



శ్రీ వేపచేదు విద్యాపీఠము
శ్రీ VEPACHEDU EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

మన సంస్కృతి (Our Culture)

Chief Editor: Dr. Seenivasarao Vepachedu

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SUASTI (SWASTI)



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卐 SWASTI = SUASTI = GOOD

The Sanskrit word *swasti* means “good” and *swast* means health and their symbol is *swasti-ka* (*swastika*, *su* = good, *asti* = to be, *ka* = symbol). Therefore, almost all Sanskrit hymns use the word “swasti,” for example: *Swasti Sukta* - A Hymn for Well Being & Protection. In addition, many Indian prayers start with swasti 卐 :

स्वस्ति श्री गणनायकं गजमुखं मोरेश्वर सिद्धिदम् बल्लाळं मुरुडं
विनायक महं चितामणि थेवरम् । लेण्याद्रि गिरिजात्मजं सुवरदं
विघ्नेश्वर ओझरम ग्रामे रांजणनामके गणपतिः

॥ कुर्यात् सदा मंगलम् ॥



(Swasti)

Shri Gananyakam
Gajamukham Moreshwara
Siddhidam Ballalam Murudum
Vinayaka Maham Chintanim Thevaram /
Lenyadrim Girijatmajam Suvaradam
Vighneshwara Ojharam Grame
Ranjananamake Ganapatihi ||
Kuryat Sada Mangalam ||

Every day starts with the word “swasti” for Brahmins with the recitation of “*samkalpan*” in which the reciter describes the name, lineage, date and the position on earth. All times and dates

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are recited starting with *swasti* in Hindu calendar, especially the festivals e.g.: **SWASTI Sri Chandramana Sri MANMADHA samvathsara MaagaBahula Trayodasi is Maha Shivaratri, SWASTI Sri Chandramana Sri MANMADHA samvathsara MaagaBahula Trayodasi is Maha Shivaratri, SWASTI Sri Chandramana Sri MANMADHA samvathsara, Chaitra Sudha Navami is Sri RamaNavami, etc.**

SUASTIKA is one of the 108 symbols of the Hindu god Vishnu² as well as a symbol of the sun and of the Hindu sun god, Surya. The symbol imitates, in the rotation of its arms, the course taken daily by the sun, which appears in the Northern Hemisphere to pass from east, then south, to west. It is also a symbol of the sun among Native Americans. The left-hand swastika is the form most commonly used in Buddhism.

The auspicious symbol of the *suastika* is very commonly used in Hindu art, architecture and decoration. It can be seen on temples, houses, doorways, clothing, cars, and even cakes. It is usually a major part of the decoration for festivals and special ceremonies like weddings.

Suastika, known as the Fylfot³ in Odinism, is a symbol of the cosmos revolving around the universal axis, Yggdrasil, which is a constant, eternal 'pillar' to the ever-evolving life and ever-ascending spirits of the realms it supports, which are represented by the rotating arms. The purpose of these cycles, the cyclical existence of all things, is, for us at least, to offer us the chance to better ourselves by overcoming struggle and living honorably, so that after each successfully-lived cycle, our spirit becomes purer, allowing us to ascend to a higher realm of existence. In this manner and after an indefinite number of cycles, we eventually hope to reach Asgard.



Throughout the history, the *suastika* represented life, sun, power, strength and good luck. In the early 20th century, it was a positive symbol. During World War I, it was found on shoulder patches of members of the American 45th Division⁴ and the Finnish air force.

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Just like Christianity will not abandon the cross because of its use by terrorists and Islam will not abandon moon or green because of its use by terrorists, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Odinism etc will NOT abandon *suastika* that represents *swast* (health) and *swasti* (good).

REFERENCES AND NOTES

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<http://www.avvo.com/profile/dashboard>.

² Hindu Symbols: <http://hinduismfacts.org/hindu-symbols/>; <http://hinduismfacts.org/hindu-symbols/swastika-or-swastika/>

³ Holy Odinic Symbols: The Fylfot/Swastika: <http://www.odinic-rite.org/Guardians/holy-odinic-symbols-the-fylfotswastika/> SWASTIKA die universelle Legende des Kreuz des Kosmos: <http://www.swastika-info.com>
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⁴ AMERICAN SWASTIKAS of WWI & WWII. BOEING P-12 F4B 45th INFANTRY DIVISION of the SOONER SOLDIERS LAFAYETTE ESCADRILLE AMERICAINE & AVRO ANSONS: http://pledge-of-allegiance.blogspot.com/2010_03_01_archive.html

Additional Sources: The information published here is available from the primary sources cited above, and also from secondary sources such as: New York Times (NYT), Washington Post (WP), Mercury News, Bayarea.com, Chicago Tribune, USA Today, Intellihealthnews, Deccan Chronicle (DC), the Hindu, Hindustan Times, Times of India, AP, Reuters, AFP, womenfitness.net, about.com, mondaq.com, etc.

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Om! Asatoma Satgamaya, Tamasoma Jyotirgamaya, Mrityorma Amritamgamaya, Om Shantih, Shantih, Shantih! (Aum! Lead the world from wrong path to the right path, from ignorance to knowledge, from mortality to immortality, and peace!)

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