



The Moonlight Post

SYMBOLS OF WICCA



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THE PENT CLE

The pentacle is one of the most recognizable symbols in Wicca and witchcraft. It is usually disk-shaped and most often than not inscribed with a pentagram within. So if it is a five-pointed star within a circle, it most certainly is a pentacle.

The pentagram is what you usually find within the pentacle. It has five points with two-fold meanings attached to them. The first: symbolizing the north, south, east, west and the spirit; and the second: the earth, water, air, the spirit and the divine. If encased within a circle, it is symbolic of wholeness and unity.

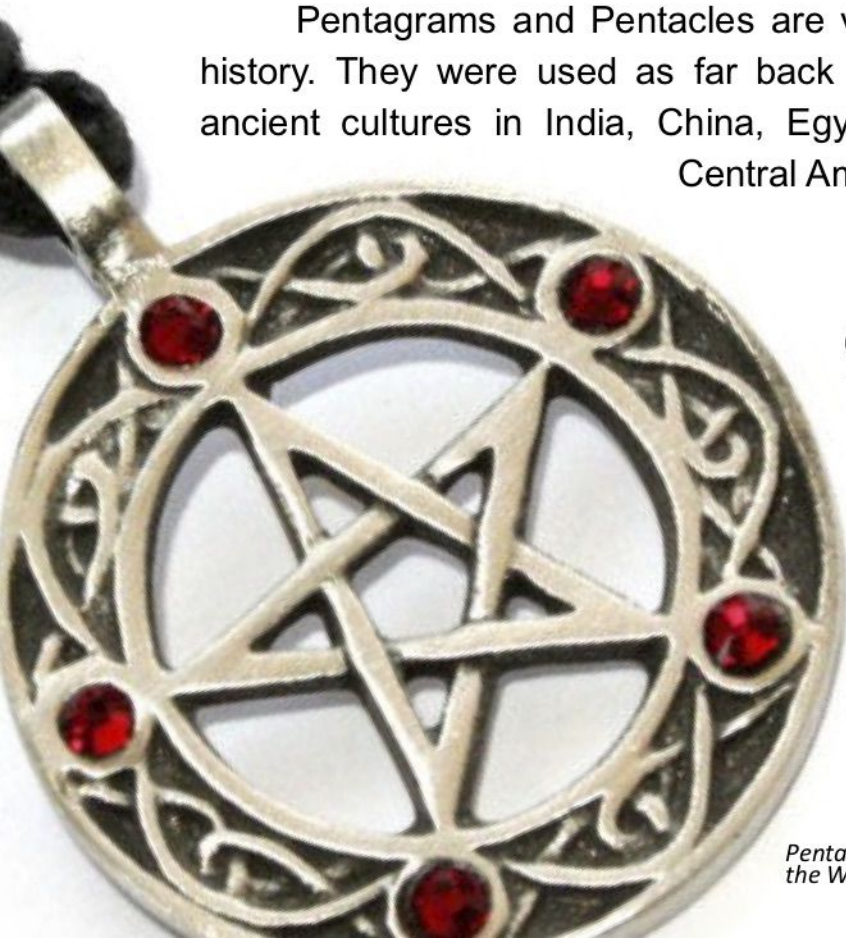
The terms pentacle and pentagram are used interchangeably outside Wiccan circles. But it's nothing that a quick read cannot change.

HISTORY

Pentagrams and Pentacles are very persistent symbols in human history. They were used as far back as 3500 BC, and in many other ancient cultures in India, China, Egypt, Greece, plus the Mayans of Central America.

CHRISTIANITY

To Christians, the pentagram and pentacle symbolize the five wounds of Christ or the five virtues: generosity, purity, fellowship, courtesy and mercy.



*Pentacle of
the Witch*

MISCONCEPTIONS

A lot of people pass judgment on symbols without even realizing their true meaning. The pentagram and pentacle are notorious for being misunderstood. In the 1800s, the upside down pentagram became a symbol of darkness. For Satanists, the inverted pentagram represents the physical elements of earth dominating the spiritual aspects of life, it also represents the goat's head of Baphomet. This is how the pentagram symbol got a bad reputation.



PROTECTION

Wiccans are almost always wearing something with the pentagram symbol, because pentacles and pentagrams are not only symbols, but also protective amulets. A pentacle or pentagram on a house or person is a protected house and person.



