



Research Paper

## Logos, Signs and Symbols of Religious beliefs

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The theory of Logos gradually developed in its meaning. As the audible or perceptible sound of a word is the expression of an imperceptible thought or idea, so the visible universe is the expression of the ideal universe or the universe in a thought form existing in the Divine mind. This ideal Creation or concept of the universe, or type of the universe in the Divine mind, was the Logos, The identity of the Logos with educator and culture, whereas the Jewish, Greek, Hindu, and Buddhist philosophers met and interchanged thoughts and philosophical religious ideas. Greek philosophers called the divine Word Logos. The theory of Logos first originated with Heraclitus, one of the earliest Greek philosophers, who lived from 500 to 440 BC he believed that fire was the primitive element of the phenomenal universe, he postulated some power, force, or Jaw, which controlled the material element fire. He called that power Logos which is reason or order.

Hinduism has adopted several iconic symbols, forming part of **Hindu iconography**, that are imbued with spiritual meaning based on either the scriptures or cultural traditions. The exact significance accorded to any of the icons varies with the followers' region, period, and denomination. Over time some of the symbols for instance the Swastika have come to have wider associations while others like Aum [OM] are recognized as unique representations of Hinduism. Other aspects of Hindu iconography are covered by the terms murti, for icons and mudra for gestures and positions of the hands and body.

**Om (Aum)** ; Om (or Aum, ॐ) is the sacred sound symbol that represents the Universe; the ultimate reality (Brahman). It is prefixed and sometimes suffixed to all Vedic mantras and prayers. Aum is often said to represent God in the three aspects of Brahman (A), Vishnu (U) and Shiva (M). As the Divine primordial vibration, it represents the one ultimate reality, underlying and encompassing all of nature and all of existence. The written syllable ॐ called Omkara serves as a deeply significant and distinctly recognizable symbol for Hindu dharma. The pronunciation of Aum moves through all possible human linguistic vowel sounds and is different from the pronunciation of Om. Both are often symbolically equated, although they are sonically distinct.

Indeed "OM" is this sound that was realized by the Vedic Rishis (the ancient seers, sages and yogis) through their peer search (by the inner eye) of the sublime world and which is now being conceived (with the help of high-tech Vedic Symbols telescopes and supercomputers) by the modern researchers as the 'music of creation'.

It is further mentioned in the science of yoga that the sound 'a' starts in our chests at the heart centre (Anahata Chakra), moves upward with the 'o' sound in the throat centre (Vishuddha Chakra), and ends with the sound 'OM' (mmmm), which vibrates the higher centres in the head. Thus, it represents and enhances the upward movement of prañic energy along the spine that occurs as we progress in our practice. Meanings of "OM" the letter 'a' symbolizes the conscious or waking state, 'u' the dream state, and the letter 'OM' the dreamless deep sleep (trance like) state of the mind and spirit. The entire symbol stands for the "realization of man's divinity within himself." Analogous desperation is also applied to the geometric shape of Omkara. Spectral analysis of the gross sound of OM and its decompositions and simultaneous analysis of the brain impulses and bio-energy waves while meditating upon this sacred sound would give new dimensions to modern scientific research, thus unfolding the annals of the secret knowledge of the Vedas.

**Swastika;** The swastika is a symbol connoting general auspiciousness. It may represent the purity of soul, truth, and stability or Surya, the sun. Its rotation in four directions has been used to represent many ideas, but primarily describes the four directions, the four Vedas and their harmonious whole. Its use in Hinduism dates back to ancient times. the Vedic symbol of the swastika. The term swastika emanates from the Sanskrit

