

## What is the Logo for the Society for Esoteric and Entheogenic Knowledge (S.E.E.K.)?

**The logo of our organization, *Society for Esoteric and Entheogenic Knowledge*, is a blue celestial bull. The symbols for the Sun, as well as the Four Fixed Signs of the Zodiac (Taurus, Leo, Scorpio, Aquarius) adorn the face of the Bull, which has been given the name “Soma”.**

*Why these four Zodiac signs along with the Sun?* From a Western Perspective, the ‘Tetramorph’ from Ezekiel’s vision is said to contain the imagery of a man, a lion, a bull, and an eagle ... Rabbinic literature also connects the four creatures to the four camps of Israel during the wilderness journey (Numbers 2), which were arranged around the Tabernacle: Lion (Judah, to the East), Ox/Bull (Ephraim, to the West), Man (Reuben, to the South), Eagle (Dan, to the North). If we look up the animal symbolism of the four Evangelists - Matthew, Mark, Luke, John - we find the same four symbols... a man, a lion, and a bull, and an eagle... if we look up the four beasts found in the Book of Revelation, we find the same four symbols ... a lion, a bull, a man, and an eagle. To tie esoteric Judaism with esoteric Christianity, if we look at the fixed signs of the zodiac - Scorpio, Aquarius, Leo, and Taurus - we also find they are symbolized by an eagle, a man, a lion, and a bull... We can use deeper thinking to discern why these connections are important.

*Why the color Blue?* The color blue in Hinduism is associated with infinity, vastness, and the transcendent. This symbolism comes from the sky and the ocean, which appear boundless and eternal—qualities that align with the nature of divine beings. Hindu gods are often portrayed as limitless, omnipresent, and beyond human comprehension, and their blue skin reflects this cosmic, infinite nature.

### *Why the Bull as a symbol for S.E.E.K.?*

In the Vedic & Indo-Iranian Traditions, more specifically in the oral and written traditions found within the Rig Veda, the Bull is often associated with Soma, the sacred entheogenic drink of the gods. The bull is depicted as a symbol of divine strength, fertility, and alludes to the intoxicating power of Soma. The god Indra, after drinking Soma, is described as a raging bull, filled with divine energy.

In Mesopotamia, the Bull of Heaven in Sumerian mythology is sent by the goddess Inanna to punish Gilgamesh after the hero Gilgamesh rejects her. Several researchers speculate that Mesopotamian temples used entheogenic plants like Syrian Rue (*Peganum harmala*) or ergot derivatives in certain rituals honoring gods associated with bulls (e.g., Enlil and Marduk). The theme of entheogenic plants could also be alluded to in the “Herb of Immortality” that Gilgamesh loses to the serpent. Esoterically, the Bull represents cosmic power, divine wrath, and the forces of chaos that must be tamed or overcome. Gilgamesh and his companion Enkidu slay the bull, which angers the gods and leads to Enkidu’s death. Several scholars interpret this as an esoteric allegory for the initiate (Gilgamesh) confronting cosmic forces and undergoing a transformative spiritual trial, with some traditions linking the Bull of Heaven to the constellation of Taurus, suggesting the Bull represents the taming of animalistic instincts in the path toward enlightenment.

The Apis Bull was a sacred bull worshiped in ancient Egypt, linked to Osiris, the god of death and the underworld, and Ptah, the god who created the world. Although he began as a fertility god, Apis eventually came to symbolize eternity and the cycle of life and death. His status and reverence also represented the strength, virility, and power of kings. Some initiatory Egyptian mystery rites may have included entheogenic experiences using Blue Lotus (*Nymphaea caerulea*), or other entheogens. The bull’s death and rebirth were symbolic of spiritual resurrection, a common theme in entheogenic traditions.

