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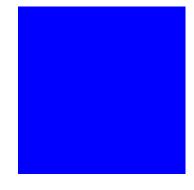




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The symbolism of the color blue.

More than anything else, blue is the color of the sky and the sea. In that capacity, it is a color often associated with the Divine in any one of its many forms (we'll get into specifics later). In the past, due to the relative difficulty and high expense of procuring material to create blue dye, it is a color strongly associated with royalty, hence the term "royal blue" The famous phrase "blue bloods" (used to refer to members of the aristocracy or ruling elite) is actually based on a relatively simple observation: If your skin is pale, you can



easily look at your wrists and notice any number of blue veins under the surface of your skin. Since the aristocracy hardly ever engaged in farming or other outdoor/manual labor, their skin did not acquire the weather-beaten or darkened look typical of the laboring classes. As such, their blue veins were always visible and became a sign of high birth.

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CHINA: in the Chinese system of the four cardinal directions, blue is the color associated with the east, the season of spring, the element of wood and the dragon. In Chinese culture, dragons are essentially divine creatures strongly associated with the heavens, which in itself is one of the connotations of the color blue (see introduction).

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CHRISTIANITY: in religious paintings, particularly during the Renaissance, blue was the color of choice to depict the cloak of the Virgin Mary. This related to her role as Queen of the Heavens and her virtues of piety and chastity. This prestige was enhanced by the fact that one of the primary sources of blue pigment at the time was lapis lazuli, a deep blue semiprecious stone that was highly expensive but could be ground into powder for a wonderfully deep blue paint.

INDIA: in Hinduism and Buddhism, blue is the color of the Throat or Vishuddha Chakra, one of seven energetic points situated along the body, and governs aspects such as communication, independence and security. In the Hindu pantheon, the god Vishnualong with his earthly incarnations ('Avatars') such as Rama and Krishna- are often portrayed as having blue skin, representing the infinite space of the heavens. In Hindu cosmology, too, blue is an important color. Mount Meru, the legendary peak at the center of the universe, is composed on its southern side of sapphire. Since the earth is located directly below the southern face, its sky is also colored blue.

MESOPOTAMIA: the goddess Ishtar (also known as Innana) was one of the preeminent deities worshiped in Mesopotamia (an area roughly analogous to modern-day Iraq) in ancient times. Much like the Virgin Mary centuries later, Ishtar was the Queen of the Heavens, often associated with the starry night sky. In various legends surrounding her, Ishtar is often described as wearing jewelry or carrying items made of the semiprecious stone lapis lazuli. Dark blue and flecked with golden pyrite, this stone was seen as an emblem of the heavens (only appropriate for Ishtar), further elevating the symbolic importance of the color blue.

Symbolizes the truth; intellect; revelation; wisdom, loyalty; happiness, constancy, chastity, prudence, peace, contemplation. The feminine principle of water.

Category: Miscellaneous (/category/16).

Blue (color) (/symbol/2212) is part of the Colors (/group/105) group.

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