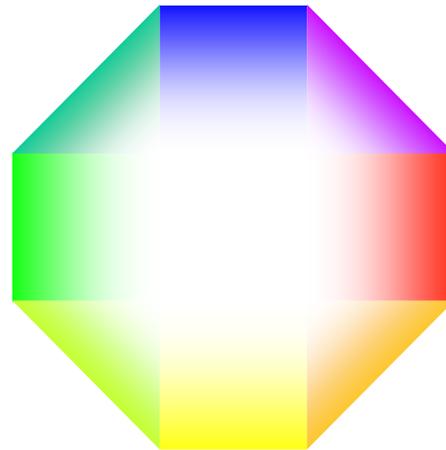


OKKI STUFF

Octaikon educational resources



ARTOC
getting creative

[Introduction and index](#)

ARTOC - getting creative

Click this icon >>>
to return to this index page



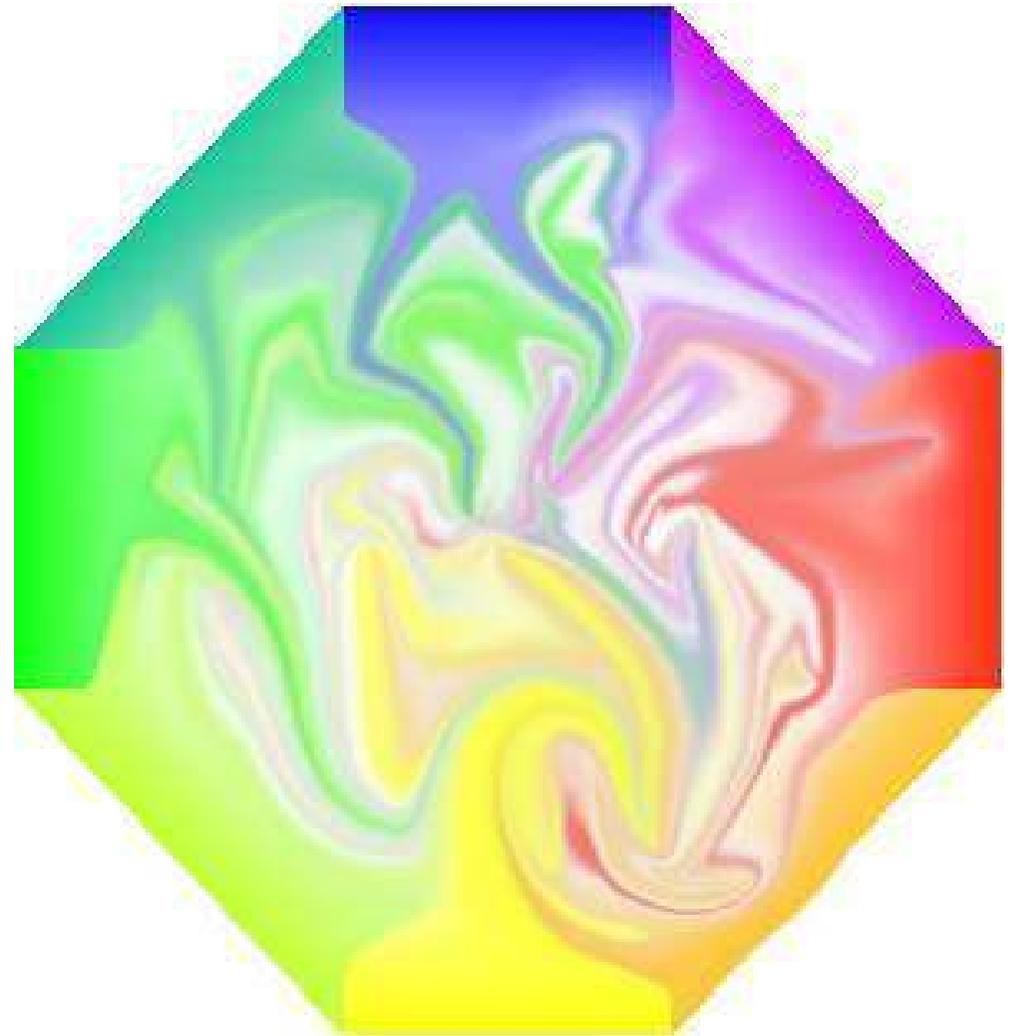
This section shows how the Octaikon can form the basis for artwork etc.

The next Okki-maps
are more of an attempt to be artistic
rather than mapping an idea.

The picture opposite is pure electronic art.
The diagram was converted into a JPEG image
the "painted" to look as though a wet brush
was drawn through pigment that had not dried.

The following examples
have some explanatory text
to get you thinking, meditating, or creating.