word swastika = us (good) + Asti (being). Swastika - A Symbol of Auspiciousness Vedic Symbols As a symbol, the swastika is a line design invented by the Vedic sages. Its specific geometry is believed to have some relation with certain natural energy fields. It is drawn as a cross with equal arms when all the arms are continued as far again at right angles clockwise. The sublime effects, in terms of the cosmic energy currents superimposed in the unique pattern of the swastika, correspond to what the swastika symbolizes – auspiciousness, wellbeing. The clockwise direction is of significant importance, as it also happens to be the direction of movement (as we see it on the earth) of the sun, which rises in the east and sets in the west. The four sides of the swastika thus represent the four principal directions. The symbol swastika is being used as a holy sign in India since the time of yore. Scriptural descriptions define it as a divine symbol that encompasses (in coded form) several important meanings and mysterious formulae or signs representing specific energy cycles in the universe. The ensemble of sunrays is called "swastika". The swastika is supposed to be used in some Tantrik practices; incidentally, the 'swastika' symbol adopted by the Nazis is also of counter-clockwise type.

In Jainism, the swastika is revered as the symbol associated with the seventh Tirthankara Suparshvanath. The followers of the Jain religion regard the four sides of the swastika as symbolizing the four possible places where one could be reborn or reside after death. These abodes are described as - the animal or plant kingdom, the earth, j<sup>o</sup>v<sup>3</sup>tm<sup>3</sup> (soul in the subtle body that awaits rebirth) and hell. Imprints of the swastika are found inscribed in the Buddhist Monasteries as well. It can also be found in the houses of the Lamas and some temples in Tibet.

As per renowned scholars like Prof. Maxmuller, this anticlockwise design of the swastika was also favoured in some orthodox Christian churches and was popular several hundred years ago in England, and then in some varied forms in Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

**Sri Chakra Yantra;** Sri Chakra Yantra of Tripura Sundari (commonly referred to as Sri Yantra) is a mandala formed by nine interlocking triangles. Four of these triangles are oriented upright, representing Shiva or the Masculine. Five of these triangles are inverted triangles representing Shakti or the Feminine. Together, the nine triangles form a web symbolic of the entire cosmos, a womb symbolic of creation, and together express Advaita Vedanta or non-duality. All other yantras are derivatives of this supreme yantra.

**Pillayar Sushi;** is a sacred textual symbol usually put at the beginning of diaries, notebooks and invitations before writing anything new. It is predominant in South India and Sri Lanka. It is similar to the letters. It has been followed since ancient times and mentions of it are found in Classical Tamil literature. Lord Ganesha is popularly known as Pillayar in Dravidian languages which means child or Elephant-headed.

**Lotus;**The Lotus is associated with the creation theology as well as the gods Vishnu, Brahma, and Lakshmi. It is the symbol of beauty and fertility. "In the Bhagavad Gita, a human is adjured to be like the lotus; they should work without attachment, dedicating their actions to God, untouched by sin like water on a lotus leaf, like a beautiful flower standing high above the mud and water."

**Veena;** The musical instrument Veena is associated with the Hindu goddess Saraswati and the sage Narada. It represents arts and learning.

**Conch ;**The conch shell is a major Hindu article of prayer, used as a trumpeting announcement of all sorts. The God of Preservation, Vishnu, is said to hold a special conch, Panchajanya, that represents life as it has come out of life-giving waters. In the story of Dhruva, the divine conch plays a special part. The warriors of ancient India would blow conch shells to announce battle, such as is famously represented at the beginning of the war of Kurukshetra in the Mahabharata, a famous Hindu epic. The conch shell is also a deep part of Hindu symbolic and religious tradition. Today most Hindus use the conch as a part of their religious practices, blowing it during worship at specific points, accompanied by ceremonial bells. Shankha also symbolizes the sound that created the universe and stands for knowledge.

A Hindu pundit (priest) blowing the conch during puja Shankha

**Chakra;**The Chakra or disc-like weapon of Vishnu is often found mounted on the top of Vaishnava temples or incorporated into architectural designs. Images depicting Vishnu's four-armed Narayana form almost always include the Chakra in one of his hands. It is a general symbol of protection. Chakra is also known to symbolize the need to follow dharma and to condemn adharm.

