

## Genesis 3:21

"And Yahweh Elohim made coats of skin for the man and his wife and dressed them."

The word used in the Torah for skin is 'or' H5785 spelled ayin vav resh and means skin as of a man

H215 'or' which means to be or become light, shine ; has a breathy sound

# Other Images

## Jeremiah 2:26 - 28

"As the thief is ashamed when he is found out, so is the house of Yisra'el ashamed - they and their sovereigns and their heads, and their priests and their prophets, saying to a tree, 'You are my father,' and to a stone, 'You gave birth to me.' For they have turned their back to Me, and not their face. But in the time of their calamity they say, 'Arise and save us.' "But where are your mighty ones that you have made for yourselves? Let them arise, *see if they save you in the time of your calamity. Because your mighty ones have become as many as your cities, O Yehudah.*

# Graven Images Used

terâphîym - **H8655**

idolatry, idols, image(s), teraphim, family idol; a kind of idol used in household shrine or worship

With primitive root being rapha **H7495** which means to heal, so this idol was used for that purpose

pesel - **H6459**

idol, image

Primitive root being pasal - **H6458**  
which means to cut or hew into a shape as taken from a quarry.

matstsébâh - **H4676**

A pillar, mastaba, stump, as monument, personal memorial with an altar; stock, stump (of tree)

With relevance to natsab **H5324**  
which means to stand, take one's stand, stand upright, be set (over),

tsatsua - **H6816** things formed, images, sculpted figures (II Chron 3 concerning Solomon building the Temple.)

# Five Things....

There are five things that Yahweh commands against in the area of idolatry:

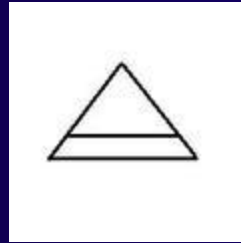
- Do not bow down to idols
- Do not worship other gods by using the images/idols
- Do not worship animals, people, birds, fish or things made out of His creation
- Do not use these things to Worship Yahweh
- Not to present these things before Him

# Common Pagan Symbols

In modern Paganism and Wicca, many traditions use symbols as part of ritual, or in magic. Some symbols are used to represent elements, others to represent ideas. These are a few of the more commonly used symbols in Wicca and Paganism today.



# Common Pagan Symbols

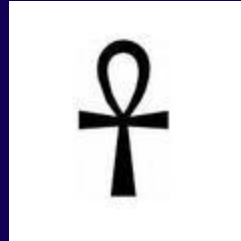


Air is one of the four classical elements, and is often invoked in Wiccan ritual. Air is the element of the East, connected to the soul and the breath of life. Air is associated with the colors yellow and white. Interestingly, in some cultures a triangle sitting on its base like this is considered masculine, and is connected to the element of Fire rather than Air.

In some traditions of Wicca, Air is represented not by the triangle, but by either a circle with a point in the center, or by a feather or leaf-like image. In other traditions, the triangle is used to mark the association of degrees or initiation rank -- typically first degree, but not necessarily. In alchemy, this symbol is sometimes shown with the horizontal line extending beyond the sides of the triangle.

In rituals, when the element of Air is called for, you can use this triangular symbol, or use a feather, incense, or a fan. Air is associated with communication, wisdom or the power of the mind. Do an outdoors working on a windy day, and allow the powers of air to aid you. Visualize air currents carrying away your troubles, blowing away strife, and carrying positive thoughts to those who are far away. Embrace the wind, and let its energy fill you and help you achieve your goals.

# Common Pagan Symbols



One theory is that the loop at the top symbolizes the rising sun, the horizontal bar represents feminine energy, and the vertical bar indicates masculine energy. Together they combine to form a symbol of fertility and power. Other ideas are far more simple - that the ankh is a representation of a sandal strap. Some researchers have indicated that it was used as a cartouche of a king's name, and others see it as a phallic symbol, due to its shape and structure. Regardless, it is seen universally as a symbol of life everlasting, and is often worn as a symbol of protection.

The ankh is featured on funerary artwork, in temple carvings, and in reliefs excavated from ancient Egypt. It is traditionally drawn in gold, which is the color of the sun. Because the ankh is a powerful symbol -- and because Egyptian influence spanned far beyond the country's original borders -- the ankh has been found in many places other than Egypt. Rosicrucians and Coptic Christians used it as a symbol, despite the fact that it was shrouded in mystery for centuries. Even Elvis Presley wore an ankh pendant among his other jewelry!