I AM THE TRUE VINE
EUCHARIST
SALVATION
CONFLICT AND FORGIVENESS
PENTECOST
SPIRITUAL ECOLOGY
PEOPLE
THE FACE OF THE UNIVERSE
ICON OF JESUS
THE EYES HAVE IT
OCTA-GREETINGS
CELTIC CROSS



ARTOC: I AM THE TRUE VINE

This is a quotation from the Bible.

Jesus said:

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower

*He takes away every branch in me
that does not bear fruit,
and everyone that does he prunes
so that it bears more fruit.*

*You are already pruned
because of the word that I spoke to you.*

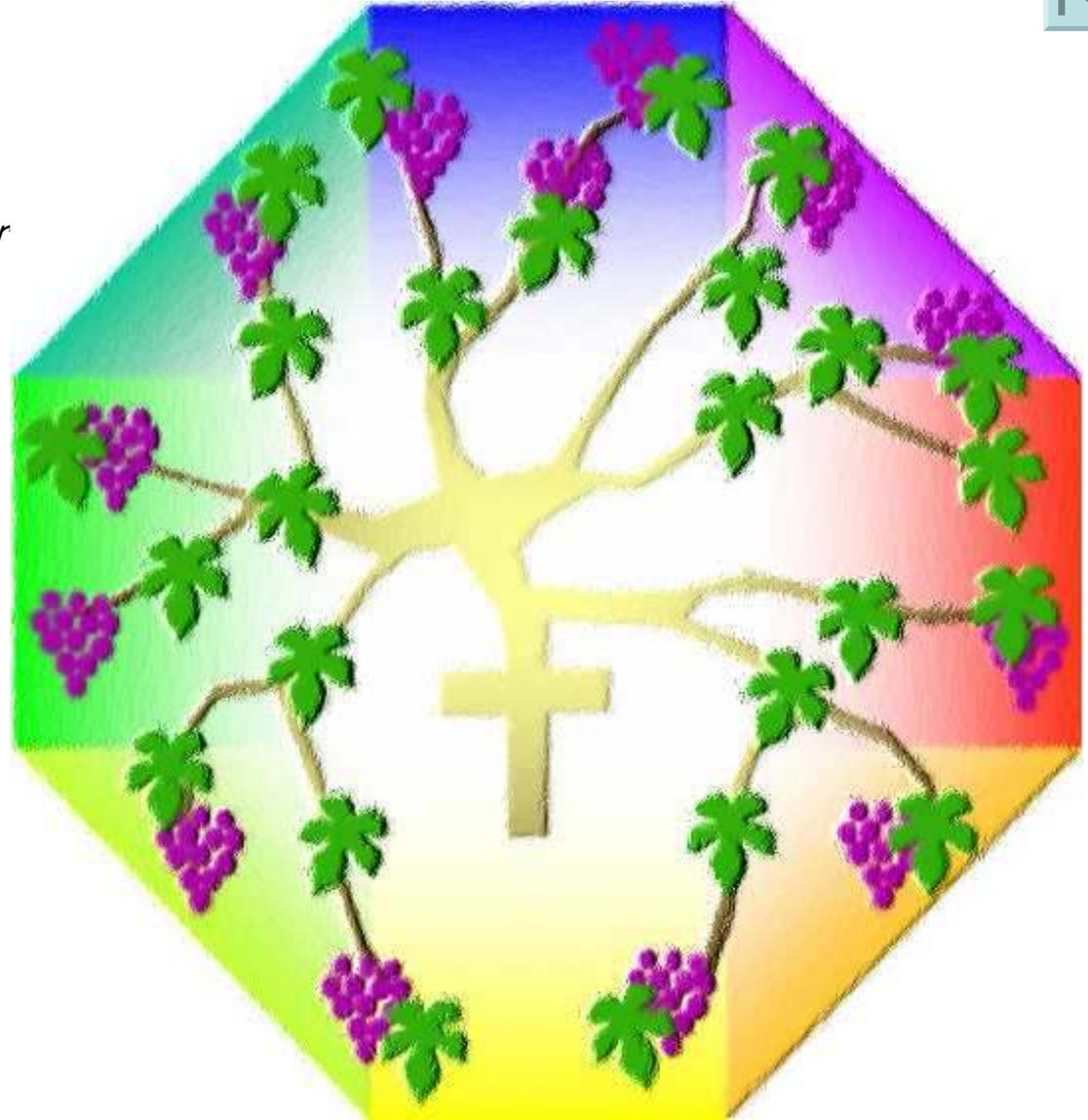
*Remain in me, as I remain in you.
Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own
unless it remains on the vine,
so neither can you unless you remain in me.*

*I am the vine, you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me and I in him
will bear much fruit,
because without me you can do nothing.....*

*.....If you keep my commandments,
you will remain in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's commandments
and remain in his love.*

*"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you
and your joy may be complete.*

*This is my commandment:
love one another as I love you.*



Who can help us to obey God's commandments?

