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.

Every day starts with the word “swasti” for Brahmins with the recitation of “samkalpam” in which the reciter describes the name, lineage, date and the position on earth. All times and dates...
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 Vishnu\(^2\) 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 *Fylfot*\(^3\) 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 20\(^{th}\) century, it was a positive symbol. During World War I, it was found on shoulder patches of members of the American 45\(^{th}\) Division\(^4\) and the Finnish air force.
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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Oh! 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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