

THE EAGLE IS STRENGTH AND NOBILITY IN AND OF THE NATURAL WORLD: KING OF SKY

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ABSTRACT

The "speciality" of an eagle refers to its remarkable characteristics, including exceptionally sharp vision that can spot prey from miles away, powerful flight for soaring and diving, and strong talons for hunting. Eagles are also symbolic of power, courage, and freedom, and some sources highlight principles like focusing on prey, riding storms, and flying high. Eagle symbolism represents strength, power, freedom, and wisdom across many cultures and religions.

Physical and behavioural specialities:

- Vision: Eagles have eyesight four to eight times stronger than humans, allowing them to spot prey like a rabbit from over three miles away. They can also see in the UV spectrum, which helps them see the trails of prey. This is often linked to having a "long-distance vision" in a metaphorical sense, which is associated with great leaders.
- Flight: They have long, powerful wings that enable swift flight and powerful dives, sometimes reaching speeds over 150 mph. They can soar effortlessly by riding air currents and adjust their feathers for speed and direction.
- Strength: Their feet have strong, curved talons capable of carrying significant prey, with some species able to carry up to an 8-pound lamb.
- Hunting: They are fierce and accurate hunters, using their speed, vision, and talons to catch prey like fish, snakes, and rabbits. They are also known to hunt larger animals, such as deer.
- Social behaviour: While somewhat solitary when young, they typically form lifelong partnerships and work together to build nests and raise chicks.

Symbolic and "leadership" principles:

- Focus: An eagle fixes its focus on its prey and maintains that focus until it successfully catches it, ignoring obstacles.
- Resilience: Eagles are known to ride storms, using the strong winds to soar to greater heights instead of hiding from the storm.
- Independence: They tend to fly at high altitudes and are not found in flocks like smaller birds.

KEYWORDS: vision, flight, strength, hunting, social behaviour.

Overview: Eagle [*Aquila chrysaetos*] is the common name for certain large birds of prey within the family of

the Accipitridae. While on a genetic level, only the subfamily Aquilinae comprises "true eagles", many other

species are commonly referred to as eagles, such as the bald eagle, and the term generally carries no taxonomic weight. Most of the 68 species of eagles are from Eurasia and Africa. Outside this area, just 14 species can be found—two in North America, nine in Central and South America, and three in Australia. Eagles are not a natural group but denote essentially any kind of bird of prey large enough to hunt sizeable (about 50 cm long or more overall) vertebrates.^[1-3]



Figure-1: Eagle.

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: Aves
Order: Accipitriformes
Family: Accipitridae
Genus: Aquila
Species: Chrysaetos

Wingspan: Bald eagle: 1.8 – 2.3 m, Golden eagle: 1.8 – 2.3 m

Speed: Bald eagle: 120 – 160 km/h, Golden eagle: 320 km/h, Red-tailed hawk: 190 km/h

Lifespan: Bald eagle: 20 – 30 years, Crowned eagle: 14 years

Mass: Bald eagle: 3 – 6.3 kg, Golden eagle: 3.6 – 6.7 kg

Expert fliers. Eagles are among the fastest birds on the planet, soaring up to 15,000ft high into the sky. Flying at an average speed of 50 mph, they can reach up to 100 mph when diving to catch a meal.

Eagle symbolism primarily represents strength, power, freedom, and vision, though it's meaning varies across different cultures. It is associated with leadership and divinity, often seen as a messenger to the gods due to its high flight. In many traditions, it symbolizes courage, spiritual guidance, and the connection to the Creator or a higher power.^[4]

Occurrence: Eagles are found on every continent except Antarctica, with their distribution varying by species. For example, the bald eagle is found in North America (Canada, United States, and Mexico), while the harpy eagle is in the Amazon region of South America, and the Philippine eagle is specific to the Philippines. The golden eagle has one of the widest ranges, found across Eurasia, North Africa, and North America.

Examples of eagles and their locations

- Bald Eagle: Canada, United States, and Mexico.
- Golden Eagle: North America, Europe, Russia, Siberia, Japan, China, and Mongolia.
- Harpy Eagle: Primarily the Amazon region of South America.
- Philippine Eagle: The Philippines.
- White-tailed Eagle: Europe, Russia, Northern Asia, and the coastlands of China.
- Wedge-tailed Eagle: Australia and parts of New Guinea.
- Martial Eagle: Sub-Saharan Africa.

India is home to at least 24 species of eagles, including the Golden Eagle in the Himalayas, the White-bellied Sea Eagle along the coasts, and the Indian Spotted Eagle in various habitats across South Asia. Other eagles found in India include the Crested Serpent Eagle, Bonelli's Eagle, and Pallas's Fish Eagle.

Common and notable eagles in India:

Golden Eagle: A large, powerful raptor with dark brown plumage and a golden nape, found in the Himalayan region.

Indian Spotted Eagle: A large bird of prey with pale brown plumage and spots, native to South Asia and found in forests, wetlands, and grasslands.

White-bellied Sea Eagle: A large, gray and white raptor that lives along the coasts of India.

