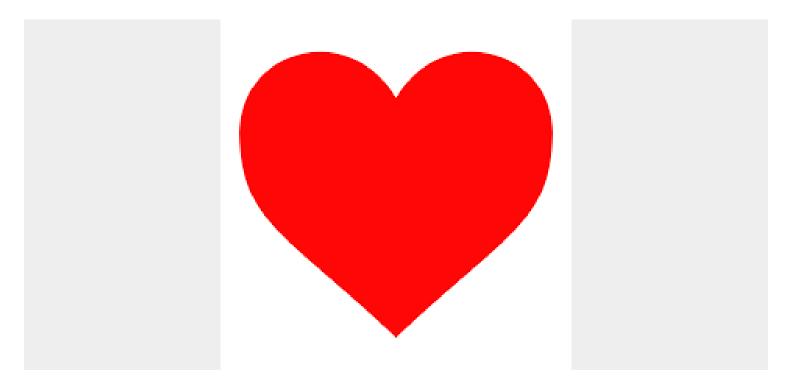
Heart

# **HEART**

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Symbols of the World and their meanings

The <u>heart</u> symbol, though far from anatomically accurate, is a powerful and versatile ideograph recognized across cultures. It transcends its simple shape to represent a wellspring of emotions, primarily love and affection, especially romantic love.

## **Ancient Origins:**

• Used for centuries, the symbol's exact origin remains debated. Some trace it back to ancient Egypt, while others find connections to plant shapes or even the human heart's stylized depiction.

#### **Beyond Romance:**

- While love is its primary domain, the heart symbol can also represent:
  - Compassion and empathy
  - Passion and enthusiasm
  - The center of one's being
  - The source of courage and strength

#### Variations and Meanings:

- Different variations of the symbol carry additional nuances.
  - A heart adorned with a ribbon might signify love as a gift.
  - A heart pierced by an arrow evokes **Cupid's influence** and **falling in love**.

### More Than Just an Image:

- The heart symbol is deeply embedded in human culture, appearing in art, literature, and even technology (think emojis!).
- It serves as a reminder of the power of emotions and their ability to shape our lives.