

Latvian National Ethnic Patterns

Their Meanings



MARA

Saule

LAIMA

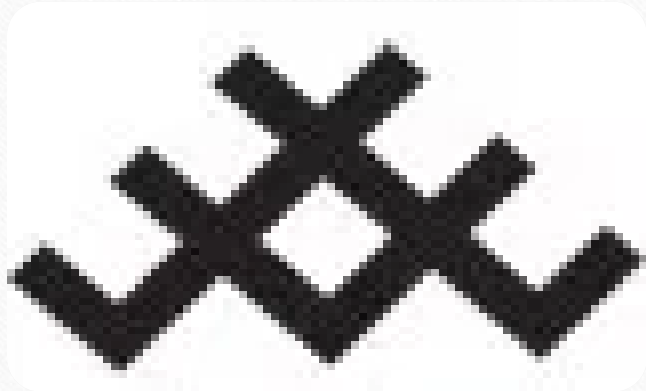








Latvia Symbols of Nature's Seasons

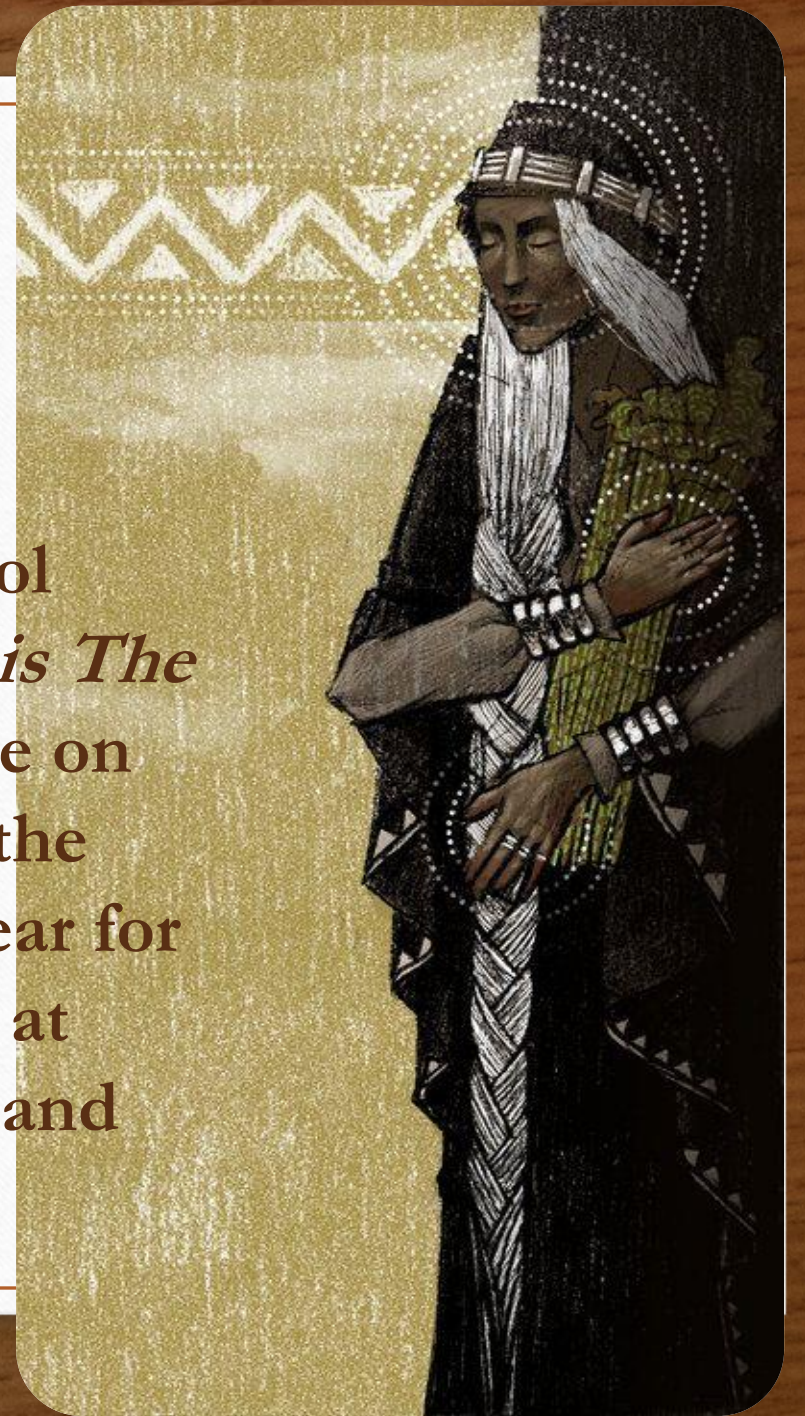


The sign of Dawn or the rising sun - symbolizes the constant rhythm of the sun. This is a sign of the world order for our children, because it combines an understanding of the past, present and future.



