

THE NATURAL MANDALA

Meditations from the Sacred Book of Nature



This is:
**THE EGG SHELL
ORNAMENTED RING**

The Egg Shell Ornamented Ring symbolizes many things, in many layers and most of these have yet to be revealed. The awakening of this revelation begins with you. First consider the egg. When you think of an egg, what comes to mind? Do you have specific memories about the egg? No matter the degree of how insignificant you think they might be, your memories now become more relevant – as they have always been.

Much like the imagery and visions that are expressed within your dreams, even your day to day experiences, and the memories of those experiences, become the iconography of your personal history – your own unique, personal language that becomes a veritable guide book or map that you can access to navigate this sojourn we call our life path. There are other guides that are available to us waiting to be accessed, to be sure, but how we weigh these against our own experiences measures who we are, defines how we operate while on this path and can be our inspiration and our impetus for moving forward on this labyrinthine quest.



Egg Shell Ornamented Ring Section Detail

Consider the properties of the egg; it's form and shape but more so as it being a metaphor as a "container" of life. It symbolizes the merging dualities of the life force energies of male and female. Combined they symbolize the essence of self-replication that "Life" has on this planet. It's a single-minded edict to *continue*, to *flourish*, to *expand*, and therefore can be considered a symbol for hope, for prosperity, the future and for what the Earth is; a "container of life."

What could/does it mean to use eggshell in a ring like this? Does it change the meaning for the shell being "altered" or "broken" into small bits, then spread out within a ring? What do ancient practices tell us about properties of various materials broken down into smaller elements and then spread out into areas such as a circle? Perhaps these circular enclosures are used to harness the sacred geometric power of the circle, then further enforced by the protection of the life force brought into convergence by the essence of the egg shell (a hard container) and the other elements presented therein.

Consider the uses of the egg and its shell used in various rituals of many different cultures and belief systems; now consider what the egg symbolizes for you. Consider that breaking down the eggshell as alchemically mutating the essence of the egg and its symbolism, the eggshell symbolism and the contents of the egg symbolism (yolk, etc). Which of these are most important? That is; which came first, the symbol or the egg?

Can you identify each of the elements within the eggshell ring? Independent of one another, what are the symbols of these elements? As we integrate them into the ring, what might be the paired meanings of these: eggshell + flower, eggshell + anise seed, eggshell + almond shell, etc.? What are the meanings to any chosen subset of these elements within the ring? What does their combined elemental symbolisms bring to the wisdom of the entire ring? Does the ornamented layer add to the meaning of the eggshell or does it detract from its intention for you? Are these elements purely for the sake of "ornamentation" or do they possess inherent symbolic meaning that without these, the ring would not mean the same to you, as what it does now?

Consider these egg facts: ground eggshells are used as a food additive to deliver calcium. Do eggs have medicinal properties? The egg is the "protein" of life. Eggs serve as an agent for binding ingredients together. Eggs are a source of nutrients and sustenance. The architecture of the egg shape has both a formidable strength and an alternative vulnerability. In ancient Rome, meals often started with an egg course, then they would crush the shell in their plate to prevent evil spirits from hiding there. The Egyptian Ankh uses the shape of the egg, much like a cross, to symbolize the life force.