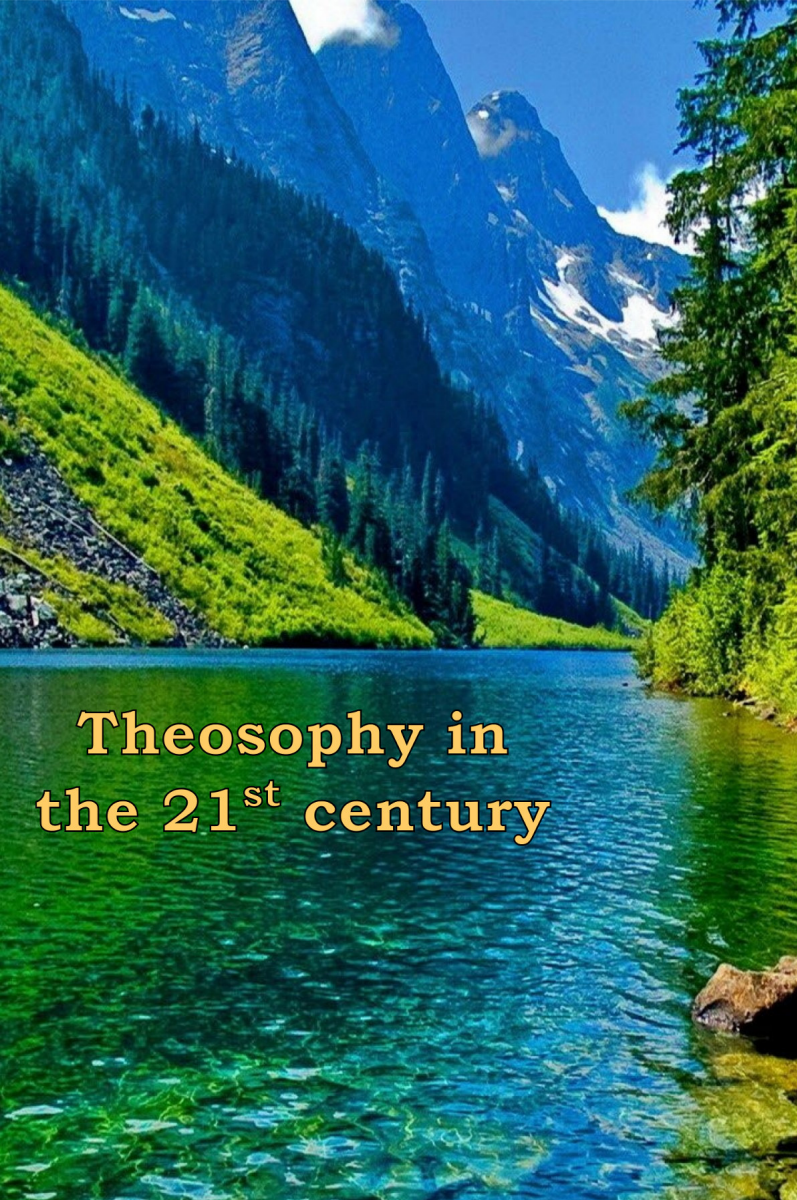




Theosophy in
the 21st century

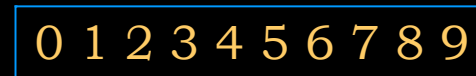
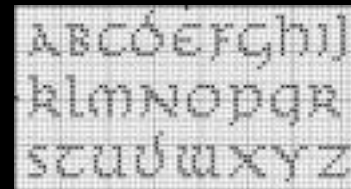
9 Symbolism and the esoteric tradition

Course created by
Carlos Pérez Menéndez
SOCIEDAD TEOSÓFICA ESPAÑOLA

Symbols

- All communication is done through symbols

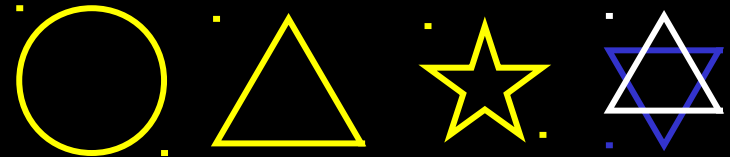
- Alphabets
- Numbers
- Mathematical symbols
- Icons
- Logos
- Emblems
- ...



Symbols and allegories

Symbols

- Conceptual abstractions.
- Simple representations, usually geometric figures



Geometric symbols

Allegories

- Based on metaphors
- They seek the representation of more elaborate and difficult to define concepts.



Dove of peace



Anubis



Psyche and Eros

Interpretation of the symbols

- The symbol, religious, mystical or esoteric, the more abstract it is:

- Transcends cultural diversity
- It's more universal (Jung)
- It is not limited by language
- It is richer in interpretations

- There are several keys to interpret the symbols:

- *Astronomic,*
- *Numerical, Geometric*
- *Cosmological, Terrestrial*
- *Human, psychological*

...