**Kalash ;**Kalash holding two bent mango leaves and a coconut. This is a sacred Hindu motif. Identical pinnacles have been seen over Hindu and Buddhist temples in the Himalayan region. Visualizing the Kalash as a symbol of the cosmos coolness (calmness) and uniformity (impartiality) of the Kalash, and the radiance, energy (activeness)

**Yantras;** Fundamental Aspects of the Designs of Yantras: The sublime self-existent sound (OM) of the cosmic pulse is affirmed in the scriptures as the source of all creation of Nature and the originator of all subtle and audible manifestation of sounds (and hence all the words). It is said to be the root of all Mantras. Its syllabic structure ( ) symbolizes the seed Yantra. All syllables of ancient Sanskrit, Devnagri and other scripts have

emanated from this geometrical representation of the vibrations of the 'first sound'. A more evolved and structured coding system seems to have been used by the ancient Indian sages who invented the designs of Yantras. The symbols and codes used here have multiple meanings in terms of physical, mental and spiritual elements and expressions. A dot (.) in the cryptography of Yantra symbolizes absoluteness, completeness: In terms of the manifestation . The Vedic Symbol of Universal Energy of Nature in the universe, it is a symbol of the nucleus of cosmic energy and hence represents the power-source of all activities and motion; In the mental (psychological) domain it represents the root of all desires and emotions; Its spiritual implication is pure knowledge, enlightenment, ultimate realization. The expansions of a dot in circular forms, in a Yantra, symbolize related expressions in varied forms. Combining the dots results in a triangle. Different lengths of the straight lines joining the dots, different angles between them and the different triangular and other shapes generated thereby together with free dots, circles, straight, curvilinear, convergent and divergent lines are the basic features/components of the structure of a Yantra. Everything that exists in the cosmos has some size and structure - perceivable or conceptualized - in subliminal, astronomical or intermediate dimensions. The sagacious minds of the Vedic Age had the deeper insight to 'see' the invisible or sublime elements of Nature and express them in a universal language of symbols. They had thus invented a coding system of symbols, signs and alphabets (including digits) to represent – the syllables of the seed Mantras associated with the sublime fields of divine powers (devat<sup>3</sup>s), natural tendencies of 47 Vedic Symbols consciousness, emotional impulses in a being, and the 2 five basic elements (Pancha-tattvas ), their etheric vibrations and energy fields, and the states and motions of the enormous varieties of sub-atomic, atomic and molecular structures generated thereby. Specific configurations of these codes were then incorporated in different Yantras. In the process of speech or vocal communication, the expression of the face, movements of hands and other body parts, tuning and pitch of the voice and the type of words spoken, all play important roles. In introvert 'silent communication' (via thoughts) or meditational prayers, all these are projected in the mental domain, where the expressions are seen and the words are spoken and heard internally - voice is not loud but the mind hear, it also sees the shapes, movements of the associated things, or characters in its imagination.

### **Conclusion;**

The philosophers believed that Logos, or supreme reason, or God, pervaded all Matter. It was not only the creator of all things but the controller and ruler also. and eternal and the human soul possessed a portion of the universal Logos The word, or speech, Was the manifestation of reason, or thought, which would remain as non-existent for us without the power of speech. This Logos became the medium through which the transcendent cause of the universe was related to the phenomenal world. It was like the bridge between God and the world. The theory of Logos understands individuals' relationship with religious symbols and religion in general and also examines the impact of State on religious regulation/restrictions symbols on individuals.

The empirical study focused on the meaning and significance of religious symbols significance of religion in the making of individual and collective identity. symbols are perceived as based on individuals' personal experience with religion and culture; education and spiritual journey of an individual; that the reasons why people who wear religious symbols are therefore highly intimate; that one's relationship, OM (aum) is the sacred word of the Hindus, Hum of the Tibetans, amin of the Moslems, and amen of the Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, and Christians. Amen in Hebrew means - sure, faithful.

Four broad stages of the evolution of written scripts – Ideographic, Pictographic, Syllabic, and Alphabetic. The highly evolved and comprehensive languages like Sanskrit or Devnagari also included Phonetic or Phonographic components. with symbols is ultimately dependent on one's relationship with religion and that given the special nature of one's relationship with symbols, they often had a sentimental as well as a religious significance.

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