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**One of the most symbolic of all fruits, apples have held a central place in the traditions of many different cultures.**

With its rounded shape and red coloring (in most cases), the apple is a clear symbol of fertility, a quality that it shares with many other fruits. Some cultures also give apples an association with the divine. This association can take many specific forms, but a link with something beyond humanity is usually the constant:

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

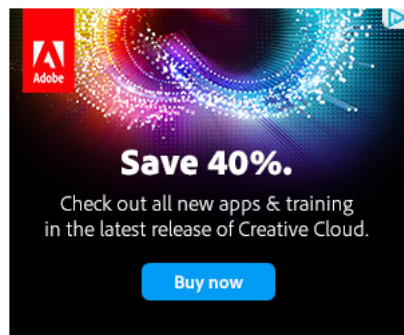
**BIBLICAL:** in the Book of Genesis, Adam and Eve are exiled from the Garden of Eden after tasting fruit from The Tree of The Knowledge of Good and Evil. Although the specific kind of fruit from this tree is never actually mentioned, later interpretations of Biblical texts often give it the form of an apple. This is possibly an allusion to the apple's symbolism as a sensuous object, which ties in with Adam and Eve's newfound shame at their nakedness.

CELTS: In Celtic lore, apples are considered the fruit of the Otherworld, a religious concept that refers to places outside the domain of humans. The legends of King Arthur feature an island called Avalon, where, after being wounded in a fierce battle, the King is taken by fairy women to rest and heal. The name Avalon translates as "island of apples".



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CHINESE: the Chinese consider the apple blossom to be a symbol of femininity, and in terms of linguistics, the fruit possesses an interesting dichotomy. The word for apple, “ping”, sounds similar to the Chinese word for peace, so apples are considered an auspicious gift to give in this capacity. On the other hand, the word for sickness, “bing”, also sounds similar to apple, so bringing an apple to a sick person would have the opposite effect.

GREEKS: two primary appearances of apples in Greek mythology are the golden apples of the Hesperides and the apple of discord. The former were given to the goddess Hera as a wedding gift from the earth mother Gaia and conferred immortality on those who consumed them. After being snubbed on an invitation to the wedding of the sea nymph Thetis and the mortal hero Peleus, Eris, the goddess of discord, inscribed a golden apple with a Greek word meaning “for the fairest” and tossed in between the goddesses Hera, Athena and Aphrodite. This seemingly innocuous event triggered a competition that would ultimately led to the bloodshed and tragedy of the Trojan War.

**Categories:** [Celtic Symbols \(/category/22\)](#), [Food Symbols and Symbolism \(/category/20\)](#), [Greek Symbols \(/category/1\)](#), [Religious Symbols \(/category/5\)](#).

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