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## Chrysanthemum

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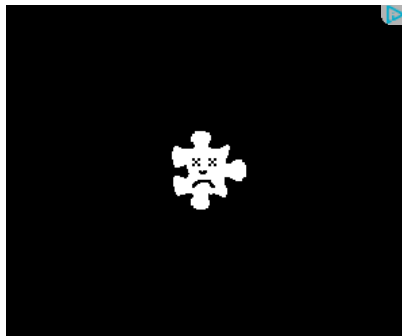
**The chrysanthemum is one of the most important floral symbols in all of Asia. Geographically speaking, the symbolism of the lotus is more widespread throughout the continent, but in China and Japan, it runs into some stiff competition from this golden-hued beauty.**



The word "chrysanthemum" is a combination of two simple Greek words: "chrysos" meaning 'golden' and "anthemum" meaning 'flower'. Although chrysanthemums can occur in a range of different colors, the golden variety is the most famous, and this coloring accounts for part of its symbolic importance.

The chrysanthemum has served as the official emblem of the Japanese Imperial family for centuries, and the Emperor was often referred to as occupying the "chrysanthemum throne". Due to its golden color, the chrysanthemum also functions as a solar symbol, and since the Imperial family traditionally claimed descent from the sun goddess Amaterasu-ōmikami, the importance of the flower speaks for itself.

Due to the many layers of petals typically found on chrysanthemum flowers, they are a symbol of longevity and immortality, and in Japan today, there is a festival called Kiki no Sekku which, drawing on further chrysanthemum symbolism, is dedicated to joy and happiness.



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In China, the chrysanthemum is one of the “Four Gentlemen” of Confucian tradition, which also includes the plum, orchid and bamboo. Each of these plants represents a season, and since chrysanthemums typically bloom into the autumn, they are correspondingly associated with that time of year. A possible Chinese influence on the Kiki no Sekku were harvest festivals traditionally held during the ninth lunar month, which were also associated with chrysanthemums.

**Categories:** [Chinese Symbols \(/category/47\)](#), [Plants, Trees and Flowers \(/category/58\)](#), [Religious Symbols \(/category/5\)](#).

**Chrysanthemum (/symbol/2817)** is part of the [Shinto \(/group/73\)](#) group.

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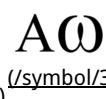
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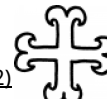
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