Today, many Kemetic recon groups and devotees of Isis invoke the ankh during rituals. It may be traced in the air to delineate sacred space, or used as a ward against evil.

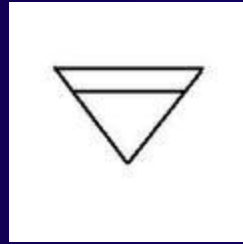
# Common Pagan Symbols



The Celtic shield knot is used for warding and protection. Shield knots have appeared in cultures around the world and have taken a variety of different forms. They are almost universally square in shape, and the interlacement of the design ranges from simple to complex. In the Celtic version, a series of knots is formed. In artwork from early Mesopotamia, the shield is simply a square with a loop at each of the four corners.

Fans of Celtic artwork occasionally get variations of this piece as tattoos or wear them as talismans of protection. In modern Celtic reconstructionist groups, the shield knot is sometimes invoked as a ward to keep negative energy away. In some traditions, the corners of the knot are meant to represent the four elements of earth, air, fire and water.

# Common Pagan Symbols



In the four classical elements, earth is considered the ultimate feminine element. In the spring, at the time of new growth and life, the earth quickens and grows full with the beginnings of each year's crop. The image of Earth as Mother is no coincidence -- for millennia, people have seen the earth as a source of life, the ultimate womb.

The Hopi peoples of the American Southwest indicated Earth not as a triangle, but as a labyrinth with one opening; this opening was the womb from which all life sprang. In alchemy, the element of earth is represented by the triangle with a crossbar.

In the Tarot, Earth is associated with the suit of Pentacles. It is connected with abundance and fertility, with green forests and rolling fields. Invoke Earth for workings related to material wealth, prosperity, and fertility. This is a symbol to use when connecting with the comforts of home, the blessings of the hearth, and the stability of family life.

# Common Pagan Symbols



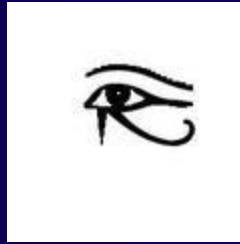
The Elven Star, or seven-pointed star, is found in some branches of the Faerie tradition of Wicca. However, it has different names and can be associated with many other magical traditions.

According to *The Element Encyclopedia of Secret Signs and Symbols*, the Elven Star (or Faerie Star) is also representative of the seven stars called the Pleiades. It is also a reminder that seven is a sacred number in many magical traditions -- it is connected with the seven days of the week, the seven pillars of wisdom, and many other magical theories. In Kabbalah, seven is connected to the sphere of victory. Aleister Crowley used a septagram as the emblem of his Order of the Silver Star.

In modern Pagan practice, this symbol can be used to keep information hidden from the prying eyes of the outside world. Use it on your Book of Shadows, to keep the contents safe, or on an amulet to prevent others from reading your thoughts.



# Common Pagan Symbols



The Eye of Horus is sometimes referred to as the *wedjat*, and represents Horus, the Egyptian falcon-headed god. The Eye was used as a symbol of both protection and healing. When appearing as the *udjat*, it represents the right eye of Ra, the sun god. The same image in reverse represents the left eye of Thoth, the god of magic and wisdom.

The symbolism of eyes appears in many different cultures and civilizations - it's no surprise that the image of an "all-seeing eye" is common in today's society! In Reiki, the eye is often associated with knowledge and enlightenment -- the Third Eye -- and it typically is connected to the true soul.

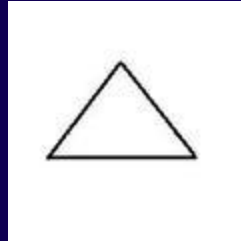
# Common Pagan Symbols



Similar to the Eye of Horus, the Eye of Ra is one of the most ancient magical symbols. Also called the *udjat*, the Eye of Ra is sometimes invoked as a sigil of protection.

The notion of the "evil eye" is a universal one. Ancient Babylonian texts make reference to this, and indicate that even 5,000 years ago, people were trying to protect themselves from the malevolent thoughts of others. Use this symbol as one of protection against someone who might harm you or your loved ones. Invoke it around your property, or wear it on a talisman or amulet as a protective device.

