

Designed by renowned artist, Maxine Miller whose work centers around the Celtic and Pagan cultures. She has devoted many years of her artistic life to honoring and illuminating these traditions for people of today. Her work is rich with exquisite detail and symbolism.

The Symbolism of the Phoenix can be found in the myths, fables, legends and religions of nearly all civilizations and indigenous cultures throughout the world. In Ancient Egypt it is called the Benu bird; in India Garuda; in China Feng Huang; and in Japan Ho-oo. In addition, the Phoenix is also an integral, and archetypal, Symbol used in Alchemy.

The Phoenix is a fabulous bird which enjoys an extremely long life span. When its current life Cycle is complete, the Phoenix Sacrifices its current self through Fire and renews itself three days later. Only one Phoenix can exist at any given time.

After this purification, a phoenix egg or a young bird appears, renewing the life cycle of the bird and making the phoenix virtually immortal and invincible. The phoenix also has the ability to regenerate itself when wounded. In the Egyptian Book of the Dead, the phoenix is a stork-like bird called the "benu". In other Egyptian texts, the phoenix is associated with Heliopolis, the city of the sun, and the Egyptian sun-god Ra.

In Rome, the phoenix was a symbol of the perpetual continuation of the Roman Empire, and the bird was featured on Roman coins a reminder of the indomitable strength of the Empire. That didn't pan out too well - the Empire didn't last forever, but the legend of the phoenix certainly did.

Maxine Miller Website: <http://maxinemillerstudios.com>