



# Jewish Symbols

by Adrienne Simpson



## Jewish Symbols

Religions, as you already know mostly have symbols. Right now I am going to tell you about Jewish symbols. Judaism has a lot of symbols. From the simplest, to the oldest. Jewish symbols can have many different objects tied to one meaning. Like the menorah is only one of the many symbols of faith. Some symbols are mistaken for a meaning they are not, like the mezuzah. The mezuzah is usually thought of as a symbol of luck, but is actually a symbol of God's presence. Now that I informed you about Jewish symbols I can get to the rest of my photo essay.

I was at my grandma's house once again. Once again, I was flooded with all the religious things, that I didn't notice that half of those objects, were symbols. It was hard to think of all those symbols, so I only thought of two at a time. A menorah and Shabbat candles. Both locked up in a glass cage below the glowing chandelier and to the left, in the beautiful dining room. I also thought of other symbols, my grandma's Jewish star jewelry and Moshé's (Moshé is my grandma's 2nd husband) garmulkes, in the shiny wooden nightstand. And then, I thought about Moshé's collection of Jewish praying books. I had never known there could be so much symbolism in one religion.





**The Star of David or Jewish star represents Jews as an independent religion. And if you are Jewish you most likely have a necklace or bracelet (and sometimes even a clock). My grandma and I also have Jewish star necklaces.**

**The Hamesh hand is the symbol of divinity, and is very popular today. People have Hamesh hands on necklaces and bracelets mostly. I have a Hamish hand bracelet. Divinity is the condition of having divine or superlative qualities.**





**The menorah is the oldest symbol of faith. People light the candles on the menorah on Chanukah. A menorah is a candelabrum with eight branches of equal size. Menorahs are very old. They have been on earth for more than 500 years. People light the candles on Chanukah to commemorate rededication of the holy temple, which was the second temple built.**

**The yarmulke is the simplest symbol of fear or respect to the king. Boys and men wear yarmulkes on their heads all the time. Reform jews may not wear yarmulkes on their heads. Reform jews are jews who are not religious.**





**The synagogue is a symbol of praying. Jews go to a synagogue every Saturday to pray. Women and men sit in different sections of the Shul, which is the place where Jewish people pray.**

**The mezuzah is the symbol of god's presence. People put mezuzahs on the door frame. When they go through the door, they kiss their fingers and touch the mezuzah. And inside the mezuzah is a mini torah.**