Crested Serpent Eagle: A large, heavily built eagle with a distinctive dark, white-tipped, bushy crest.

Bonelli's Eagle: A medium-sized eagle with a whitish body and dark wings and tail.

Pallas's Fish Eagle: A large fish-eating eagle with a broad white band on its dark tail, found in the north and northeast of India.

Andaman Serpent Eagle: A medium-sized eagle endemic to the Andaman Islands, classified as vulnerable.

Cultural and religious symbolism

- Ancient cultures: In ancient Rome and Greece, the eagle was associated with Zeus/Jupiter, representing authority. In ancient Egypt, it symbolized divinity and power.
- Native American: Eagles are considered sacred, symbolizing a special connection to the Creator and representing courage, truth, and wisdom.
- Christianity: The eagle often symbolizes Christ, resurrection, and ascension, as well as divine power and guidance. It is sometimes used on lecterns to symbolize the Word of God spreading its message.
- Islam: The eagle can represent warlike ferocity, nobility, and dominion. The "Eagle of Saladin," a two-headed eagle, is a symbol of Arab nationalism and has been used by several Arab nations.

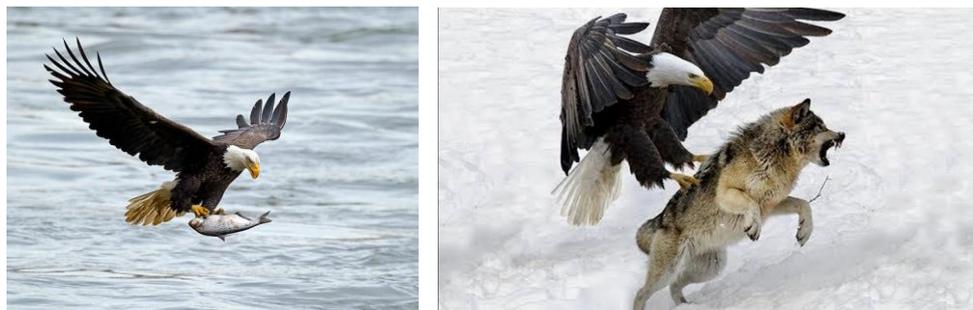


Figure 2: Haunting style of eagle.

- **Hinduism:** In Hindu mythology, the eagle is Garuda, the vehicle of Lord Vishnu, and symbolizes courage and the blessings of the deity.
 - **Political and historical symbolism**
 - **National emblems:** The bald eagle is the national emblem of the United States, chosen to represent freedom, strength, and independence.
 - **Heraldry:** Eagles have been used in heraldry for centuries, with the two-headed eagle becoming a powerful symbol for empires like the Holy Roman and Ottoman empires.
 - **Modern nations:** Many modern nations use the eagle on their flags and coats of arms, such as Albania (a two-headed eagle) and Mexico (an eagle devouring a serpent, based on an Aztec legend).
 - **Personal and spiritual symbolism**
 - **Dreams:** In dreams, an eagle may signify a crossroads in life or suggest that one needs to overcome limitations and limitations.
 - **Other meanings:** The eagle is also a symbol of nobility, success, and sharp-sightedness, representing the ability to rise above challenges.
2. The tawny eagle (*Aquila rapax*) is a large bird of prey. Like all eagles, it belongs to the family Accipitridae. Its heavily feathered legs mark it as a member of the subfamily Aquilinae, also known as booted eagles.
 3. The wedge-tailed eagle (*Aquila audax*) also known as the eaglehawk, is the largest bird of prey in the continent of Australia.
 4. Verreaux's eagle (*Aquila verreauxii*) is a large, mostly African, bird of prey. It is also called the black eagle, especially in southern Africa.
 5. Wahlberg's eagle (*Hieraaetus wahlbergi*) is a bird of prey that is native to sub-Saharan Africa, where it is a seasonal migrant in the woodlands and savannas.
 6. The African hawk-eagle (*Aquila spilogaster*) is a large bird of prey. Like all eagles, it belongs to the family Accipitridae.
 7. Gurney's eagle (*Aquila gurneyi*) is a large eagle in the family Accipitridae. It is found in New Guinea and Wallacea, and is an occasional vagrant to Australia.
 8. Cassin's hawk-eagle (*Aquila africana*) or Cassin's eagle, is a relatively small eagle in the family Accipitridae.

Varieties of eagle

1. The Spanish imperial eagle, Spanish eagle or Adalbert's eagle (*Aquila adalberti*) is a species of eagle native to the Iberian Peninsula.





Figure 3: Varieties of eagle.

1. Any of various large diurnal birds of prey (family Accipitridae) noted for their strength, size, keenness of vision, and powers of flight. 2. The eagle-bearing standard of the ancient Romans.^[5]

The seven mentalities of an eagle, according to motivational principles, are to fly alone at high altitudes to avoid smaller birds, possess strong vision and focus, hunt fresh prey rather than dead prey, use storms to rise higher, test commitment before trusting, build protective nests, and renew themselves by shedding old feathers and habits. These principles are often used to inspire success and self-improvement by focusing on vision, resilience, and continuous growth.