# Common Pagan Symbols



In the symbolism of the four classical elements, fire is a purifying, masculine energy, associated with the South, and connected to strong will and energy. Fire destroys, and yet it also can create new life.

In some traditions of Wicca, this triangle is the mark of a degree of initiation. It is sometimes displayed within a circle, or Fire may be represented by a circle alone. The triangle, with its pyramid shape, is often symbolic of the masculine aspect of the Divine. In 1887, Lydia Bell wrote in *The Path* that, "...the triangle is our symbol for truth. As a symbol for the whole of truth, it holds the key to all science, to all wisdom, and its study leads with certain steps to and through that door wherein the mystery of life ceases to be a problem, and becomes revelation... The triangle is a unit, each part of the triangle is a unit, hence, it follows that every part manifests the whole."



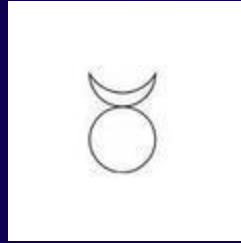
# Common Pagan Symbols



Hecate's Wheel is a symbol used by some traditions of Wicca. It seems to be most popular among feminist traditions, and represents the three aspects of the Goddess -- Maiden, Mother and Crone. This labyrinth-like symbol has origins in Greek legend, where Hecate was known as a guardian of the crossroads before she evolved into a goddess of magic and sorcery.

According to fragmentary texts of the Chaldean Oracles, Hecate is connected to a maze which spiralled around like a serpent. This maze was known as the Stropholos of Hecate, or Hecate's Wheel, and refers to the power of knowledge and life. Traditionally, a Hecate-style labyrinth has a Y in the middle, rather than the typical X shape found at the center of most labyrinths. Images of Hecate and her wheel have been found on first-century c.e. curse tablets, although there seems to be some question about whether the wheel shape itself is actually Hecate's domain or that of Aphrodite - there was some occasional overlap of goddesses in the classical world.

# Common Pagan Symbols



The Horned God symbol is one often used in Wicca to represent the masculine energy of the God. It is a symbol of an archetype, as often seen in Cernunnos, Herne, and other gods of vegetation and fertility. In a few feminist Wiccan traditions, such as branches of Dianic Wicca, this symbol is actually representative of July's "Horn Moon" (also known as a Blessing Moon), and is connected to lunar goddesses.

Symbols of horned beings have been found in cave paintings dating back thousands of years. In the 19th century, it became fashionable amongst English occultists to assume that all horned beings were deity images, and that the Christian church was trying to prevent people from worshipping such figures by associating them with Satan. Artist Elphias Levi painted a picture of Baphomet in 1855 that quickly became everyone's idea of a "horned god." Later on, Margaret Murray theorized that all the reports of "witches meeting the devil in the forest" were actually connected to British Pagans dancing around a priest who wore a horned helmet.

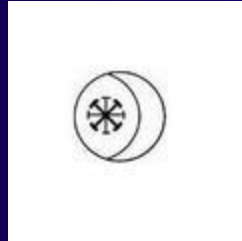
# Common Pagan Symbols



The pentacle is a five-pointed star, or pentagram, contained within a circle. The five points of the star represent the four classical elements, along with a fifth element, which is typically either Spirit or Self, depending on your tradition. The pentacle is probably the best-known symbol of Wicca today, and is often used in jewelry and other designs. Typically, a pentacle is traced in the air during Wiccan rituals, and in some traditions it is used as a designation of degree. It is also considered a symbol of protection, and is used in warding in some Pagan traditions.

There is a theory that the pentacle originated as the symbol of a Greek agricultural and fertility goddess named Kore, also called Ceres. Her sacred fruit was the apple, and when you cut an apple in half crossways, you find a five-pointed star! Some cultures refer to the apple-star as the "Star of Wisdom", and so apples are associated with knowledge.

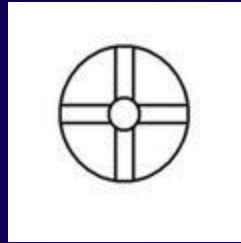
# Common Pagan Symbols



Seax Wica is a tradition founded in the 1970s by author Raymond Buckland. It is inspired by the Saxon religion of old, but is specifically *not* a reconstructionist tradition. The symbol of the tradition represents the moon, the sun, and the eight Wiccan sabbats.

