


Pentagram

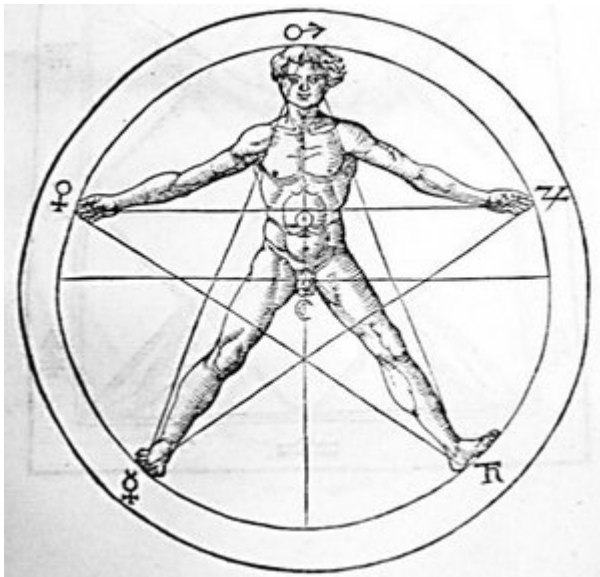



 A pentagram, pentacle, pentalpha, or pentangle

The name indicates that a **pentagram** is not simply a five-pointed star: the symbol *must* comprise five lines - that is, it **must include the interior pentagon**.

Some writers refer to the pentagram as the *endless knot*

History



 Pentagram image from [Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa's *Libri tres de occulta philosophia*](#) illustrating the **golden symmetry of the human body**. The signs on the perimeter are [astrological](#).

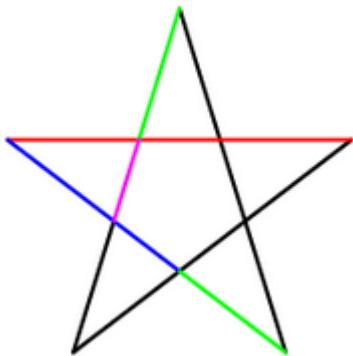
The first uses of the pentagram we know of are found in [Mesopotamian](#) writings dating to about 3000 B.C. The [Sumerian](#) pentagrams served as pictograms for the word "UB," meaning "corner, angle, nook; a small room, cavity, hole; pitfall. In dictionary of Sumerian hieroglyphs/pictograms it is the number 306¹, and it is

¹ 3. Expression, verbalization, socialization, the arts, the joy of living.

shown as being two points up. In the [Babylonian](#) context, the edges of the pentagram were probably orientations: forward, backward, left, right, and "above". These directions also had an [astrological](#) meaning, representing the five planets [Jupiter](#), [Mercury](#), [Mars](#) and [Saturn](#), and [Venus](#) as the "Queen of Heaven" ([Ishtar](#)) above.

The pentagram is a symbol of the five [senses](#). Also, when the letters S, A, L, V, and S are inscribed in the points, the pentagram is a symbol of [health](#) (Latin *salūs*).

Pythagorean use



A pentagram illustrating the golden mean hidden in it.

The [Pythagoreans](#) called the pentagram *ὑγίεια Hygieia* ("health" also the Greek goddess of health, [Hygieia](#)), and saw in the pentagram a **mathematical perfection**. Among other things, the pentagram hides the [golden mean](#), ϕ .

Represent the five [Classical elements](#):

- ὕδωρ, *Hydor*, [water](#)
- Γαία, [Gaia earth](#)
- ἰδέα, [Idea](#) or ἱερόν, *Hieron* "a divine thing"
- εἶλή, *Heile*, [heat \(fire\)](#)
- ἀήρ, *Aer*, [air](#)

6. Responsibility, protection, nurturing, community, balance, sympathy.

9. Humanitarian, giving nature, selflessness, obligations, creative expression.



Another pentagram from Agrippa's book; this one has the Pythagorean letters inscribed around the circle.