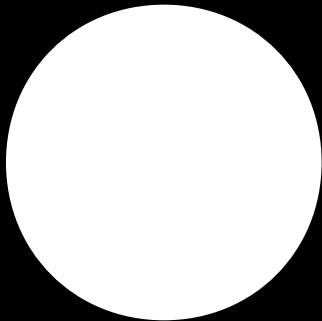
- An **emblem** is a grouping of simpler symbols.



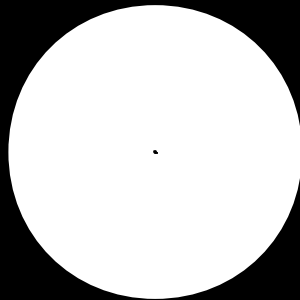
Emblem of the Theosophical Society

The circle and the cross

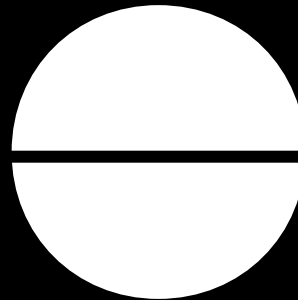
In the Proem of the Secret Doctrine, HP Blavatsky describes a sequence of symbols in an archaic manuscript.



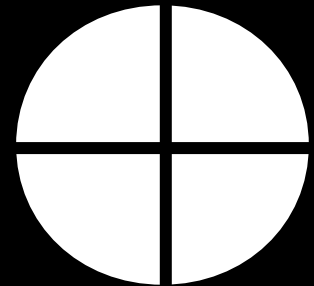
Pralaya



Aurora of the
differentiation



Spirit-Matter



The Cosmic
Ideation

They are symbols of the genesis
of the Universe.

The sequence of manifestation

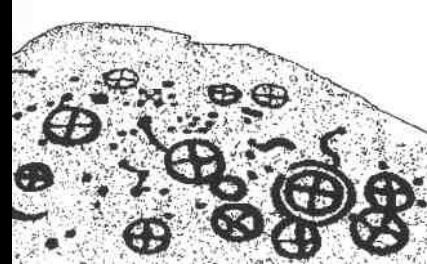
0 – 1 – 2 – 3

Separate the land from the fire,
the subtle of the gross ...
Ascend ... from earth to heaven
and then go back down to earth

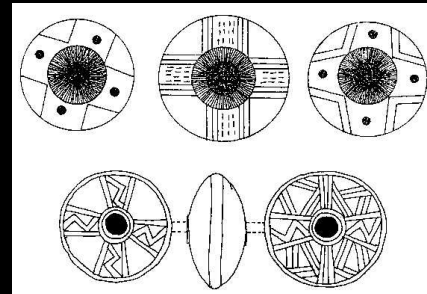
Emerald Table

From the solar disk to the cross

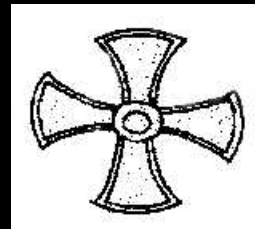
- The archaic origin of the cross is a representation of the solar disk with its rays.
- It was a symbol universally known before Christianity.
- Constantine the Great proclaimed it in the s. IV as a symbol of the new religion.
- It shows how symbols have different aspects and interpretations.



Engravings of the
Bronze Age



Symbols
found
in the ruins
of Troy



Cross the Assyrian king
Shamash-Adad V
(823-811ac) wore
hanging from his neck



Greek cross

The emblem of the Theosophical Society

- It is a set of very old and universal symbols.
- The **uroboros**. The snake that bites its tail in a circle. The infinite cyclic law.
- The **swastika** The igneous cross of Hinduism. It symbolizes the continuous power.
- The **AUM**. The sacred monosyllable. The One Life producing the manifestation.
- The **interlaced triangles**. Spirit and Matter, both trinities in correspondence.
- The **ankh** or ansata cross. It is the regeneration of Life.



Ansata or Ankh Cross of Egypt

- Composed by a circle on a Tau.
- It is the attribute of Isis, symbol of Life.
- As a hieroglyphic symbol it means "life".
- It represents the sacred union of Spirit and Matter and the regeneration of Life.



*Apis
Alexandria Museum*



Venus
symbol



Ru = Mouth, door, place of
birth of the Sun,
circle, spirit

Tau = Matter, generation
(Taurus)

Myths and legends

Legends

Legenda: [LA] what it must be read.
Real and fictional characters.
Imaginary and real stories.
Idealization.



The Cid



Romulus and Remus

Myths

Mythos: [GR] story.
Fictitious characters and facts.
Symbolic content, didactic,
moral, religious,
philosophical and sacred.