ARTOC: EUCHARIST - THANK YOU WELL



Thank you well is a literal translation of how Flemish people say thanks - Dank u vel. And that is one way of translating the word Eucharist. It is the central sacrament of many Christian churches, and can be referred to as the Lord's Supper, or Holy Communion.

Christians have interpreted the Lord's Supper in a range of different ways... from a simple memorial to the real presence of Jesus. There is an awful lot to think about here, and a lot of deep theology. Perhaps these different ways reflect our human temperaments and ways of viewing the world?

The Catholic view is that the Eucharist is the church's central and unique way we are spiritually fed and helped to become like Christ. This Octaikon shows the idea pictorially. Through the priest, by the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus' sacrifice is re-presented, and in a special way, bread becomes Jesus' body, wine becomes Jesus' blood, and after consuming it, we become more like God. Look at the concept of the Trinity, and you should see how it corresponds to the three persons.

Why should I represent bread as green, and wine red? Because bread is made from grain - seed - which symbolises the beginning of life, and wine is made from fruit, the end of a natural cycle. .



?

ARTOC: BAPTISM - TO BE, OR NOT TO BE?



*The sacrament of baptism
is understood in different ways
throughout the churches.*

*My parents came from a strong Baptist tradition,
with an unwavering belief
that the sacrament was only for adults - believers.*

*My grandparents would not have been happy
with the idea of infant baptism*

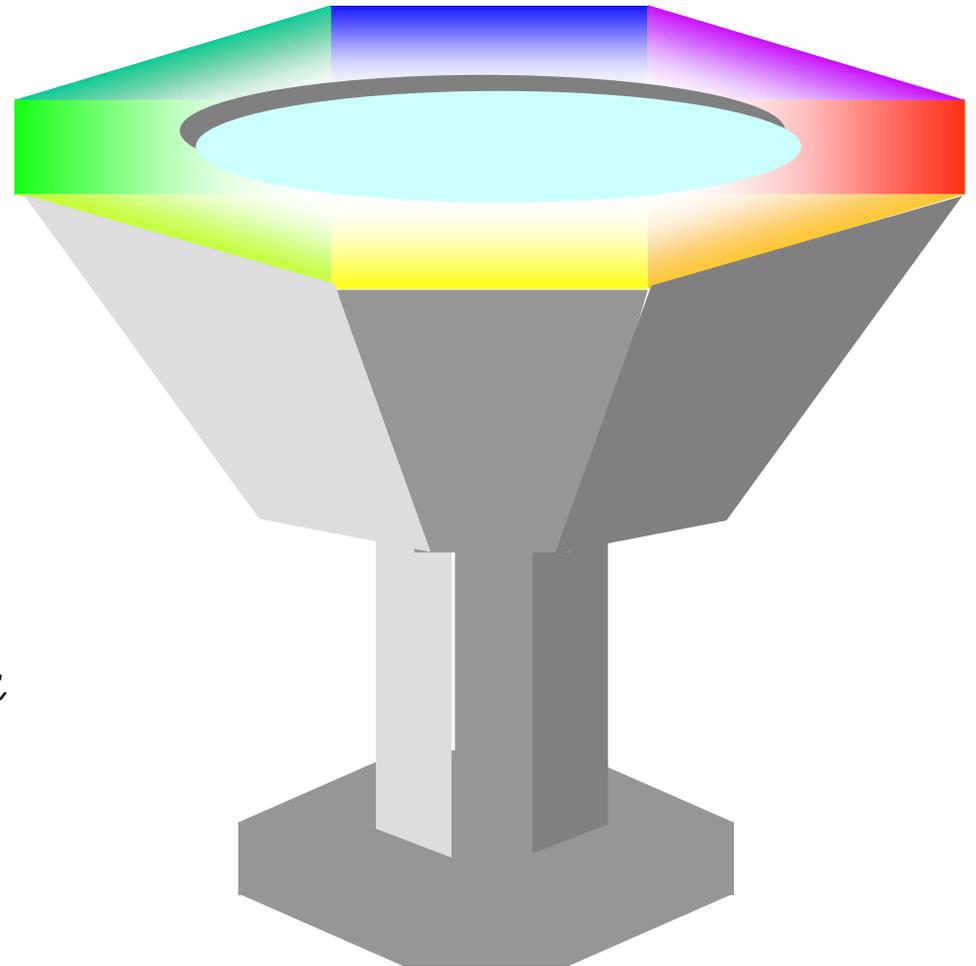
*They would have considered our children
to have been "christened"- named- but not baptised properly.
That had to come when they decided for themselves
to become Christians.*

*Whatever one's understanding,
Christians generally agreed
that the Christian life proper starts by being baptised.
It is for everyone, irrespective of how we are "coloured".*

*And although the different churches
understand the form and timing of baptism in different ways,
If needed, anyone can baptise someone, or be baptised,
at any age.*

*On this topic,
I simply had fun incorporating the Octaikon
into a picture of a baptismal font.*

*Fonts or baptisteries are often eight sided,
symbolizing the link between the physical and the spiritual.*



?

