



Symbolism of the Colors

In the Maasai culture, much of their symbolism is centered around a deep connection and respect for their livestock. As a nomadic, pastoral tribe, the Maasai honor the cow which provides them with food, warmth, and a sustainable livelihood.

Each color used in traditional Maasai beadwork is an expression of unwavering respect and portrays the values of the Maasai.

RED

Red symbolizes Danger, Bravery, Strength, and Unity, representing the challenges the Maasai people face in every day life.

BLUE

Blue symbolizes Sustenance and Energy, representing the sky, which provides water for the people and their cattle.

GREEN

Green symbolizes Nourishment and Production, representing the land that provides food for the people and livestock while also symbolizing the putting down of roots and the protection of one's territory.

ORANGE

Orange symbolizes Warmth, Friendship, Generosity and Hospitality, representing the color of the gourd used for sharing milk amongst guests and welcoming visitors into one's home.

YELLOW

Yellow symbolizes Fertility and Growth, representing the color of the Sun which helps grow the grass, that feeds the cattle and sustains life.

WHITE

White symbolizes Purity and Health, representing cow's milk, which provides sustained nourishment.

BLACK

Black symbolizes Unity, Harmony and Solidarity, representing the color of the people and the daily struggles they endure.

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