

July 2019

Geometric Shapes and Their Meanings

Dr. Vest 2019

The Circle

The circle is a two-dimensional shadow of the sphere which is regarded throughout cultural history as an icon of the ineffable oneness; the indivisible fulfillment of the Universe. All other symbols and geometries reflect various aspects of the profound and consummate perfection of the circle, sphere and other higher dimensional forms of these we might imagine. (geometryCode)

SPHERE

Starting with what may be the simplest and most perfect of forms, the sphere is an ultimate expression of unity, completeness, and integrity. There is no point of view given greater or lesser importance, and all points on the surface are equally accessible and regarded by the center from which all originate. Atoms, cells, seeds, planets, and globular star systems all echo the spherical paradigm of total inclusion, acceptance, simultaneous potential and fruition, the macrocosm and microcosm. (Geometrycode.com)

CIRCLE= PROTECTION

Circles are often seen as protective symbols. Standing within a circle shields a person from supernatural dangers or influences outside of the circle. Conversely, a circle can also be containing, keeping that which is inside from being released...also,

CIRCLE= SPIRIT The element of spirit, seen as an element equal or superior to the physical elements of fire, air, water and earth, is commonly represented by a circle. (thought.co)

CIRCLE as FEMININE

Because a circle does not have a distinct beginning or end, they imply movement (such as a wheel). The shape is thought to have a feminine association and is connected to love, energy and power. Circles also suggest infiniteness and harmony. (designshack)

Because circles have no beginning or end, they're also connected to the idea of cycles, eternity, and timelessness. They feel complete and unified. Think of the circular yin-yang symbol (two halves make a whole); how the "refresh/reload" icon consists of a circular arrow; wedding bands; and clocks. (Christina Wang)

TRIANGLES

Triangles can have one of two quite opposite meanings. The shape can imply stability, power, and energy when the shape rests on a solid base. But it results in feelings of conflict, tension

and nervousness when the base is upside down or appears unstable. In many cultures the reference to the triangle includes some religious undertones: Body-Mind-Spirit or Father-Son-Holy ghost or Past-Present-Future.

Almost any use of a triangle implies motion. The eye is drawn to the shape and follows it from the widest part of the shape to the pointed tip. The shape in almost any form is related to masculine ideas because of strength. (designshack)

As a three-sided polygon, the triangle represents the number three, which is meaningful to many groups. As such, triangles and other symbols made of three parts may be used to present such concepts as past, present, and future or spirit, mind and body. (Thought.co)

TRIANGLE= THREE In Western society, the triangle most often has highly Christian meanings when used in a religious context. Because the Christian God is a trinity - Father, Son and Holy Ghost united in a single godhead - he is commonly represented by a triangle. (Thought.co)

Because they have a peak, triangles can symbolize greatness or superiority — it's a visual representation of "the pinnacle of success." The three stripes in Adidas's logo create a triangle, which symbolizes a mountain — a metaphor for pushing yourself, overcoming challenges, and being the best you can be (Christina Wang)

Triangles have dual meanings. When they're upright, they feel stable, solid, and balanced (think of the ancient pyramids). But once you invert them, they feel top-heavy — wildly, precariously unbalanced; tense; risky. Triangles can likewise suggest conflict and action. In most countries around the world, traffic signs that indicate hazards are triangular. They can also signify change — the mathematical symbol delta (a triangle) means change or difference. In fact, Reebok's logo ("the Reebok delta") has 3 separate parts, each symbolizing the physical, mental, and social changes that take place when people push themselves beyond their limits. (Christina Wang)

POINT-UP AND POINT-DOWN TRIANGLES

The orientation of a triangle can be important to its meaning. For example, a point-up triangle might represent a strong foundation or stability, as it is rooted to the ground through a solid base.

The elements of earth and water formed from point-up triangles, even though these are the two more material elements. Symbols for air and fire are formed from point-down triangles.

The point-up triangle can represent male energy, and fire and air are masculine elements. The point-down triangle can represent female energy, and water and earth are feminine elements.

Point-up triangles can also represent ascension toward the spiritual world, while the point-down triangle can represent a descent into the physical world.(Thought.co)

THE CROSS

The cross is most well-known in its Christian context as a symbol of sacrifice and salvation in reference to Jesus's death by crucifixion upon a cross. However, the cross has numerous

other religious meanings as well, most of which have to do with groups of four, corresponding to the four points on the cross.

Crosses very commonly represent the earth and the physical universe, particularly in Western culture. This comes primarily from two associations: the four physical elements (earth, water, air and fire) and the four cardinal directions (north, south, east and west). Indeed, the astrological symbol for Earth is a cross inside a circle. The same symbol is also known as a sun cross or solar wheel and has been associated with the sun and its four seasons. (Thought.co)

RECTANGLES

With their smooth, straight lines and perfect right angles, rectangles lend a sense of stability and formality. Something about four points just feels solid (think about the four points of a compass). We trust the shape because it feels dependable and safe. (Christina Wang)

A rectangle, like a square, can symbolize inhibitions or 'squareness' in thinking. The rectangle personifies the idea of self-containment or being overly conservative. The message of the dream can be about overcoming self limiting ideas. (dream dictionary)

Square

Squares represent the southeast corner and the element wood and wind. With four equal sides, chi, or energy, flows in and out easily within rooms. In the southeast corner, squares boost wealth and prosperity, or the opposite loss. It is most ideal to use squares with other complimentary shapes to keep positive energy flowing. (Feng Shui)

[square is] the symbol of the earth as opposed to blue, but as created, implies an idea of solidification and stagnation or stabilization of perfection, while the smooth, circular motion, stopping and stability are associated with angular figures: is the figure who represents the area while the circle represents the time, however, there may be a change of opposites when considering the altars and temples of square posts on the hills round the sacred stone of Mecca is square, while the fundamental rites of the pilgrimage consist of circular turns around the quadrangle.

Notify firmness, stability, balance, with its four sides is an expression of number four, and suggests the balance of four elements similar in nature is not easily available and is generally a product of human intelligence because it must be carefully measured and mapped, perhaps for this reason the West is rational thought, the success of an enterprise, the existence on earth and volition, this meaning is already outlined in Egyptian hieroglyphics. (runelore)

Shapes in general

A **circle** represents wholeness and closure, and like the **crescent**, is associated with femininity or sensitivity. The **square** can symbolize being grounded and more literal in your approach, while the **star** is a symbol of ideals and aspirations or being recognized for your

accomplishments. When you are dreaming of this type of symbol, there may be insecurities surrounding your sense of self-esteem. The *spiral* can show how you are moving in circles and not necessarily getting anywhere. Something that is *flat* can portray a one-dimensional outlook that lacks vitality and leaves you unfulfilled, while being *full* can symbolize a 'puffed up' version of reality or fulfillment. (dream dictionary)

Each shape also represents an **element**:

The tetrahedron is fire,

the cube is earth,

the octahedron is air,

the icosahedron is water,

the dodecahedron is ether.

The sphere is the void. (jelila)

Platonic solids

The Platonic Solids are the repeating geometric patterns that are the basic building blocks of life. All of life as we know it is composed of these geometric structures: our physical bodies, cells, DNA, plants, animals, minerals, planets, solar systems, stars, galaxies and Universes, the microcosm and macrocosm are endlessly repeating these archetypal patterns.