HERA'S

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Hera's Symbols: A Queen's Many Facets

<u>Hera</u>, the Greek goddess of women, marriage, and family, wasn't confined to just one symbol. Each object associated with her represented different aspects of her power and domain. Here's a breakdown of some key symbols:

Royalty and Authority:

- Diadem/Crown: Worn by Hera, signifying her status as queen of the Olympian gods.
- Scepter: A symbol of power and authority held by royalty.

Marriage and Fertility:

• **Pomegranate:** Associated with abundance, fertility, and eternal life, reflecting Hera's role in marriage and childbirth.

Animals:

- Cow: In ancient times, Hera was worshipped as a "Cow Goddess," symbolizing abundance and motherhood.
- **Peacock:** In later Greek art, the peacock became associated with Hera, representing her majesty, pride, and all-seeing nature.
- **Cuckoo:** Linked to the myth of Zeus seducing Hera in the form of a cuckoo, reminding viewers of her complex relationship with her husband.

Colors:

• **White:** Traditionally associated with purity, marriage, and royalty, reflecting Hera's divine stature.

Additional Symbols:

- **Lion:** In some depictions, Hera is accompanied by a lion, symbolizing strength, courage, and protection.
- Lotus Flower: Represents beauty, fertility, and rebirth, aspects aligned with Hera's domain.

Remember:

- These <u>symbols</u> often overlapped and combined meanings, reflecting Hera's multifaceted nature.
- The specific symbols used varied depending on the artist, context, and historical period.
- Understanding these symbols provides a deeper understanding of Hera's character and

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significance in Greek mythology.

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