Buckland's Seax Wica tradition is unlike many oathbound and initiatory traditions of Wicca. Anyone can learn about it, and the tenets of the tradition are outlined in the book, *The Complete Book of Saxon Witchcraft*, which Buckland released in 1974. Seax Wican covens are self-sustained, and are run by elected High Priests and High Priestesses. Each group is autonomous and makes its own decisions about how to practice and worship. Typically, even non-members can attend rituals as long as everyone in the coven agrees to it.

# Common Pagan Symbols

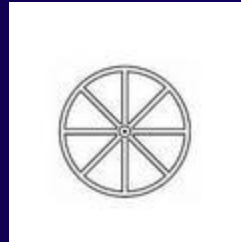


The Solar Cross symbol is a variation on the popular four-armed cross. It represents not only the sun, but also the cyclical nature of the four seasons and the four classical elements. It is often used as an astrological representation of earth. The most famous variation of the solar cross is the swastika, which was originally found in both Hindu and Native American symbolism. In Ray Buckland's book, *Signs, Symbols and Omens*, it is mentioned that the solar cross is sometimes referred to as Wotan's cross. Typically, it is portrayed with a circle in the center of the cross-arms, but not always. There are a number of variations on the four-armed cross.

Carvings of this ancient symbol have been found in Bronze-age burial urns dating back as far as 1400 b.c.e. Although it's been used in many cultures, the cross eventually became identified with Christianity. It does seem to appear fairly regularly in crop circles as well, particularly those that show up in fields in the British Isles. A similar version appears as the Brigid's Cross, found all over the Irish Celtic lands.



# Common Pagan Symbols



Although sometimes referred to as a Sun Wheel, this symbol represents the Wheel of the Year and the eight Wiccan sabbats. The term "sun wheel" comes from the solar cross, which was a calendar used to mark the solstices and equinoxes in some pre-Christian European cultures. In addition to being represented by a wheel or cross, sometimes the sun is portrayed simply as a circle, or as a circle with a point in the center.

The sun has long been a symbol of power and magic. The Greeks honored the sun god with "prudence and piety," according to James Frazer's *The Golden Bough*. Because of the sun's sheer power, they made offerings of honey rather than wine -- they knew that it was important to keep a deity of such power from becoming intoxicated!

The Egyptians identified several of their gods with a solar disc above the head, indicating that the deity was a god of the light.

# Common Pagan Symbols



Typically used in Pagan traditions with a Norse background, such as Asatru, this symbol (also called *Mjolnir*) represents the power of Thor over lightning and thunder. The early Pagan Norsemen wore the Hammer as an amulet of protection long after Christianity had moved into their world, and it is still worn today, both by Asatruar and others of Norse heritage.

Mjolnir was a handy tool to have around, because it always returned to whomever had thrown it. Interestingly, in some legends Mjolnir is portrayed not as a hammer, but as an axe or club. In Snorri Sturlson's prose edda, it is said that Thor could use Mjolnir "to strike as firmly as he wanted, whatever his aim, and the hammer would never fail... if he threw it at something, it would never miss and never fly so far from his hand that it would not find its way back."

Wearable ones were found in Sweden, Norway and Denmark in graves and burial sites.

# Common Pagan Symbols

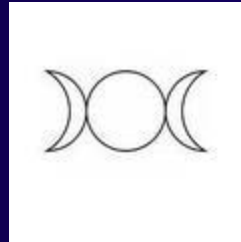


The Triple Horn of Odin is made of three interlocking drinking horns, and represents Odin, the father of Norse gods. The horns are significant in the Norse eddas, and feature prominently in elaborate toasting rituals. In some stories, the horns represent the three draughts of the *Odhroerir*, a magical mead.

For today's Norse pagans, the triple horn often is used to represent the Asatru belief system. While the horns themselves are certainly phallic in symbolism, in some traditions the horns are interpreted as containers or cups, associating them with the feminine aspects of the Divine.



# Common Pagan Symbols



This symbol, sometimes called the Triple Goddess symbol, represents the three phases of the moon -- waxing, full, and waning. According to Robert Graves' *The White Goddess*, it also represents the three phases of womanhood, in the aspects of Maiden, Mother and Crone, although many scholars have questioned Graves' work.