THE LAR SS

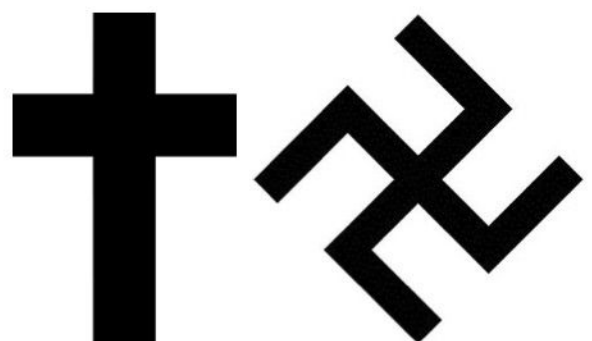
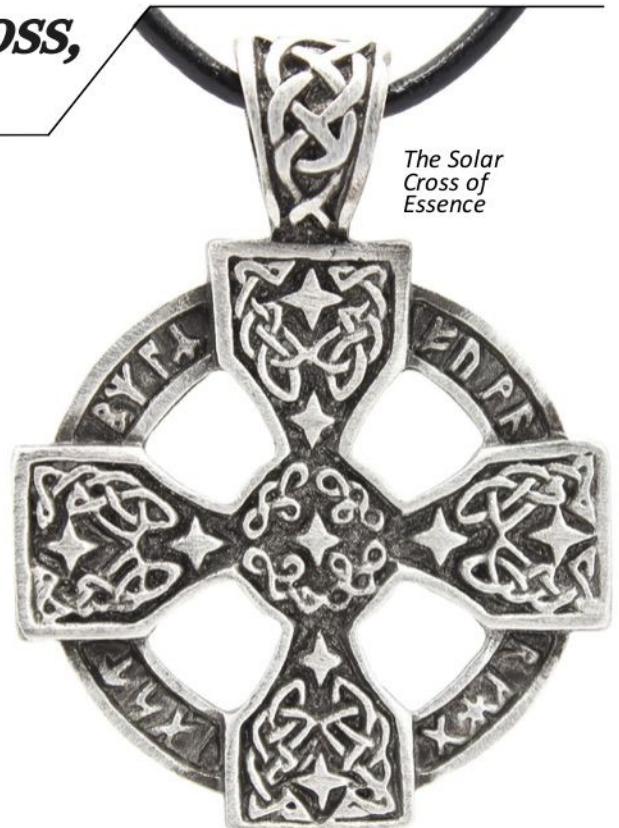
The Solar Cross is one of the oldest religious symbols in the world. It is depicted as an equal-armed cross within a circle. It represents the movements of the sun marked by the solstices, the four seasons, and the four classical elements. The Solar Cross is also an astrological representation of Earth.

The Swastika, Odin's Cross, and the Christian Cross

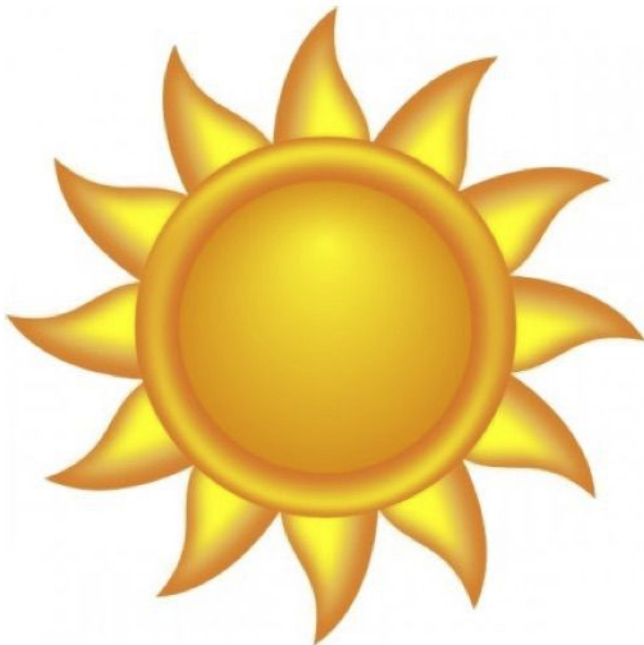
The Solar Cross has appeared in many Asian, European, American, and Indian religious art from the dawn of history. Carvings of the Solar Cross were found in Bronze-age burial urns dating back as far as 1400 BCE. One very famous variation of the solar cross is the swastika, which is actually rooted in both Hindu and Native American symbolism.

The Solar Cross was widely used by the Norse. In fact, the word "cross" comes from the Old Norse word "kros." They called the Solar Cross as Odin's cross, naming it after the Chief God of the Norse pantheon. It was also used as emblem by the Asatruars.

The cross also eventually became identified with Christianity. And people even think that the Solar Cross is just another take on the four-armed cross symbol.



SUN WORSHIP



In agricultural societies of the ancient times, the concept of sun worship was almost always the norm. Why not when the people depended on the sun for life and sustenance. This is why the sun for them is a deity.

The tribes of the Great Plains from North America considered the sun as a manifestation of the Great Spirit. And for centuries, their warriors performed the sun dance as a means to honor the sun and summon visions for the dancers.

SYMBOLISM

It is no surprise that the Solar Cross is aligned with the Fire element. The element of Fire also represents the fertility and masculinity of the god and goddess.

Fire's direction is in the South, and is a masculine energy. The element has purification powers and is connected to strong will. Fire has the ability to destroy and create.

The Solar Cross is best used in rituals honoring the sun or the heat and energy of flames. It is also the appropriate symbolism for rituals that involve casting away the old and welcoming the new. It is a very important symbolism for celebrations of the solstices at Yule and Litha.