ARTOC: SALVATION

Why do we need Christ?

*Why did God become one of us? - **Incarnation**
suffer and die like us? - **Passion**
and then come alive in supernatural form? - **Resurrection***

The simple answer is - so that we can come alive like him.

*To explain what happens and why,
there are four difficult terms that Christians use.
Here is one way of understanding what they mean...*

Atonement

*Making us at one with God - body and soul.
Includes the next three concepts.*

Redemption

Paying for the sins (forgiving) that separate us from God.

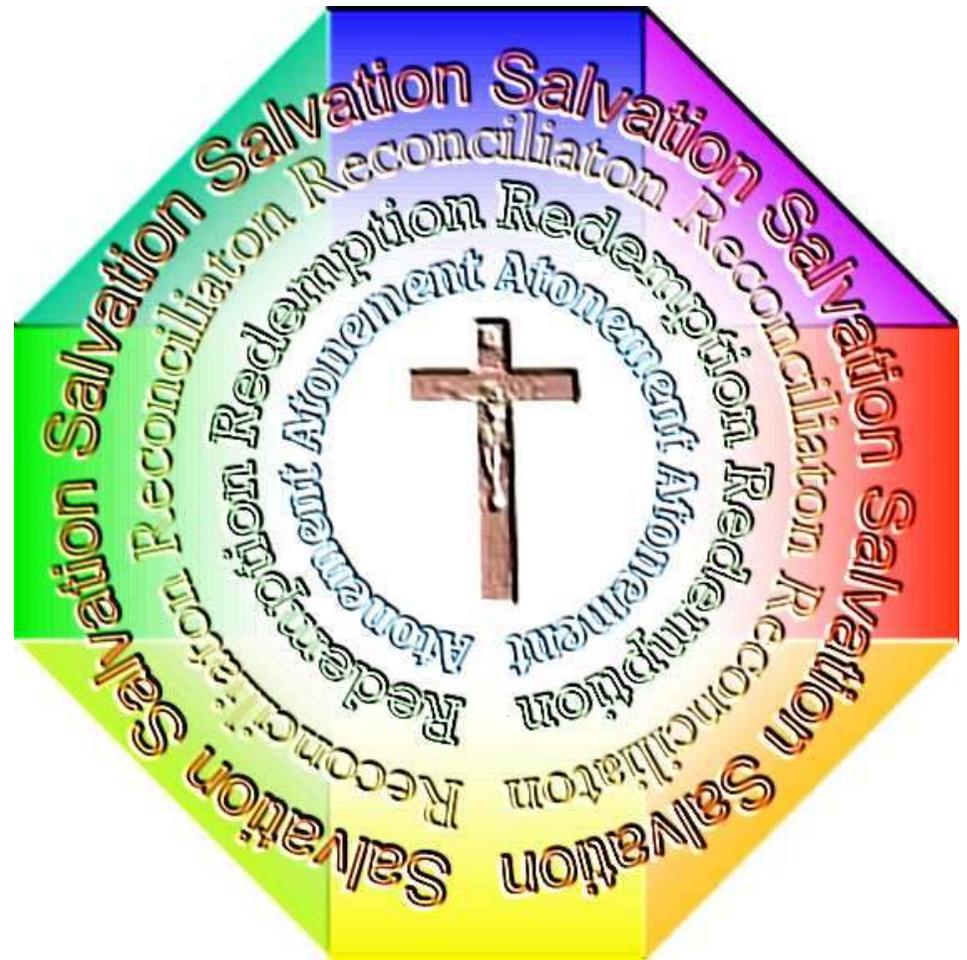
Reconciliation

*Restoring a relationship between us and God
of peace and friendship.*

Salvation

*Saving us from ourselves and showing us how to be fully
human, whole, made in God's image, with only strengths.*

*Christ's light in the Christian's soul
can be imagined as working outwards into our body
accomplishing all these things*



Is your body and soul...
... full of light?
... no black holes to be filled?
... happy to be illuminated all over?
... fully polished and reflecting?