This symbol is found in many NeoPagan and Wiccan traditions as a symbol of the Goddess. The first crescent represents the waxing phase of the moon -- new beginnings, new life, and rejuvenation. The center circle is symbolic of the full moon, the time when magic is at its most potent and powerful. Finally, the last crescent represents the waning moon -- a time to do banishing magic, and to send things away. The design is popular in jewelry, and is sometimes found with a moonstone set into the center disc for additional power.

Invoke this symbol in rituals such as Drawing Down the Moon, or in workings involving lunar goddesses.

# Common Pagan Symbols



The triple spiral, or triskelion, is typically considered a Celtic design, but also has been found in some Buddhist writings. It appears in a variety of places as a three-faceted spiral, three interlocking spirals, or other variations of one shape repeated three times. One version is known as the Three Hares triskelion, and features three rabbits interlocked at the ears.

This symbol appears in many different cultures, and has been discovered as far back as on Lycaean coins and pottery from Mycaenae. It is also used as the emblem of the Isle of Man, and appears on regional banknotes. The use of the triskele as a symbol of a country is nothing new, though -- it has long been known as the symbol of the island of Sicily in Italy. Pliny the Elder connected the use as Sicily's emblem to the shape of the island itself.

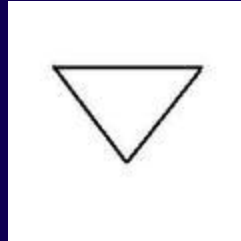
In the Celtic world, the triskele is found carved in Neolithic stones all over Ireland and western Europe. For modern Pagans and Wiccans, it is sometimes adopted to represent the three Celtic realms of earth, sea and sky.

# Common Pagan Symbols



Similar to the triskele, the triquetra is three interlocking pieces that represent the place where three circles would overlap. In Christian Ireland and other areas, the triquetra was used to represent the Holy Trinity, but the symbol itself far predates Christianity. It has been speculated that the triquetra was a Celtic symbol of feminine spirituality, but it has also been found as a symbol of Odin in the Nordic lands. Some Pagan writers claim that the triquetra is the symbol of a triple goddess, but there is no scholarly evidence of a connection between any triune goddess and this particular symbol. In some modern traditions, it represents the connection of mind, body and soul, and in Celtic-based Pagan groups it is symbolic of the three realms of earth, sea and sky.

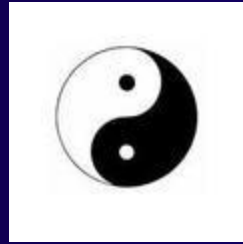
# Common Pagan Symbols



In the four classical elements, water is a feminine energy and highly connected with the aspects of the Goddess. In some traditions of Wicca, this symbol is used to represent the second degree of initiation. The inverted triangle itself is considered feminine, and is associated with the shape of the womb. Water can also be represented by a circle with a horizontal crossbar, or by a series of three wavy lines.

Water is connected to the West, and is typically related to healing and purification. After all, holy water is used in nearly every spiritual path! Typically, holy water is regular water that has had salt added to it -- an additional symbol of purification -- and then a blessing is said over it to consecrate it. In many Wiccan covens, such water is used to consecrate the circle and all the tools within it.

# Common Pagan Symbols

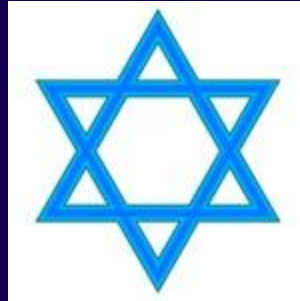


The Yin Yang symbol is more eastern influenced than contemporary Pagan or Wiccan, but it does bear mentioning. The Yin Yang can be found all over the place, and is perhaps one of the most commonly recognized symbols. It represents balance - the polarity of all things. The black and white parts are equal, and each surrounds a dot of the opposite color, showing that there is balance and harmony within the universe's forces. It is the balance between light and dark, a connection between two opposing forces. Although this symbol is traditionally Asian, similar images have been found in the shield patterns of Roman centurions, dated back to about 430 c.e. There is no scholarly evidence as to a connection between these images and the ones found in the Eastern world.

The Yin Yang might be a good symbol to invoke in rituals calling for balance and harmony. If you seek polarity in your life, or are on a quest for spiritual rebirth, consider using the Yin Yang as a guide.



# Common Pagan Symbols



The six points symbolize God's rule over the universe in all six directions. Through the Jewish people's long and often difficult history, we have come to the realization that our only hope is to place our trust in God. The six points of the Star of David symbolize God's rule over the universe in all six directions: north, south, east, west, up and down.

