

MODERNITY ART

Symbolism of "New Beginnings" – by Erik Kučera

New Beginnings is the story of the beginning of the New Year; our Rosh Hoshanna.

This picture has many symbols which are used to show connections between the 12 Astrological signs, the sun and the moon and the months of the Hebrew Calendar.

New Beginnings is the Start of the New Year, and it represented numerically here in Hours, Months, Rotations of the Sun and the Moon and the signs of the Astrological chart. It is even painted to represent a sundial as one notices that the triangle above the number 12 is filled with the many vibrant and radiating colors. These represent the time of year/day when the sun peaks at noon and gives off most of its light.

First attention is shown to the outlying symbols used to represent the 12 Astrological signs.

In the center of the image we find the sun, which is the source of light radiating to all other images in the picture.

Off to the side in the 9 position (as if juxtaposing a clock over the entire work), we find the moon. The Sun radiates its light to the moon, which without this light, would be just a cold dark satellite in the sky shedding no light upon the earth in the night.

As this work is called New Beginnings, it represents not only the beginning of the year, but all beginnings, even our beginning as humans and Jews upon the Earth. When one thinks of our beginning, thoughts may then turn to Genesis. In Genesis we find Adam, the first human upon the Earth and thus the beginning of mankind. Taking the name Adam, we find the digits of the numbers which are represented by the Hebrew letters in the name Adam, we get the small (or mispar katan) number 9. As the moon radiates his light upon the Earth as a reflection of the light radiating from the sun, so too does Adam radiate the light of G-d upon the Earth. Therefore the moon is represented here in position 9 of the clock face.

Within the picture's center we find a multitude of concentric Stars of David. The most obvious Star is the one found most closely around the Sun. However if the viewer were to take any one of the colored triangles around one of the numbers of the outer circle of the Star of David and then find its other coordinating colors, one would trace one half of a Star of David every time. If the viewer again skips over to another number in any direction and then traces these colored triangles one would find the other half. For example, take the numbers 11 and 9. These two numbers are represented with the colors orange and red. The corresponding numbers are then 11, 7 and 3 (orange) and 9,5,1 (red). These two triangles will then intersect perfectly to create a Star of David.

The colored triangles are in groups of 3, not only to represent the Star of David, but also to represent the grouping of the tribes of Israel. As 12 is the number of the tribes of Israel, the number 3 represents the grouping of these tribes by area. All the areas of the map represented by the tribes: 3 to the East, 3 to the West, 3 to the South and 3 to the North.

1 -12, which are symbolic of the astrological signs also represent the months of the year which are placed around the sun to represent the passage of time and changing of the seasons. Each of the astrological signs is in alignment with the month of the Jewish calendar on which they fall, (1 is Nissan (October) and there we find Libra. The numbers in circle closer to the sun represent the hours in a day.

Each time one views this work there is something new to see and experience. Stand at a different point, look from a different angle and let this magnificent work take you on a very special journey to the beginning and beyond.

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