Pythagorean pentagram was two points up and represented the doctrine of [Pentemychos](#) or "chambers" also known as the pentagonas - the five-angle. It was also the "place" where the first pre-cosmic offspring had to be put in order for the ordered cosmos to appear. The pentemychos is in [Tartaros](#).

The Underworld as the source of wisdom was the rule.

In the image above of the two points up pentagram from Agrippa's book, the notion of Health that is within and inside a living being, is "bounded between the rings", a Core of Inner Being (the "soul" of "the stuff").

Note that the Core is the Greek Goddess Kore (another name for [Persephone](#), alongside [Hecate](#) queen of the underworld), whose symbol was the apple. If you cut an apple transversally through its core, it reveals a pentagram. The apple is also still, despite Christian ideas over the years, a symbol of health. (An apple a day keeps the doctor away.)

Satanic use

[Satanists](#) use the Pythagorean pentagram (one point down) inscribed in a double circle, with the head of [Baphomet](#) inside the pentagram. They use it much the same way as the Pythagoreans - after all, Tartaros does mean Hell in Christian terminology (the word is used as such in the Bible, referring to the place where the fallen angels are fettered). The pythagorean Greek letters are most often replaced by the [Hebrew](#) letters לוייתן forming the name [Leviathan](#). Less esoteric Satanists ([LaVeyan types](#); the ones that exist in abundance) merely use it as a sign of rebellion.

Flags

The pentagram appears on the flags (and coats of arms) of:

- [Ethiopia](#)
 - and the [Afar](#) National Regional State
- [Morocco](#)
- According to Ivan Sache [\[1\]](#) (<http://flagspot.net/flags/ma.html>), on the Moroccan flags, the

Symbolic meaning of the pentagram

The Pentagram is a symbol of a star encased in a circle. Always with 5 points (one pointing upward), each has its own meaning. The upward point of the star is representative of the **spirit**. The other four points all represent an element; earth, air, fire, and water. All these things contribute to life and are a part of each of us.

To wear a pentagram necklace or other form of jewelry, is to say you feel the connection with the elements and respect the earth.

The number 5

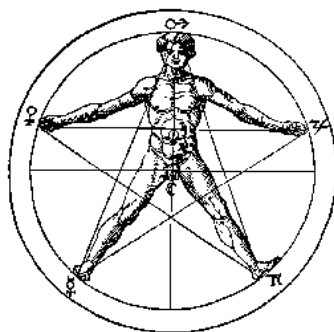
The number 5 has always been regarded as **mystical and magical, yet essentially 'human'**. We have five fingers/toes on each limb extremity. We commonly note five senses - sight, hearing, smell, touch and taste. We perceive five stages or initiations in our lives - eg. birth, adolescence, coitus, parenthood and death. (There are other numbers / initiations / stages / attributions).

The number **5 is associated with Mars. It signifies severity, conflict and harmony through conflict**. In Christianity, five were the wounds of Christ on the cross. There are five pillars of the Muslim faith and five daily times of prayer.

Five were the virtues of the medieval knight - generosity, courtesy, chastity, chivalry and piety as symbolised in the pentagram device of Sir Gawain. The Wiccan Kiss is Fivefold - feet, knees, womb, breasts, lips - Blessed be.

The number 5 is prime. The simplest star - the pentagram - requires five lines to draw and it is unicursal; it is a continuous loop.

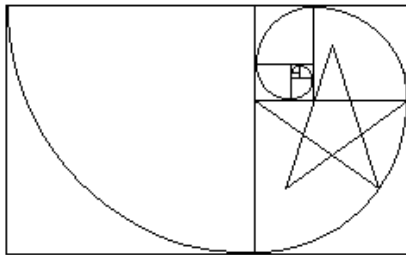
Human stars



Expressing the saying **Every man and every woman is a star**, we can juxtapose Man on a pentagram with head and four limbs at the points and the genitalia

exactly central. This is Man in microcosm, symbolising our place in the Macrocosm or universe and the Hermetic / Tantric philosophy of associativity as above, so below.