ARTOC: CONFLICT AND FORGIVENESS



Inspired from passages in the Bible about forgiveness

*When people do bad things to us,
we may not be able to forget,
but we are asked to forgive.*

*Whenever Christians
say the Lord's Prayer,
they ask God to
"forgive us our sins,
as much as we forgive
those who sin against us".
To the extent that we forgive,
we will be forgiven.
It's a salutary thought.*

*We are naturally in conflict
within ourselves,
and with one another.
It is a result of original sin
- our fallen state.
And the only way to overcome
this conflict
is by God's forgiveness
working in and through us.
We cannot do it by ourselves.*



?

ARTOC: PENTECOST

Inspired by passages in the Bible about the Holy Spirit

*I will pour out my Spirit on all people
...be filled with the Holy Spirit
...a sound like the blowing of a violent wind
...what seemed to be tongues of fire
...your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit
... the fruits of the Holy Spirit
are
love,
joy,
peace*



ARTOC: SPIRITUAL ECOLOGY

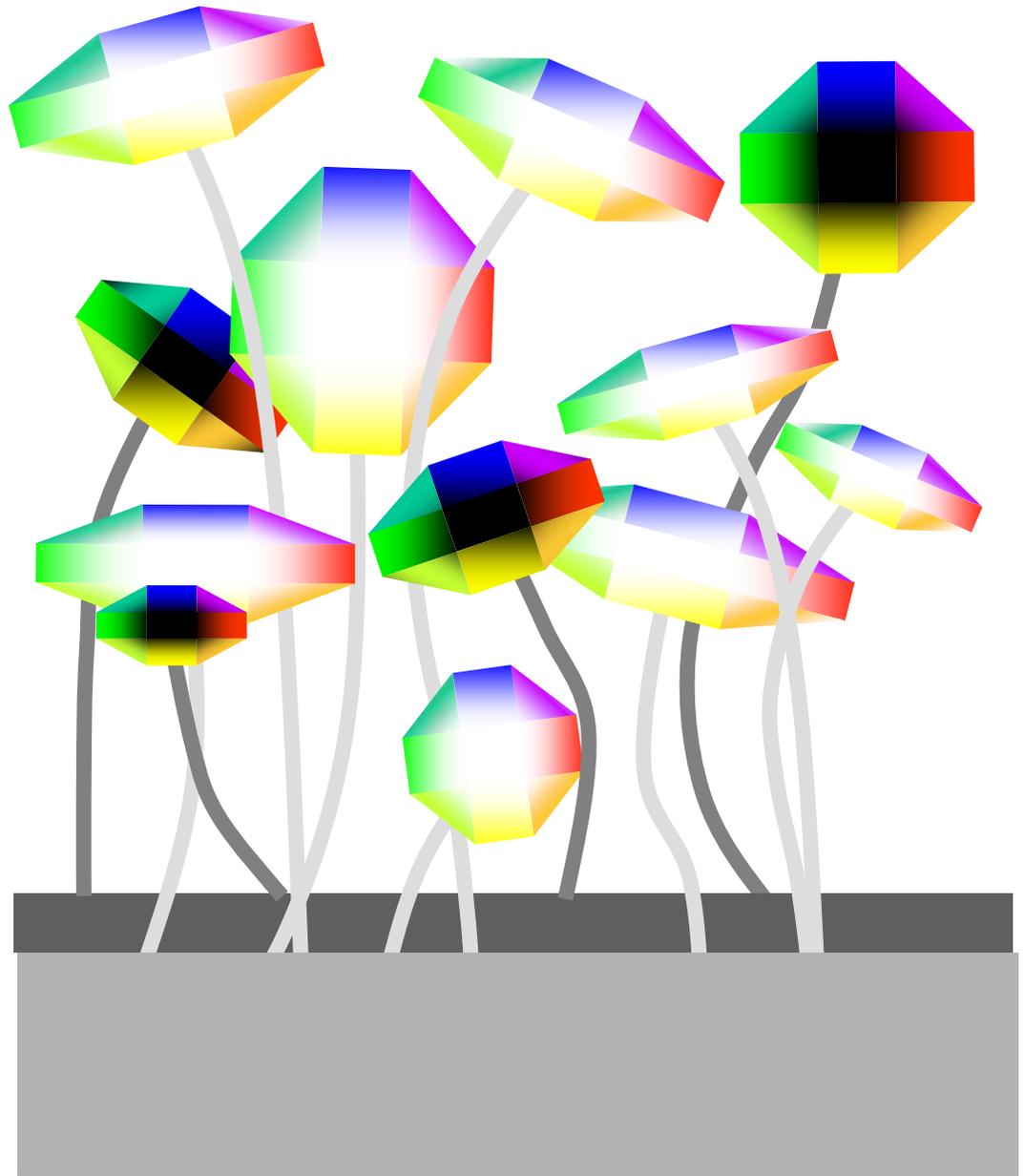
Inspired by passages in the Bible about seed

