

“Fall of Man “ – Symbols

- Paradise or Eden:** garden or heaven like place; any place of plenty and extreme beauty
- God:** someone in authority; a father or wise old man; creator (artist, painter, musician)
- Adam:** first man; everyman; character whose name starts with “A”
- Eve:** first woman; temptress; character whose name starts with “E”
- Adam & Eve:** first parents; innocence
- Cain & Abel:** two children who argue, one killing the other; jealousy over gifts to father
- Cain:** character whose name starts with “C”; farmer, wanderer, accused one
- Abel:** character whose name starts with “A”; shepherd whose innocent blood is shed
- Tree of Knowledge:** knowledge of good and evil or any essential knowledge
- Tree of Life:** renewal and everlasting life
- Loss of Innocence:** happens as a child; traumatic rite of passage to adulthood
- Eating of Forbidden Fruit:** temptation; can be any fruit, including apple
- Lucifer:** Satan, leader of fallen angels; snake; name means “the light-bearer”
- Serpent:** snake; evil; Satan or ultimate evil; death (In Oriental religions – eternal life)
- Expulsion from Eden:** cast out of safety and loss of innocence; often compared with birth
- Confession to God:** often soliloquy; prayer; confessing one’s sins to an authority figure
- Nakedness:** eternal innocence and honesty
- Fig Leaves, Palm Leaves:** wearing these symbolizes loss of innocence
- Sin & Death:** “the wages of sin are death”
- Curse:** bad luck or result of one’s evil actions
- Expiation:** redemption through suffering; confession eases evil results of one’s sins
- Butterfly / Cocoon:** rebirth; change from ugly to beautiful; emergence symbolizes freedom
- Dark:** evil, unknown, ignorance; the female principle
- Light:** good, truth, presence of God; the male principle
- Open vs. Closed:** acceptance vs. freedom and repression
- Water:** birth or rebirth; spirituality; cleansing; baptism represents spiritual rebirth
- Flowers, Buds, Blossoms:** Spring; rebirth; innocence; also innocent sexuality
- White:** pure, valiant, innocent, good
- Red:** passion, blood, and sexuality; blood on hands symbolizes guilt

Green: growth, fertility, and life

Blue: truth, spirituality and intellect

Gold: purity and power; associated with kingship and God

Purple: nobility, royalty

Yellow: royalty, but also fear and helplessness

1: God, the ruling universal principle; unity in diversity

2: duality, spirit vs. flesh, good vs. evil, suggests two opposing forces govern creation

3: trinity; Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; New Testament has 27 books (3x3x3); Christ crucified at age of 33 (3x11)

4: four seasons; symbolic of complete cycle

7: “lucky number” consisting of 3+4; 7 virtues, 7 Sacraments, 7 deadly sins

12: apostles or any group surrounding a great and holy figure

13: evil number; number at Last Supper

40: days and nights of Noah and temptation of Christ by Satan

666: associated with Satanic powers