A drawing of a tree

Description automatically generated

**Tree of Life**

The Tree of Life is a symbol that appears in different cultures and spiritual traditions throughout human history and in every part of the world. The concept of a tree form representing a connection between the earthly, physical world and the spiritual or supernatural realm, between our individual lives and the life of the cosmos, is a near-universal belief among people everywhere. In some religious practices, the tree is associated with the Knowledge of Good and Evil. The tree represents wisdom or knowledge, connectedness, regeneration and immortality in many cultures.

Trees appear as central images in Norse and Celtic mythology, in stories from all parts of Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and among indigenous cultures in North and South America. Starting with Darwin, evolutionary science has depicted the development of different species of life forms as branches of a tree, illustrating the evolution of life from its simplest form to its most complex, over our history on earth.

Artists all over the world have conceived different images for the Tree of Life, in paintings and drawings, jewelry, sculpture in various materials, embroidered or woven textiles and rugs. It is sometimes interpreted as a simple representation of roots to branches, sometimes more complex with images of leaves, fruits, flowers, and various animals, birds and insects. Mexican artists often use hand-built clay or textiles to depict branching trees embellished with lush flowers and animals, birds, insects and people, commonly in reference to the tale of Adam and Eve in the Garden.