*We are like plants in a field.
The field's surface is the world,
the soil is the body of Christ.*

*The Spirit falls on both
the "weeds" and the "wheat".*

*Fed by the Spirit,
and rooted in the soil of God,
our personalities flower,
bear good fruit and spread seed
(the Word of God)*

*Flowers fall,
grass withers,
but the Word stands forever..*

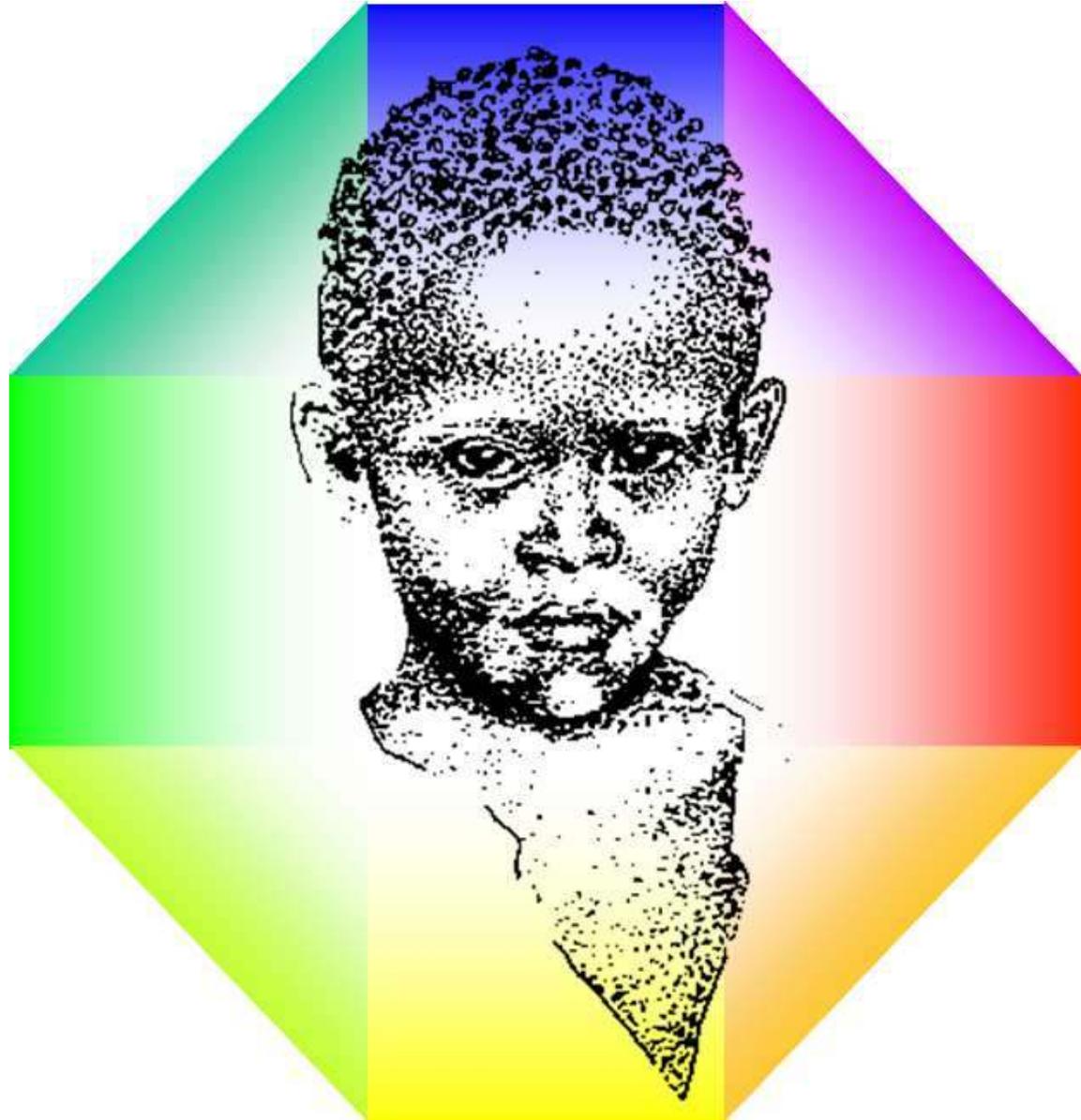


ARTOC: PEOPLE



*Draw a person
in the middle
of an Octaikon
then use
the picture
and their faculties
to meditate
and pray
for them.*

