

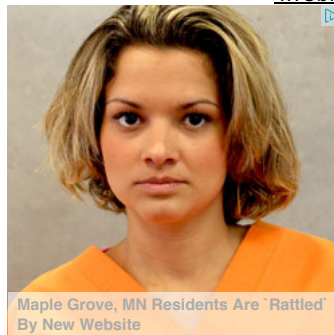
SEARCH

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Stag

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Maple Grove, MN Residents Are 'Rattled By New Website

In several cultures, the white stag is often assigned special significance, typically

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[enXuOPzIdzQC0OGQJ9M3gYWY0NCHJ_XF9e4rGkBA-Ari3aonlQSN2KpFwUwHrEafoMX0rP1P3BTheCph65K6UdQEdQU2hDfWwifBFnUcdYm9N_gDVxiw&sig=Cg0ArKJSzEASab1c](#)

associated- in one capacity or another- with magic and/or the quest of a hero. While the specifics may vary, this particular creature does crop up in multiple locations, and their significance only adds to the complex and layered symbolism embodied by the stag:

DISCLAIMER: THIS LIST OF SPECIFIC CULTURAL EXAMPLES IS LIMITED AND SELECTIVE.

CELTS: one of the most widely recognized Celtic deities is Cernunnos, a fertility god with the antlers of a stag who appears on numerous excavated artifacts. One particularly famous artifact is known as the Gundestrup Cauldron (named after the location of its discovery in modern-day Denmark) and shows him surrounded by a number of wild animals, including a stag. He clasps a snake (clearly a phallic symbol) in one hand and a torc (a traditional one-piece item of jewelry for men) in the other. All of this imagery contributes to the fertility associations of the stag itself.

CHINA: the famous Chinese dragon is described in some sources and texts as having physical traits drawn from nine different creatures, and one of these traits are the antlers of a stag. There is also a figure in Daoism known as Shou-xing (spellings vary) or “the old man of the south pole”. Associated with longevity, he is sometimes depicted as accompanied by a stag. In traditional Chinese pharmacopeia, animal and insect parts are often used alongside traditional herbs and plants when compounding medicines. Stag antlers were used in this capacity as an aphrodisiac, a further indication of the fertility symbolism associated with the animal.

CHRISTIANITY: the stag plays a key role in the stories of St. Eustace of Rome and St. Hubert of Aquitaine. Although they lived several hundred years apart, the stories of their conversions are markedly similar. For each of them, it is said that they were out hunting when they came upon a stag in the forest. They were about to deliver the killing move when they miraculously saw a crucifix positioned between the stag’s antlers. This inspired them to renounce their former ways and embrace Christianity. Today, they are considered the patrons saints of hunters.

GREECE: perhaps not surprisingly, one of the primary associations of the stag in Greek mythology is with the hunt (a connection that could also be true of the animal in plenty of other cultures). Artemis, the patron goddess of the hunt, was strongly associated with stags and traveled amongst them, in some versions in a chariot pulled by stags. In one particularly famous story, the hunter Actaeon stumbled upon Artemis when she was bathing, and as punishment she transformed him into a stag (he was subsequently set upon by his dogs).

SCANDINAVIA: one of the most iconic features of Norse mythology is Yggdrasil, an immense ash tree that forms the backbone of the universe and connects the various worlds and realms that make up the cosmos. Numerous creatures live in and around Yggdrasil, including a group of four stags that nibble on the buds of the tree. Their name are sometimes given as Dáin, Dvalin, Dúneyr and Durathrór (spellings vary), and while their exact symbolism is up for debate, no one can deny that four is a very powerful symbolic number (just use your imagination).

[enXuOPzIdzQC0OGQJ9M3gYWY0NCHJ_XF9e4rGkBA-Ari3aonlQSN2KpFwUwHrEafoMX0rP1P3BTheCph65K6UdQEdQU2hDfWwifBFnUcdYm9N_gDVxiw&sig=Cg0ArKJSzEASab1c](#)

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