The seven mentalities

- Fly alone at high altitudes: Eagles fly alone or with other eagles, not with smaller, weaker birds, representing the importance of choosing your company wisely and operating at the highest level.
- Have strong vision: Eagles have keen eyesight and can spot prey from far away. This symbolizes the need for clear focus and a strong vision to achieve your goals.
- Hunt fresh prey: Eagles feed on fresh prey and avoid dead animals, which can carry disease. This translates to avoiding negativity, past mistakes, and dwelling on the past, and instead, always seeking fresh opportunities and new information



Figure-4: Eagle in high altitudes.

- Use storms to rise higher: Instead of hiding from storms, eagles use the powerful winds to soar higher than other birds. This teaches to use challenges and adversity to your advantage.
- Test commitment before trusting: Eagles test the commitment of their mates by dropping twigs for them to chase, ensuring a strong partnership before fully committing.
- Prepare protective nests: Eagles build strong, high nests with thorns to protect their families. This reflects the importance of creating a safe and prepared environment for your goals and future.
- Renew by shedding old feathers: To stay strong, eagles periodically shed their old feathers and regrow new ones. This principle signifies the

importance of continuous self-improvement and shedding old habits or ways of thinking to stay sharp and relevant.^[6]

An eagle can typically fly between 10,000 and 20,000 feet, although their maximum altitude varies by species and circumstances, such as migration. While some sources report specific species like the bald eagle reaching 10,000 feet or 4,500–6,000 meters, studies of migrating eagles show they can reach heights as high as 19,000 feet or 4,800 meters.

Typical flight: Many sources state that a typical flight for an eagle is between 10,000 and 20,000 feet, using thermal updrafts to soar and conserve energy.



Figure-5: Eagle eyes and paws.

- Migration flight: During migration, eagles can fly significantly higher, with one study finding a Golden Eagle reaching 19,000 feet.
- Species variations: The exact maximum altitude can vary depending on the species. For instance, Golden Eagles are well-adapted for high-altitude hunting.
- Using air currents: Eagles use natural air currents like thermal updrafts and orographic updrafts to gain and maintain altitude with minimal effort.
- Purpose of high flight: Eagles fly high to scan large areas for prey, which is made possible by their incredibly sharp eyesight like all birds of prey, eagles have very large hooked beaks for ripping flesh from their prey, strong, muscular legs, and powerful talons. The beak is typically heavier than that of most other birds of prey. Eagles' eyes are extremely powerful.
- Lessons from an eagle include having a clear vision, focusing intently on goals, and using challenges to your advantage. Other lessons are soaring above the crowd, associating with people at your level, acting with courage, and embracing change or renewal when necessary.

Vision and focus

- Clear vision: Eagles have exceptional eyesight, allowing them to spot prey from great distances. This symbolizes having a clear vision and setting specific goals.
- Intense focus: They maintain a steady concentration on their target until they capture it, teaching the importance of focusing your effort, energy, and time on achieving your goals.
- Mind-set and attitude:
- Rise above challenges: Instead of avoiding storms, eagles use the strong winds to their advantage, soaring higher. This teaches the lesson of embracing difficulties and finding opportunities within them.
- Courage: Eagles are fearless and will confront large prey without giving up, representing a courageous approach to life's obstacles.



Figure-6: Eagle wings

- Stay fresh: Eagles eat only fresh meat and hunt for themselves, which can be interpreted as a lesson to avoid living on past achievements and to keep learning and growing to stay vital.^[7]

Personal growth and relationships

- Soar alone or with your kind: Eagles fly at high altitudes and associate with other eagles, not birds of lower altitudes. This teaches you to associate with people at your level who can help you grow and to avoid negativity.
- Embrace change: As they age, eagles undergo a renewal process to overcome physical challenges. This represents being prepared to accept change and adapt to maintain your capabilities.
- Create your own comfort zone: While eagles have their nests, they are also known to create discomfort for their young to prepare them for flight, teaching the importance of pushing past your own comfort zone to grow. The theme of Alfred Lord Tennyson's 'The Eagle' is strength and nobility in and of the natural world. This is most noticeable in the author's use of personification and imagery throughout the poem.

CONCLUSION: "Eagle speciality" can refer to the extraordinary abilities of the bird, such as its powerful vision and hunting skills, or a multi-specialty hospital named after the eagle. The bird's key traits include sharp eyesight, a strong grip, and the ability to hunt large prey using powerful talons and flight.

Bird's speciality

- Exceptional eyesight: Eagles have vision that is four to eight times stronger than a human's, allowing them to spot prey from miles away. Their eyes can continuously adjust focus to maintain clarity even during a high-speed dive.
- Hunting prowess: They are powerful predators that hunt fresh prey, using their sharp talons to grab and carry it, sometimes with a load as heavy as 15 pounds.
- Powerful grip: Bald eagles have a grip strength of 400 psi, which is ten times stronger than a human's.
- Symbolism: The eagle is often a symbol of strength, courage, and focus due to its power and hunting skills.

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