Summer Solstice – The Sun

Goddess Strong sunlight
Development of harmony symbol
Midsummer's Night festival *Jānis The
Summer Solstice God* takes place on
the evening of June 23rd and is the
most important festival of the year for
Latvians. Once every year, Jānis at
midsummer came to bring luck and
fertility to the people of Latvia





**Autumn Equinox – God Jumis
Fertility sign.**

**The end of spring and summer,
the harvest season.**

**This sign means fertility, strength,
wealth, success and good luck.**

**The word “Jumis” attributed to
the word “Jumal” which means
“God.”**



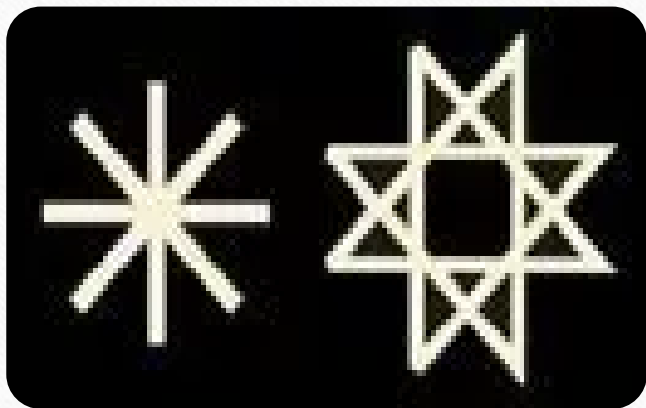
Winter Solstice, The Wells symbol – this symbol is character of endings, completeness, a new solar year on the day of the Winter Solstice but that is a Christian tradition of the sun and the world.



Auseklis

This is the most important ancient symbol which is associated with Winter, the Winter Solstice and the protection from evil and shadows.



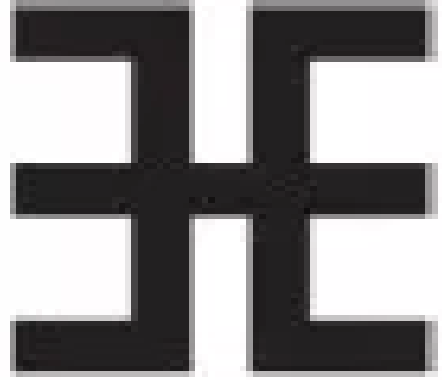


The Cross symbol in Latvian folklore has eight or six stars. Also at the Winter Solstice (now called Christmas), this is one of the only surviving symbols to honor the winter time ceremonies and celebrations.



Zalktis, The Serpent Goddess

She is one of the ancient symbols of a deity in Latvia. She is associated with wisdom. Today she is still know for general well-being and health.



This symbol means happiness, energy, fire, thunder and wind. Fire cross is related to the Sun Goddess Saule and the Goddess Laima and Thunder, this sign was popular to cut into the beds of children and to interweave into belts for newborn children



Saule The Sun Goddess

means

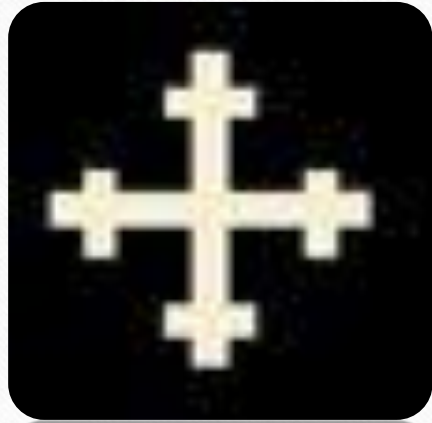
the well-being
and regeneration
of all life

on earth. Symbol
of Sun is specially
used in women's clothes
and jewelry.





The name Laima derives from the word laime, which means “happiness” or “luck”. The sign is thought to bring luck and is more related with mothers and childbirth.



Māra Dark Goddess of Winter

The goddess who was responsible for the birth of the land, the waters, and every living thing. Today we associate Mara with children and childbirth; children are said to enter the world “*through the gates of Māra*”. She is also the protector of women, especially mothers, and daughters.





This rich ethnic heritage has been retained through centuries and reveals an intrinsic part of the Latvian character itself.





Thank you for your attention!