Originally, the Hebrew name *Magen David* -- literally "Shield of David" -- poetically referred to God. It acknowledges that our military hero, King David, did not win by his own might, but by the support of the Almighty. This is also alluded to in the third blessing after the Haftorah reading on Shabbat: "Blessed are you God, Shield of David."

The origins of the Star of David are unclear. We do know that the symbol hasn't always been associated exclusively with Judaism, but was used by Christians and Muslims at various points in history. Sometimes it was even associated with King Solomon instead of King David.

# Common Pagan Symbols

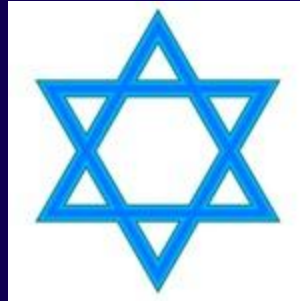


## THE STAR OF DAVID BY Messianic Rabbi Barney Kasdan

The earliest apparent mention of this symbol is found in the Talmud. In describing the reign of King Solomon, the mention is made of how he had power over demonic forces by the emblem on his ring known as "the seal of Solomon" (Gittin 68). Although the specific design of this seal is not described in this passage, it is also called the "Shield of David" (Magen David) because according to latter tradition this also appeared on King David's battle gear.

The first concrete evidence in archaeology was found in the city of Sidon. This consisted of a ring with a seal on it in the shape of a six-pointed star, which was dated from the seventh century BCE. For those who have been to Israel, you will remember the famous six-pointed star on the synagogue of Capernaum. This structure has been dated from the second century CE but it is believed to be directly over the site of an earlier synagogue, the one likely used by Yeshua himself (Luke 4:31-37).

# Common Pagan Symbols



## Error on the side of caution!

In use for many centuries and in many cultures, the original hexagrams were a part of ritual magic and cabalistic mysticism. It was only about two hundred years ago that the Star of David was appropriated as symbol of the Jewish people. Mystical symbol consisting of two superimposed triangles forming a star or hexagram; today regarded as a Jewish symbol. Although occurring in the Capernaum synagogue (3rd cent. CE), it was in ancient times predominantly a non-Jewish decorative motif (e.g. on Roman mosaic pavements), and is found in Christian churches in the Middle Ages, while absent from contemporary Jewish decoration and not mentioned in rabbinic literature.

Used in association with the pentagram which is used in the occult.

\_by Avram Yehoshua

<http://www.seedofabraham.net/stardavd.html>



# Common Pagan Symbols



The heart symbol as we know it today, was popularized in the Victorian era over a hundred years ago. They loved the romantic heart shape and embellished it in many ways; but they didn't invent it. Where did it come from?

[http://www.heartsmith.com/guide\\_history.html](http://www.heartsmith.com/guide_history.html)

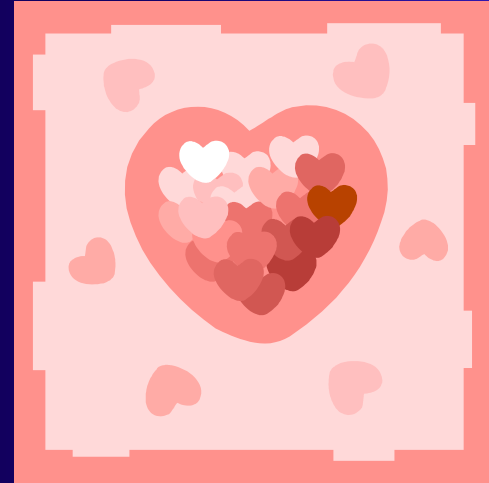
# Common Pagan Symbols



The Catholic church claims that the symbol of the heart (Sacred Heart) began when Saint Margaret Marie Alacoque had a vision in the late 17th century. She saw a heart shape surrounded by a crown of thorns.

