

# CZECH UNITARIAN SYMBOL



The symbol was created in the late 1920's. Even though the exact circumstances are not known as well as the person who designed the symbol, we do know that the main inspiration for creating the Czech Unitarian symbol was taken from the seal of Jan Amos Comenius:



Here is another picture used by Comenius in his work *Opera Didactica Omnia* (1657) which also uses the symbol of sunflowers turned toward the sun. Čapek and the Czech Unitarians drew the inspiration from Comenius, seeing that these symbols were powerful.



The Czech Unitarian symbol was developed in stages. At first it had more simple shape using only the sunflowers, sun and soil, with letters S and B which stood for Svobodné Bratrství (Free fellowship) which was the original name of the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia.



Later the symbol was further developed. The following text was written by Václav Rubeš as the detailed explanation of the meaning of the Czech Unitarian symbol:

“The foundation of the symbol is the shield of blue color. In its center there is a large red U placed in which are growing two sunflowers with green leaves. The crown of the sunflowers have bright yellow-orange. In the center of the top edge of the shield there is a golden sun, sending its light beams down. There is a sign in the symbol with the Latin phrase “veritas vincit” – the truth wins. The meaning of the Czech Unitarian symbol is as follows:

The shield expresses the defense of spiritual values and everything which is holy to us. The sun, the ancient Slavic symbol of God, occupies a dominant position on the shield. The sunflowers are turned toward the sun, absorbing the sun’s life giving sun beams which give them light and warmth. As the sun shines on the soil, it helps the process of creating a nourishment for the sunflowers.

Sunflowers symbolize humankind. One of the sunflowers is taller than the other but does not feel superior above the other. This is a reminder that when someone is stronger physically, spiritually or otherwise, he or she needs to help, protect and support the less strong one. They should walk hand in hand toward higher level of being. Every person is different, original and has his or her place on Earth. Since the symbolic divine sun shines at all equally, people are equal before it and are an inseparable part of nature. Flowers symbolize fellowship of people, marriage, partnership and other forms of relationships.

The sun as a symbol of God stands for what is the highest value, wisdom, beauty, truth and justice in life. In this sense God is the light and sun which gives nourishment to our thoughts, feelings and understanding. The roots of our being are rooted in the native soil placed in the base of the letter U to abbreviate the name of our religious society. The arms of the letter U are like protecting pillars for the sunflowers to symbolize the spiritual shelter, protection and defense provided by the Unitarian church. Symmetry of the letter U represents harmony, peace and justice.

Golden color in the symbol is the color of sun, the giver and sustainer of life on Earth. Orange is the color of energy and life optimism. Green is the expression of hope, plentitude and generosity. Red symbolizes warmth, dedication and courage. Blue is the color of sky, peace and responsibility.”

When you meet troubles in your life, look at this symbol and think of its meaning – especially the warmth and energy coming out of the sun. May it is warming up your soul.

