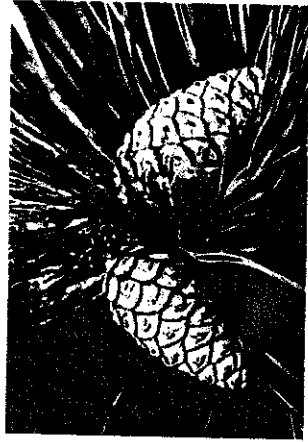


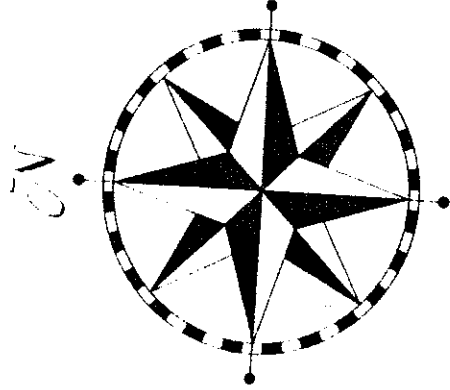
Shell Above

The shell is a universally positive feminine symbol of birth, life, resurrection, love and good luck. Because of its hard casing that protects life (and contains pearls), the bivalved mollusc symbolizes the womb and fertility, and as an aquatic being, it is also feminine, lunar and associated with virginity. In Greco-Roman mythology, Aphrodite (Venus), goddess of love, was said to be created from foam and carried ashore on a scallop shell, as was the Hindu goddess, Lakshmi. In Christianity (and in other religions), the shell signifies resurrection and also baptism, because shells were often sprinkled over baptismal water. In medieval times, a scallop shell symbolized a pilgrimage, especially to St. James's shrine in Santiago de Compostela in Spain: St. James was patron of pilgrims and his attribute was a scallop shell. The guardian angel



Pine Cone Above

The fruit of the pine tree—an evergreen—signifies immortality. The pine cone was an important fertility symbol in the classical world. The ancient Greeks, along with the Assyrians, regarded it as a symbol of masculinity because of its phallic shape. It formed the apex of the thyrsus staff, which represented both fertility and immortality. Despite its masculine associations, however, it was an emblem of Artemis (Diana) symbolizing feminine purity and also of the Roman goddess, Venus (Aphrodite). In Christian iconography, it can form the crown of the Tree of Life. Because of its swirling form, it is often associated with dynamic generative and cosmic power.

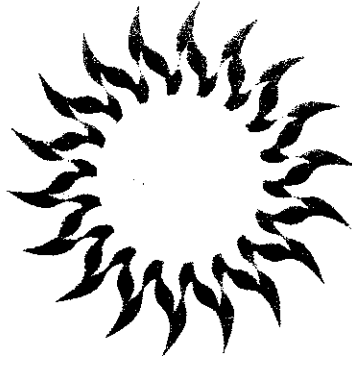


Compass Above

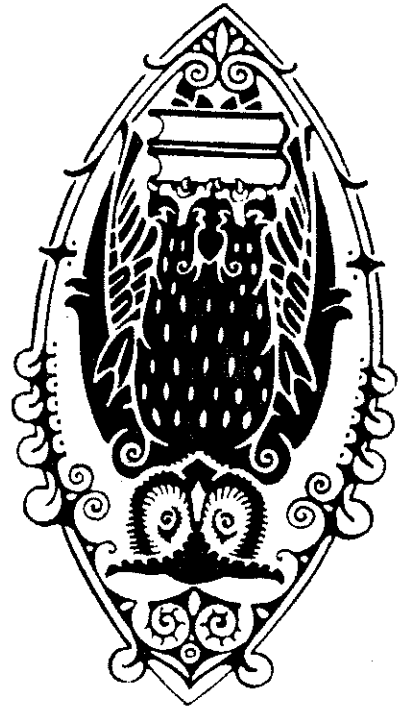
The compass—contained within the circle of perfection and quartered by the four points of north, south, east and west—is a sign of both life and knowledge; to the inner mind it represents an instrument of direction and identity. In dream symbolism, the compass can orient us safely along the rocky path of life, but if faulty, it signifies a loss of identity and personal direction.

Sun Right

The sun is one of the most important symbols and has res-

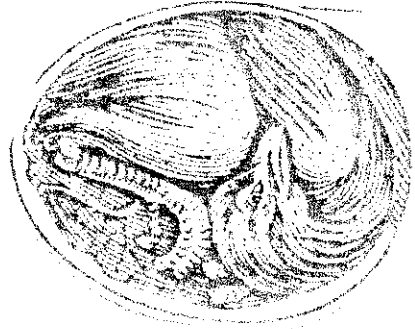


onance in all world cultures. As the primary source of light and warmth, the crucial force for creation and maintenance of life, its cosmic, generative role was recognized by the earliest civilizations. Its active energy was regarded as being male and spiritual and, because it is the most powerful and brightest star, it was believed to be the eye of the all-seeing sun god, the universal father; thus it was the "eye" of the Greco-Roman god Zeus (Jupiter), the Egyptian god Horus, the Hindu Varuna, the Norse god Odin (or Wotan) and the Islamic Allah. Heroic and passionate, male solar divinities were worshipped by the Persians (Mithras), ancient Egyptians (Ra, Horus and Osiris), the Greeks (Helios/



Attributes

Today the owl is one of the most popular symbols of learning and is frequently portrayed (as here) perched upon a stack of books with a serious-looking expression. This symbolism can be attributed to its ancient significance as the bird sacred to the Greek goddess Athena, goddess of wisdom. In more recent times, its ringed eyes suggest the wearing of spectacles, and thus bookishness. In this association it is also a symbol of opticians, implying keen eyesight.



Embryo Right above

While the egg, or seed, is a profound cosmic symbol of potential in many cultures, the embryo takes this significance a step further, for it has been fertilized and is soon to hatch out into a new life. It is thus a symbol of birth, hope and new possibilities. In dream analogs, it represents the rebirth of the self and the opportunity to start afresh. The embryo is therefore a general symbol of creation—both in the literal sense and in terms of the psyche that gradually develops in the "embryo" of the unconscious, until they emerge, fully fledged, into the conscious mind.