*Anna,
our daughter,
drew this picture.*



ARTOC: A FACE OF THE UNIVERSE



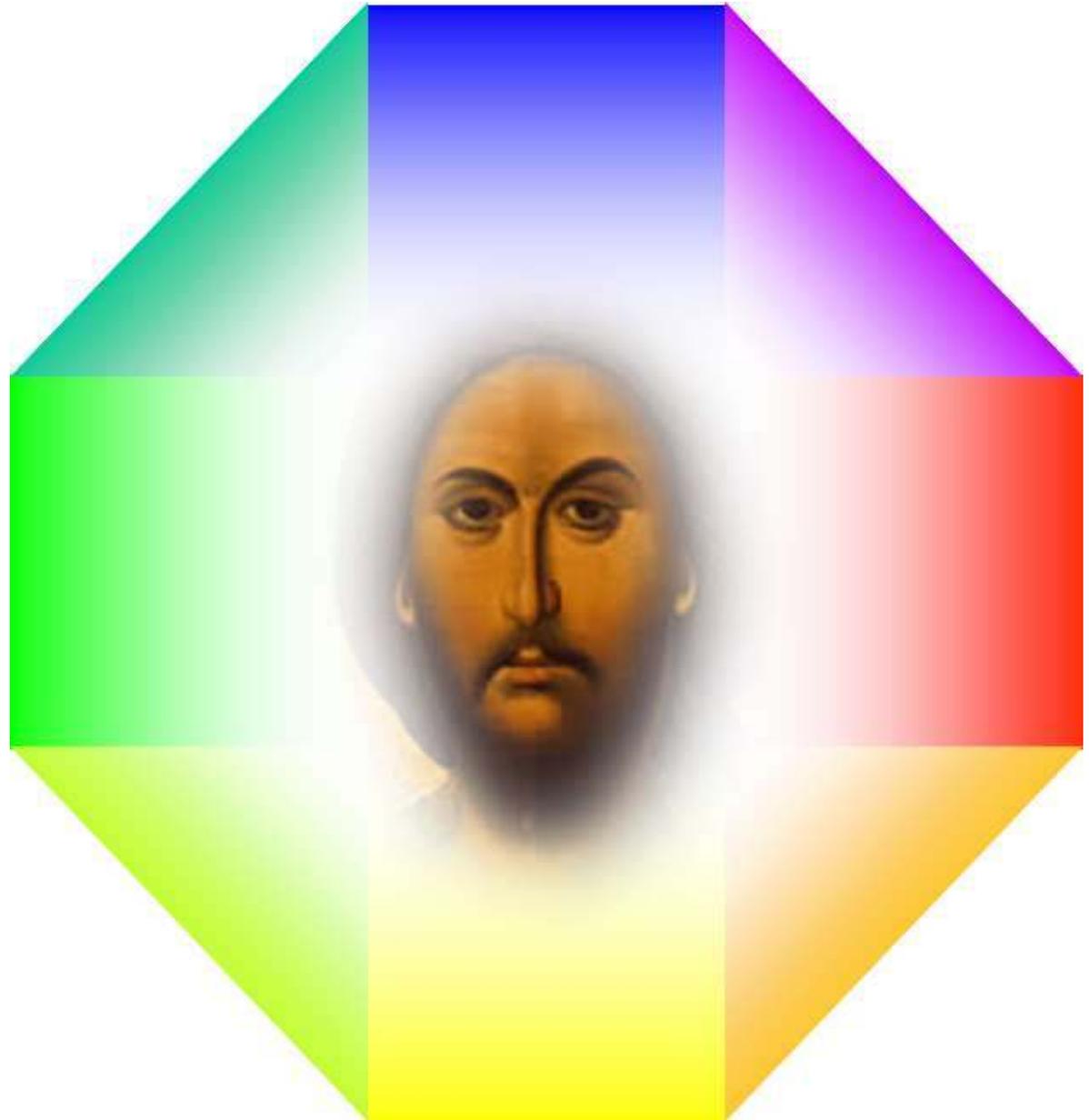
*A face made from
a NASA composite photo
of the Helix Nebula (eyes)
crescent moon (mouth)
and earth (nose)*



