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What does Black Signify?



Most of us grew up thinking that black is a colour, just like any other; till our science teacher explained it to be nothing but absence of every other colour. Oxford dictionary defines black as *"of the very darkest colour owing to the absence of or complete absorption of light; the opposite of white"*.

Black has somehow, not only kept me amazed; but also kept on inspiring me to explore beyond, what merely appears dark to our eyes. Here are seven specific significances that I managed to derive for the black, out of my understanding...

Black is Uncertain

Whenever the lights go off, the first and the most intense feeling that arises, is of uncertainty. What will happen next? This is such a question that keeps on revolving in the mind till our tactile senses manage to create a rough picture of what is around us. However, that is never sufficient enough!

Black is Ultimate Destruction

When everything ends, all that is left is black. The very fact that black is the absence of any colour, signifies that black is an indicative of the ultimate destruction. Although the destruction is often shown in the form of bright and intense explosions, the final outcome of all the destructions is nothing but black.

Black is Vacuum

Space is an infinitely extending spread of absence of matter. Be it black-holes taking up entire huge masses or their intense gravity that allows not even light to escape; This very well explains the never ending thirst of black for light, matter or energy.

Black is Alert

In black, the necessity arises of extreme alertness of all the non-visual senses. As a result, the skills of sensing what is beyond optical visibility is realised more than ever in nothing but black. This is the very reason why awareness and alertness enhance in black.

Black is Creative

Creation indeed starts after the end. The necessity of generating something arises, very much, in the absence. This simply also indicates the intensification of the visualisation abilities and hence creativity, in the black. This is also the reason why most ideas and visualisations occur with closed eyes.

Black is Rigid

While mixing, unlike colours instantly reacting on the tonality, black covers a wide optical spectrum and doesn't show enough noticeable change till the intensity of the other variants is strong enough. This makes black, relatively rigid and less flexible. This is also the reason why border frames are mostly black.

Black is Cold

From the very time that we've been hearing the fairy tales of dark-cold nights, the association between black and cold has begun. Optically speaking, infrared light and related colours in the visible spectrum can cause heating effect to occur on the recipient surfaces and nearby vicinity. Although black is highly heat absorbing tone, it doesn't much serve as a primary source of heat, because of which the coldness is more evident in it.