

Mandala Intro: Circle Dynamical Process

A mandala is a circle as symbol--representing philosophical and deific principles and their dynamic interplay by spatial and sequential arrangements. Combining number properties and astrological symbolism within the mandala allows us to represent both a static and dynamic nature of experience.

In the Tibetan language, the sanskrit word mandala is translated by words which mean literally center-circumference (dkil-khor--cf. Matrix of Mystery by Herbert Guenther), but has the additional interpreted meaning "to grasp the essence."

This indicates a circular process of circulating our experience, churning the waters of experience (circumference) in order to distill the meaning or essence (center). The mandala unites a sense of boundary circle and chaos: reveals and conceals. [Losang Pema monk/scholar]

Manda-la also means a world: Mand, related to mundus. Mandala is a sacred space within which we are transformed, and it is the process of transforming. It represents the process of transforming the mind. This sacred space is your own mind. As Jung says, the mind is the transformer and the transformed. If you make your mind into the form of deity, then the deity will be present.

We were inspired by seeing the women of South India with chalk powder in different colors create beautiful mandala patterns outside their small houses every morning. The mandala symbolizes an all-encompassing unity and wholeness. That unity is not outside us but in our midst, as the mandala pattern so beautifully shows. --Anna B

In summary, three passages in The Theory and Practice of Mandala by Guiseppe Tucci point to philosophical problems which are symbolized by the mathematics of the mandala:

- A. The relation of the One to the Many,
- B. the structure of the Cosmos (World-Idea), and
- C. the relation of the individual mind to the universal.

A. The mandala indicates ***the relation of the One to the many*** in a mathematical form. It will allow us to represent in terms of picture and number the unfolding and reintegration of the emanated principles, including the Intellectual Principle, from and into the One, in both static and dynamic terms. **It shows us the One and Wholeness--** unfolding and returning from one to many. form and awareness. Mandala is a symbol of wholeness, and the relation of whole/parts.

The cosmic process is expressed in images, pictorially...the successive phases by which the One, through dichotomy--duality, subject-object--splits into the multiplicity of things, or is darkened and clouded in the subconscious... (Tucci)

B. The mandala suggests ***the archetypal form of the cosmos***, a Vision of the World-Idea, a divine seeing, in which the parts of the vision are both simultaneous and hierarchically unfolded. **It shows us COSMOLOGY:** In the geometry of the circle is an image of the structure of universal manifestation. Mandala is a map of the cosmos **SPACE:** sacred space, point, and spread of the

sphere to become universal light: expanding to space and contracting to point. Circle is the intermediary between the space view of geometry and the point view: discrete and continuous.

a mandala is...above all, a map of the cosmos. It is the whole of the universe in its essential plan, in its process of emanation and of reabsorption... It is a geometric projection of the world reduced to an essential pattern... (Tucci)

C. The mandala represents the individual mind or microcosm as well as the Universe, and is a symbol for *the reintegration of the individual mind back into the cosmic Mind*. It indicates the circulating and distilling **PROCESS**-- a process *in which* we are transformed, and *into which* we are transformed. It indicates the way in which number principles order the evolution of meaning in an individual life. align/tune individual to Cosmic. accessing and expressing the matrix of mystery. Shows the relation of inner and outer: of you and cosmos

...the mandala is no longer a cosmogram but a psychocosmogram, the scheme of dis-integration from the One to the many and of reintegration from the many to the One. (Tucci)

"Mandala is a way of realizing your Buddha nature. For its geometrical and spatial symbolism has above all, a dynamic quality which leads the person who lives this experience from the periphery towards the center; from multiplicity to unity, and from illusion and death to reality and life. The mandala is a visual symbol for mediation: a map of a deity's domain. Each deity emerging from and returning to emptiness is itself the door to knowledge of reality. For the center of the mandala is the alpha and omega: the center of the universe and the center of every person. It is the kingdom of heaven that is within us, within you."

Arnaud Desjardin -- [The Message of the Tibetans.](#)

These three meanings also suggest to us *three contexts* of the mandala used by Anthony:

- A. The metaphysical chart, the Nous or divine mind as the "divine Ideas."
- B. The Cosmic mandala as a "theophany of radiating Intelligences."
- C. The natal horoscope and transits as meanings/degrees; "you become wisdom."

Perhaps the most comprehensive symbol bequeathed to us in our attempt to penetrate the formless is the cosmic mandala or horoscope. The meaning of symbol here must be taken in the largest sense.

Firstly, it is **multivalent** (by this we mean it has many frameworks included within one comprehensive framework and vica versa, that one would be included in the many).

Secondly, the symbol is **a revelation of reality-through it reality speaks to us.**

Yet another meaning of the symbol is that of a vehicle for the **transformation of the lower empirical mind** to higher stages of abstraction. A good beginning to this notion has been given to us by Jung in his concept of the transcendent function. The symbol is an approach to the realm of the formless. --Anthony Damiani [supp 625](#)