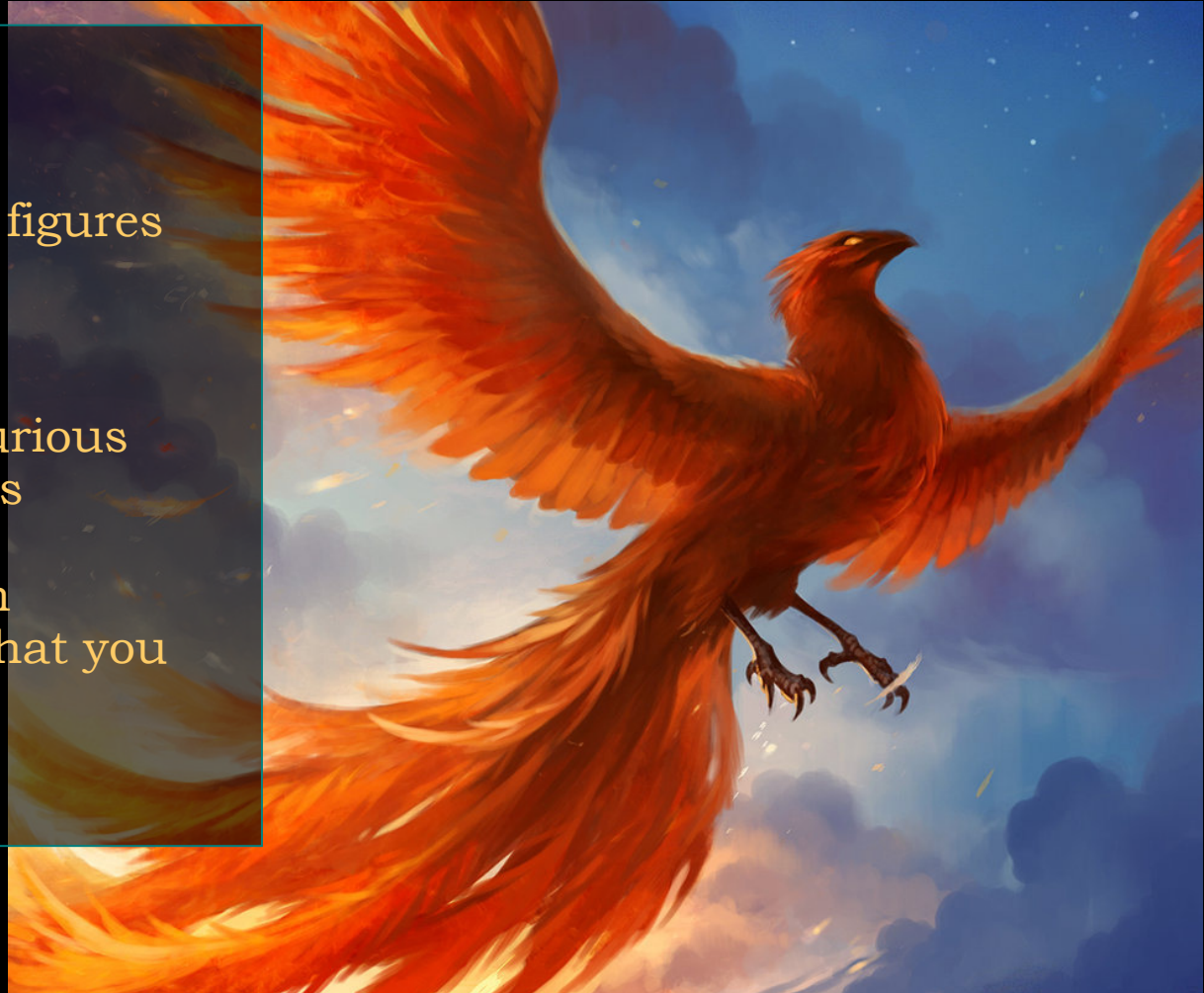
Thor



Isis and Osiris

Reasons for the myth

- Easy to transmit
 - Oral story
 - Awesome to remember
 - Easy to represent with figures and allegories
- Veiled teachings
 - They move away the curious
 - Mislead the persecutors
- They appeal to intuition
 - They have a message that you have to un-cover
 - They last in time



The Phoenix

The myth of Eros and Psyche

- Of classical Greek origin, immortalized by Apuleius, other ancient and modern myths correspond to it.
- Main characters:
 - Eros: god son of Aphrodite
 - Psyche: beautiful princess
 - Aphrodite: mother of Eros
 - Father of Psyche
 - Relatives of Psyche
- Plot: mystical union and its difficulties



Interpretations of the myth

- Which represent?:
 - Eros
 - Psyche
 - The sisters of Psyche
 - The curiosity of Psyche
 - The rescue of Eros

- The myth allows us to connect with an inner reality that transcends the world of ideas and the personal and everyday self.



Psyche reanimated by the kiss of Eros
Sculpture by Antonio Canova (1793)

To think



Watch, think, investigate, inquire ...
Make the following questions or thoughts suggestions
But don't stay here, ask yourself and find out.