There is evidence that it is still older. Centuries earlier than Saint Alacoque, the heart symbol was incorporated in a number of stained glass windows and cloister decorations. Basically, the heart symbol, in Christian iconography was a stand in for the soul of Jesus. The Centurion who pierced Jesus' heart at the crucifixion with a lance was the first reference to the sacred heart in the scriptures - *John 19:34*

# Common Pagan Symbols



## Egyptian Myth

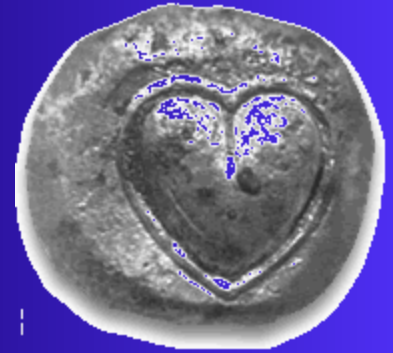
Getting closer to the source, the Egyptian ab, or "heart soul", apparently bears a remarkable resemblance to the stained glass Christian iconographs. The story of the ab was that one of the Egyptian's seven souls came directly from the mother's heart, in the form of holy lunar blood and would descend to the womb and take the shape of her child.

# Common Pagan Symbols

## Ancient African Origins

The most intriguing explanation for the heart symbol is linked to erotic love - and lies within the ruins of a classical city in North Africa. In the 7th century BC, in the city-state of Cyrene, there was a valuable plant called Silphium. The commercial trade of this now extinct species of fennel made Cyrene one of the richest cities in Africa until the founding of Alexandria. We are only now coming to understand why the Silphium plant was so highly valued that it was harvested to extinction.

Silphium grew only in the small, upland, ecological zones surrounding the city of Cyrene in North Africa. Trade based on this now extinct species of Giant Fennel was of great commercial importance to Cyrene.



7<sup>th</sup> Century  
The shape of the  
Silphium seed was  
placed on the silver  
coins .

# Common Pagan Symbols

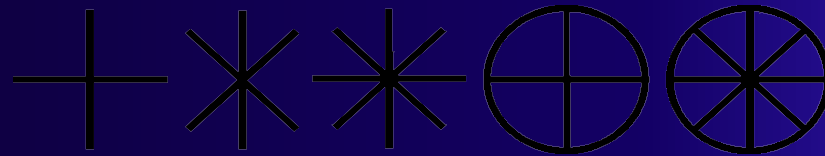


## The Origin of the Cross

The tau cross, for example, was a symbol of life to the ancient Egyptians, when combined with the circle (as in the crux ansata), it stood for eternity. For most ancient peoples the Greek cross was a metaphor for the four indestructible elements of creation (air, earth, fire, and water), thus symbolizing permanence. The swastika, with the ends of its cross bars bent to the right, was common in both the Old World and the New. It originally represented the revolving sun, fire, or life and later, by extension, good luck. To Buddhists, a swastika represented resignation; to the Jains, it symbolized their seventh saint. To Hindus, a swastika with arms bent to the left symbolized night, magic, and the destructive goddess Kali. In early 20th-century Germany, the right-facing swastika was the Nazi party emblem. The cross was also used as a symbol in the ancient world of execution by crucifixion. Malefactors were often executed by being impaled on a pointed stake and being left to die. The Latin word *crux* ("cross") originally referred to such a stake. Later horizontals of various types were added to it. In Roman times only the lowest class of criminals was crucified. In Christianity the cross became not only a symbol of the shameful death of Jesus Christ as a criminal on a tau-shaped Roman cross, but also of his subsequent resurrection to eternal life and of his promise of salvation to Christian believers. The Greek letters X (chi) and P (rho), the first two letters of the Greek word ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ (*Christos*), were superimposed to form the chi-rho, which, as the monogram of Christ, became a pervasive decorative element in Early Christian and Byzantine Art.

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# Common Pagan Symbols



This cross was represented at times with one long arm and one short arm. It was also represented with arms of equal length and also in a circle, representing the sun. An additional cross was also used occasionally. These represented the spring and autumn equinoxes. In stead of 4 arms there were now 8 arms (sometimes 6). It now also resembles the 8 spoke wheel. This, however, existed long before the wheel was invented. The wheel, however, became an object of worship at a later stage. The cross was used for the layout and design of towns in many places, i.e. Ireland.

Many of the above are confirmed and/or deducted from rock art and excavations. In the middle East, however, we have sufficient proof from as early as 1500 BCE that the cross was associated and identified with the sun and thus the 'sun god.'