ARTOC: ICON OF JESUS



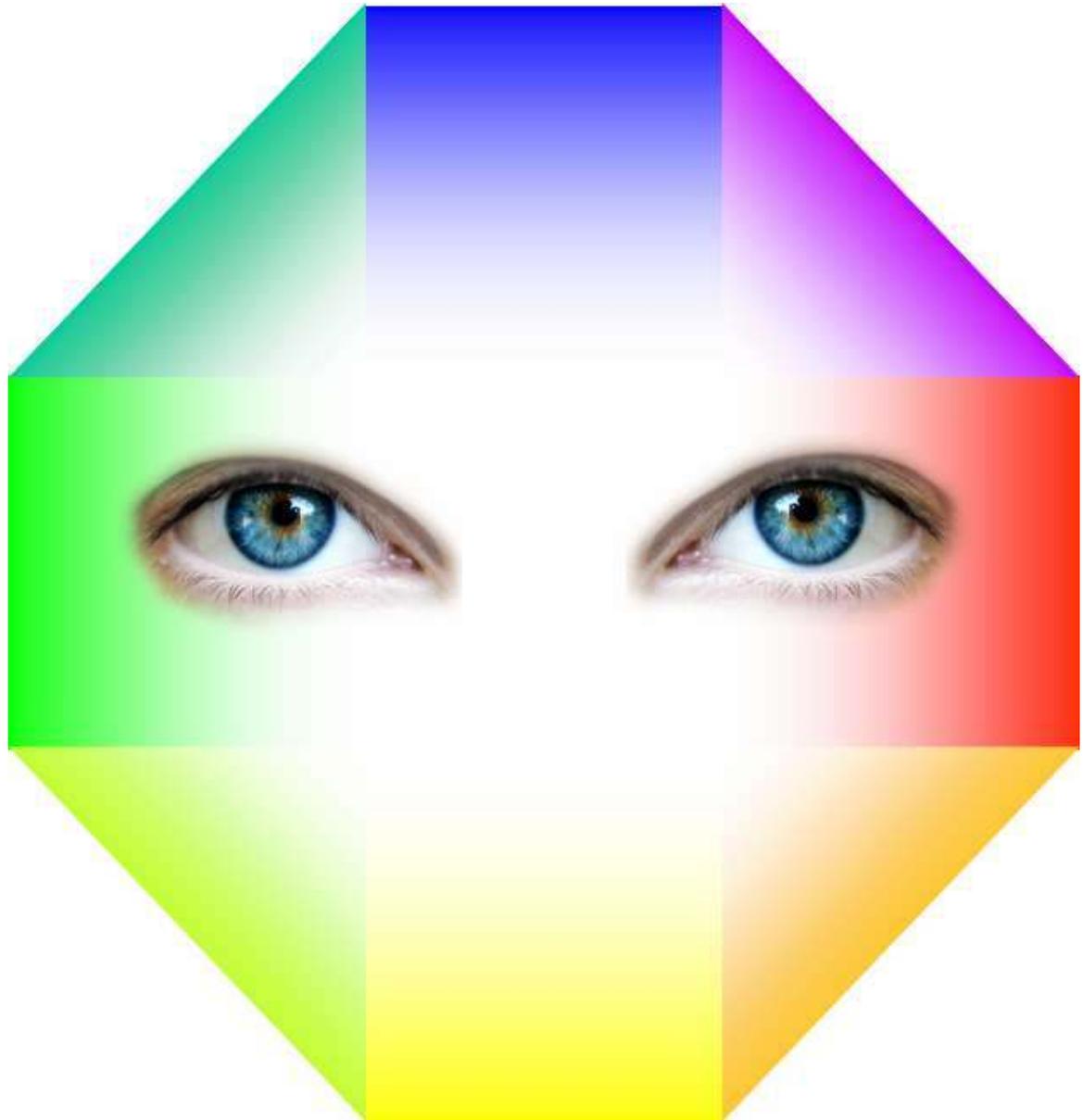
*Taken from an
icon of Jesus.
Icons are windows
onto the spiritual world.*



ARTOC: THE EYES HAVE IT



*Eyes taken from
an idealised face.
Eyes can be thought of as
windows into the soul.
Hypnotic, aren't they?*



ARTOC: OCTAGREETS



One way of using the Octaikon is to create a tailor-made graphic to send to a friend or colleague as a greetings or congratulations card showing how you appreciate them.

Here is one way you or a group of you can do this.

In the centre goes a picture of the person. You then think of the following aspects, and write them/type in:

Favourites and/or features: (green)
favourite things to listen to, read, eat, wear, drive, possessions and/or special looks or features.

Virtues / thoughtfulness: (blue)
special virtues, attitudes, great thoughts, ideas, etc.

Expressiveness / creativity: (yellow)
special gifts in arts, music, relationships, etc.

Achievements / practicality: (red)
notable practical skills, milestones, travels, notable biodata.

*The example here is one I gave to my wife!
Laminated, it can form a great drinks mat*



You don't have to print the card.
You can write and draw on a blank graphic.
Who are you going to send one to?

ARTOC: THE CELTIC CROSS

*The Celtic Cross
is a beautiful and meditative way
of keeping in mind
the various elements
of the Octaikon,
which puts less emphasis
on the colours.*

*It was only recently
on a visit to Ireland
that I realised
I have a great empathy
with Celtic spirituality,
and appreciated
how well this symbol
fits the Octaikon.*

*It is of course
also a combination of a cross
- representing our humanity in Jesus -
and the circle
- representing eternity with God -
helping us understand
how we are made
in the image of God.*