The Golden Proportion

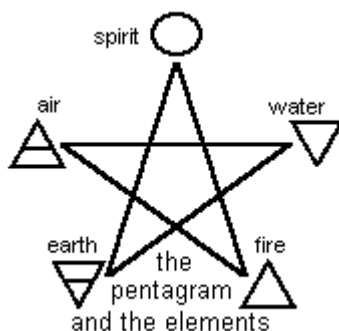


Golden Proportion 0.618 : 1 : 1.618

Protection against evil

The pentagram has long been believed to be a potent **protection against evil**, a symbol of conflict that shields the wearer and the home. The pentagram has **five spiked wards** and a **womb shaped defensive, protective pentagon at the centre**.

Five elements

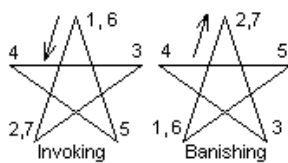


Here are five elements, four of matter (earth, air, fire and water) and **THE quintessential - spirit**. These may be arrayed around the pentagrams points. The word *quintessential* derives from this fifth element - the spirit. Tracing a path around the pentagram, the **elements are placed in order of density** - spirit (or

aether). fire, air, water, earth. **Earth and fire are basal, fixed; air and water are free, flowing.**

The single point upwards signifies the spirit ruling matter (mind ruling limbs); is a symbol of rightness. With two points up and one (spirit) downwards, subservient, the emphasis is on the carnal nature of Man.

Drawing a Pentagram



These point attributions are used in ritually inscribing, as a flourish of the hands or the athame, different forms of pentagram for invoking or banishing (grounding) each of the elementals according to the nature of the ritual. The line traces as illustrated for earth (the last stroke is optional).

Another way of seeing this path is as Man's spiritual journey through evolution. The spark of Life descending from God, the divine source of life to the simplest embryonic form (earth), rising to flow (water - air) on our plane of existence (compare with the intonation of the AUM mantra), then again descending to the fire of purification before again rising as a divine spark to find again his spiritual source.

The pentagram may be shown as an interlaced line symbolic of the web-weaving power of magick. The descending spirit-earth line may pass under (male) or over (female) the water-air line to give two slightly differing forms.

Open Pentagram

A pentagram may be open, without a surrounding circle. This is the active form symbolising an outgoing of oneself, prepared for conflict, aware, active. (One wearing an open pentagram must be physically aware of the danger of sharp points sticking in their skin from time to time). **As a pagan religious symbol, the open pentagram represents an open, active approach.**

Circled Pentagram



A circle around a pentagram contains and protects. **The circle symbolises eternity and infinity, the cycles of life and nature. The circle touching all 5 points indicates that the spirit, earth, air, water and fire are all connected.**

The circled pentagram is the passive form implying spiritual containment of the magic circle, in keeping with the traditional secrecy of witchcraft, and the personal, individual nature of the pagan religious path, of its non-proselytising character.

Inverted Pentagram



The pentagram may be inverted with one point down. The implication is of spirit subservient to matter, of man subservient to his carnal desires. The inverted pentagram has come to be seen by many pagans as representing the dark side and it is abhorred as an evil symbol. Fundamental Christians, indeed, see any form of pentagram as such. However, these are recent developments and the inverted pentagram is the symbol of Gardnerian second degree initiation, representing the need of the witch to learn to face the darkness within so that it may not later rise up to take control. **The centre of a pentagram implies a sixth formative element - love/will which controls from within, ruling matter and spirit by Will and the controlled magickal direction of sexual energies.** This is another lesson of initiation.

The Pentagram As A Christian Symbol

Up until medieval times, the five points of the pentagram **represented the five wounds of Christ on the Cross.** It was a symbol of Christ the Saviour. This is in

stark contrast to today where the pentagram is criticized by modern Fundamentalist Christians, as being a symbol of evil.

The church eventually chose the cross as a more significant symbol for Christianity, and the use of the pentagram as a Christian symbol gradually ceased.

PENTATOL (SODIUM PENTATOL) = truth serum