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## Celtic Pagan Symbols

People who spoke the Celtic language originated from Indo-European part of the world and followed the Celtic culture and language in the Early Iron age around 1200 BC. The tribal societies that lived around that time period later moved on to places such as Ireland and Scotland and the rest of Europe.

The Celts were not a race, but a culture that spread among many races and today it includes the cultures of Ireland, Scotland, Brittany, Isle of Man, Brittany and Wales. These are known as the six Celtic Nations. The Celts are also believed by some to be descendants of the people who built Stonehenge.

This long, varied and colorful history was the impetus for the interesting and intriguing variety of Celtic Symbols. Many of the ancient symbols that exist and is being used today stood for a variety of needs that were significant at one time.

Here are some of the more common symbols used presently in the form of jewelry, clothing, bowls, adornment on structures, tattoos or other forms of decoration:

**Single Spiral** - This is just a single, circular spiral that represents ethereal and eternal energy emerging from our consciousness. It may also represent growth, emerging radiating inward or the continuous manifestation and progress of life. It was often used to represent the Sun and it may also represent the journey from inner life to higher spiritual realms.

**Double Spiral** - This symbol indicates a balance in nature. This symbol has been etched on rocks as early as 24,000 years ago. This may signify water or the ocean and has been found during excavations on pottery and other items.

**The Cross** - This symbol which was adopted by Christianity later, has been around for thousands of years. It is believed to be from Chaldea, Babylon and was being used the symbol of God Tammuz, who was revered by the first letter of his name, a version of the





current alphabet "T". In order to add more people to Christianity, many of the ancient symbols were adopted into it. The original cross was used in many cultures including the Indus Valley civilization where it was called a "Swastika". This symbol, which was desecrated by the Nazis, still stands for Self, Wisdom, Nature and Navigation. The Celtic cross, in addition, is a symbolic compass, which guides its followers to the spiritual truth. The circle around the cross denotes unification and totality - a symbol of unity in diversity.

Triskelion - This is a three legged which indicates a movement towards the progress of the Universe as a whole.

Threefold - This symbol is also similar to the triple spiral and which is believed to represent the powers of the Moon Goddess as maiden, mother and crone. This is essentially a symbol of female power and signifies transition and growth.

Triquetra - this Three-cornered continuous symbol indicates being a part of the entire Universe. Regardless of the apparent disconnect of our identities, this symbol assures us that we are all connected.

Three Rays - This symbol may also be called Arwen which represents energy. The rays on either side represent the female and male energy while the middle ray represents the balance of both male and female energies. This symbol may be used to denote fire energy.

Triangle - Denotes the element of Fire which is the catalyst for transformation. The triple flame of Arwen may be connected to the symbol of fire and energy.

Five fold - This symbol represents balance and unity of the four elements of Earth, Fire, Water and Air.

Knots - There are several forms of knots in Celtic culture which are believed to represent the crossings of the spiritual and physical paths. They could also represent the cyclical life forms which emerge and re-emerge over time. Simple knots such as the Lover's knot signify an eternal "connection" to each other.

There are many other lesser known Celtic symbols that were used millenniums ago and that are still in use in the current century.

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