

THE NATURAL MANDALA

Meditations from the Sacred Book of Nature

RING OF MEDALLIONS



Among the variety of prominent features within The Natural Mandala, the most popular receiving commentary is the Ring of Medallions. I have observed people as they begin to look at the mandala for the first time, their eye will invariably be caught by one of the medallions. As they look at the design and materials within it they seem to be guided to the next one, then the next. It is then that they realize that they are all, not variations on a theme, but uniquely independent in design and material in every way. They become overwhelmed, having calculated the time they needed to “take-in” the details and nuances of the first and second medallion, the scope and magnitude of the entire mandala work then falls upon them. They realize that by applying the same scrutiny to all of them, plus the rest of the mandala, would command their time and attention exponentially. I have witnessed many that flounder at this attempt and eventually they leave the details and give in to the totality of The Natural Mandala proper. Have you had a similar experience? Do you find that you become lost within the intricacies of detail? What does this mean to you?



The term *medallion* conjures a myriad of imagery that extends well beyond the simplistic definition of a circular, ornately carved or engraved metallic work of art. For some, a medallion is considered to be relative to a *shield*, as most warring cultures would decorate their armorial bearings with the symbolism of their beliefs and the iconography of their country and culture. This imagery established a coat of arms identity with all the ornate details being fixed within the concept of power and honor but more significantly, that of protection. Consider then that the geometrical designs of the medallions are diagrams passed down from ancient mystics who used their configuration to initiate one into a higher order of consciousness as a way to fortify and protect. Each of these might serve as a specific prayer for dispelling negative energies like an amulet, charm or talisman. In what context could these medallions be like nature’s charms? Don’t we instinctively connect to various organic materials and use them for their protective qualities? Think large and think small; what organic materials do you use? Consider how we use organic material for medicinal purposes to create potions, serums and ointments to cure our dis-ease. Is this not a form of armor that shields us from the suffering of wounds and illness but further invokes blessings upon us, divine hope and guidance in this veritable apothecarian collection of pictorial glyphs?



Consider that each medallion is a piece of the puzzle that illustrates the fecundity of nature, bringing our focus back to the splendor of organic form. This is the language that Master Creator speaks and uses these and all of nature to teach us about variety and the scope of diversity within the Nature of All That Is. How is it then that humans think that we should all be the same; look the same, act and speak the same, believe and love the same and that in any possible way should be like our brother? What do the medallions illustrate for you about nature’s edict for variety and what application does this play in your life? How could Nature’s Law of Diversity be written more clearly? How do the medallions illustrate diversity for you? Do you picture them as individual pieces or do you only read them as a unified ring?



Even though medallions are arranged in a ring, in what direction should they be read? As they encapsulate the “language of nature” how do we begin to learn the subtleties of their grammar? Consider the medallions to be an unknown form of scriptural storytelling revealing truths from the wisdom of nature. Maybe these are like Egyptian hieroglyphs or the rondels and quatrefoils of a Gothic Rose Window daisy-chained together to tell a story like blocks in a storyboard, each telling an independent part of the whole like chapters of a book, stanzas of a poem or verses of scripture from a religious text. Each vignette is meant to discuss some specific aspect of nature’s wisdom, thereby revealing truth from the mind of God. In order to unlock the mysteries within each of these, so many aspects would have to be considered; the knowledge, history and lore of each material used, the way they are used within the circular form, the colors and texture of their combined harmonies, and how they may be in rhythm with the medallions surrounding them or in contrast to them. How do you respond to the colors, textures and designs of these medallions and what imagery is brought to mind? What is the story they are telling you?



Another most significant component is the use of numbers, geometry and pattern, just as they were vital to the Freemasons, Rosicrucians, the Illuminati and even the ancient Christian mystics that found this symbolic ordering to be of divine consciousness. How do you relate to numbers? Do you find any prominent ordering, number sequences or patterns in your life? What do you understand these to be? How do you define these aspects as groups of experiences? As you look closer at the medallions, or any part of The Natural Mandala, are you beginning to hear the whispers of nature’s language? What does the gravity of this subtle call *feel* like?



Each medallion offers a characteristic from nature, a kind of ephemeral icon that speaks of nature’s wisdom, it’s elusive meaning passes us by even when we are most receptive to its message, then it is gone in the next moment, leaving us with certain curiosity, intrigue and mystery. What messages can you read within the ordered medallion ring? What do each of these medallions mean to you? What might they mean as a storyboard whole? Might the medallions be in a mixed order needing rearrangement? Do you feel that they should be reordered? What order would you put them in? Do you think that they could also be read by their positioned alignments like astrological aspect in trine, conjunction, sextile, square or opposition? Similarly, what “constellations” or groups of experiences are you drawn to within the medallion ring? Do you have a sense for the language that nature speaks, perhaps not just within the mandala, but within your own back yard? What revelations are being given to you and what relevance do they play in your symbolic, archetypal, spiritual life? If you had these answers, what would you do with the knowing?



It is not intended that the medallions harness some mystical powers but that their mere presence and configuration alludes to nature’s authentic wisdom – perhaps discovered by mystic sages of the past. Consider that God, through nature, attempts to communicate by nature’s undiscovered vernacular and that it is only understood by those willing to seek a higher order of receptivity to these often subtle, divine truths. Consider that when we seek nature for guidance, we might truly then be able find God within.