In the Mystery Cults of Rome & Persia, sprang Mithraism, which is a mystery religion in the Roman Empire (influenced by Zoroastrianism), centered around Mithras slaying a sacred bull. The bull’s blood was believed to contain divine life force, and initiates may have consumed a ritual drink, possibly psychoactive, in sacred caves. The blood of the bull gives new life to the universe, similar to Christ’s sacrifice in Christianity. The ritual killing of the bull (Tauractony) by Mithras, the Persian-Roman god of light and truth, symbolized cosmic rebirth and the transformation of the initiate. In esoteric terms, the ritual bull sacrifice symbolizes spiritual transformation, cosmic renewal, and initiation into divine mysteries. The bull is linked to Taurus, and Mithras is seen as the divine hero conquering the lower material realm, destroying the ego, and reaching to higher cosmic consciousness.

In the Greek Mystery Religions, the Greek god Dionysus, associated with wine, ecstasy, and altered states, was often depicted in bull form or with bull horns. His followers, the Maenads, participated in wild, ecstatic rituals involving wine and possibly psychoactive plants like Datura or Belladonna. In Orphic Mysticism, Dionysus is torn apart (like a sacrificed bull) by the Titans and reborn, reflecting the cycle of death and rebirth in entheogenic experiences. The bull represents sacred madness, divine intoxication, and spiritual liberation. The Maenads, his female followers, would enter frenzied trances, sometimes ritually dismembering a bull, symbolizing dissolution of the self in divine ecstasy.

In Minoan Crete, bull imagery is associated with the Labyrinth, Minotaur, and rites of initiation. The Eleusinian Mysteries, the most famous Greek entheogenic cult, used Kykeon, a psychoactive drink possibly made from ergot-containing barley (*Claviceps purpurea*, an ergot fungus, effects grasses and cereals and contains compounds chemically-similar to LSD. This fungus and its toxic alkaloids were later used by Albert Hofmann in the creation of LSD). A number of scholars speculate that bull imagery in Minoan and Greek mysteries reflected the entheogenic journey, with the bull symbolizing raw, divine energy to be transformed. The myth of the Minotaur, a half-bull, half-man creature, placed in the Labyrinth of King Minos, is often interpreted as an allegory for spiritual initiation. The hero Theseus enters the labyrinth, slays the Minotaur, and escapes with the help of Ariadne’s thread, symbolizing wisdom guiding the seeker through the maze of existence. Esoterically, the Labyrinth represents the mind, and the bull is the primal, untamed force that must be conquered to reach enlightenment.

Among the Huichol people of Mexico, the bull plays a key role in peyote rituals. The bull is considered a divine messenger and a spirit guide, often appearing in peyote-induced visions. The sacred pilgrimage to gather peyote involves hunting the deer, which in some myths is interchangeable with the bull as a sacred offering. The bull is a spirit guide that leads the shaman through visionary realms.

In Siberian shamanism, the bull appears as a prevalent symbol in several indigenous traditions — Sakha (Yakut), Buryat Mongol, Tuvan, Evenki & Tungusic shamanism — and is particularly prevalent among Turkic, Mongolic, and Tungusic-speaking peoples. The bull often represents spiritual power, cosmic forces, ancestral connection, protection in shamanic trance states, as well as a guide for the shaman’s soul into higher realms during altered states of consciousness.

*In summary*, the bull appears as a psycho-spiritual symbol in many traditions, representing 1) Fertility & Life Force, 2) Cosmic Sacrifice & Rebirth, 3) Shamanic Visionary Power, 4) Ritual Ecstasy & Divine Madness, 5) The Untamed Lower Self (instincts, primal energy), 6) The Path of Initiation (labyrinths, trials, visionary states), 7) A Divine Messenger Between Realms. 8) The Celestial Constellation of Taurus.

**Esoteric Alchemical Meaning:** The bull represents raw material energy that must be refined through spiritual alchemy. In alchemical symbolism, the bull is often seen as the Nigredo (blackening) stage, where matter and the ego must be broken down before rebirth. Some medieval alchemists associated the bull with Taurus, which rules the throat and the power of the spoken word (Logos)—linking it to Hermetic teachings. The bull’s horns are sometimes seen as a crescent moon, representing duality and the merging of opposites in the Great Work.