

The Twelve Major Religions of the World & Their Symbols

As seen on Vicki Lynn Spirit Art t-Shirts, greeting cards, art prints and more.

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Hindu, AUM or OM - The most sacred mantra of Hinduism. A primal vibration from which all manifestation issues forth, past present and future. Om is the “breath of life.”



Buddhism, Wheel of Law - The first sermon of the Buddha is said to have set the wheel of dharma, or law, in motion. It represents the teachings of the Buddha and the eight spokes represent the Eightfold Path that leads to enlightenment.



Zoroastrian, Faravahar - According to tradition, Faravahar is the symbol of Zoroastrianism. Faravahar is the spirit of human beings that existed before birth and will continue to exist after death.



Jain, Nirvana - According to Jain philosophy, all Tirthankara (prophets) were born as human beings but have attained nirvana...a state of perfection or enlightenment through meditation and self-realization. They are the Gods of the Jains.



Judaism, Star of David - Originating from the Shield of David, the two triangles symbolize “fire” and “water,” together they represent the reconciliation of opposites.



Shinto, Torii or Heaven's Gate - 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.



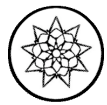
Native African, GYE NYAME - This symbol comes from the Asante People of Ghana, West Africa...it symbolizes the omnipotence and the omnipresence of God, reflecting a belief in a Supreme Being.



Native American, Sacred Hoop - The sacred hoop represents the entirety of survival, both physical and spiritual...honoring the four directions with the full power of the earth and sky and all related life. It is the “Circle of Life,” having no beginning and no end...when you reach the end you are at the beginning.



Islam, Star & Crescent - The crescent was adopted in the 14th century as a symbol of Islamic faith. The star, a symbol of sovereignty and divinity, was added later. Followers of Islam are Muslims.



Baha'i, Nine Point Star - The Baha'i Religion is the most recent of the world's great religions...it encourages world peace by teaching tolerance and honoring all paths to God.



Sikh, 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 quoit, a circular throwing weapon.



Christianity, The Cross - The cross is the most powerful symbol in Christianity...it is a reminder that although Jesus died on the cross, he rose again, triumphing over death.