[http://www.masada.org.za/English/the\\_cross1.htm](http://www.masada.org.za/English/the_cross1.htm)



# Common Pagan Symbols



The Tau cross also had enormous phallic significance. In reality far more than the equal-armed cross of ancient times. Most of the learned scholars believe that the Tau cross developed from the axe - an ancient symbol of the sun, widely used. It is also evident from a variety of research that the Tau cross was in fact the symbol of the mystic Tammuz. We know that Tammuz is the Babylonian 'sun god' and that Adonis and Adoni are respectively the Greek and Phoenician versions.

[http://www.masada.org.za/English/the\\_cross1.htm](http://www.masada.org.za/English/the_cross1.htm)



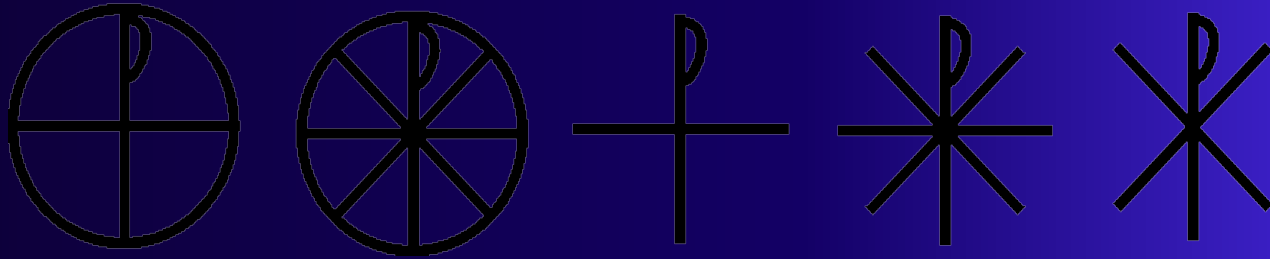
# Common Pagan Symbols



The Ankh cross is the symbol of everlasting life and was worn by the Egyptian (Mitsrites) 'gods' (mighty ones/ elohim) and priests as a mark of 'godliness.' The Ankh has yet again, phallic connections. There are even people describing the Ankh as the unity of the male and female sexual organs. The Ankh is also called the Tau by some or the Tau with a "handle". The Ankh is also the first cross used by the Coptic Christians in Egypt. It also resembles the biological symbol for the female.

[http://www.masada.org.za/English/the\\_cross1.htm](http://www.masada.org.za/English/the_cross1.htm)

# Common Pagan Symbols



In reality, the Chi-Rho cross - well known in 'church' circles - has its origin many centuries before the birth of Yahushua. It was part of the sun wheel with 4 or 8 arms and originated from it. The Rho or Greek letter P is also connected to the hammer of Thor or an axe. Through the 'vision' of Constantine he made 'Jesus' (Yahushua) just another 'sun god' - one of many.

[http://www.masada.org.za/English/the\\_cross1.htm](http://www.masada.org.za/English/the_cross1.htm)

# Common Pagan Symbols

Deuteronomy 12:2

"Completely destroy all the places where the nations which you are dispossessing served their mighty ones, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree."

## Obelisk



The Washington Monument  
in Washington, D.C.



The Wellington Monument  
in Phoenix Park, Dublin



Fontaine des Quatre Dauphins  
in Aix-en-Provence in France

# Common Pagan Symbols



The Luxor obelisk in the  
Place de la Concorde in  
Paris

Obelisks were prominent in the architecture of the ancient Egyptians, who placed them in pairs at the entrance of temples. The word "obelisk" as used in English today is of Greek rather than Egyptian origin because Herodotus, the Greek traveller, was one of the first classical writers to describe the objects. Twenty-nine ancient Egyptian obelisks are known to have survived, plus the "Unfinished Obelisk" found partly hewn from its quarry at Aswan. These obelisks are now dispersed around the world, and less than half of them remain in Egypt. The earliest temple obelisk still in its original position is the 20.7 m / 68 ft high 120 tons red granite Obelisk of Senusret I of the XIIth Dynasty at Al-Matariyyah part of Heliopolis. The obelisk symbolized the sun god Amon Re, and during the brief religious reformation of Akhenaten was said to be a petrified ray of the Aten, the sundisk. It was also thought that the god existed within the structure.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obelisk>

# Common Pagan Symbols



Obelisk of Buenos Aires,  
Argentina



Obelisk at the Plaza Francia,  
Caracas, Venezuela



Obelisk of São Paulo, Brazil



Vatican, Rome, Italy