



## TREE OF KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY COVEN PAGAN MINISTRY

### HECATE IN HISTORY

Hecate (Hekate) is a goddess from Greek mythology, and is well loved by witches and Pagans because she is associated with witchcraft, among many other aspects of life. Because of her association with the dead, the moon, the night, and night creatures, she is often feared or seen as a dangerous entity. However, she is also a bringer of light, with the torch as one of her sacred symbols. She is the goddess of boundaries and the crossroads who is both the mystery of the unknown as well as the torch that lights the way.

She is a mystery, and so too are her origins. Mark Cartwright of World History Encyclopedia explains, “According to Hesiod in his Theogony, Hecate is the daughter of Perses and Asteria, making her the granddaughter of the Titans Phoebe and Coeus. Euripides, on the other hand, mentions her mother is Leto. Other writers claim her as the daughter of Zeus and Demeter, Aristaion or Night.”<sup>1</sup>



*Temple of Hecate at Lagina (outside of modern Turgut, Turkey)*

Hecate is frequently depicted in paintings and sculptures as a woman with three bodies and three heads. This form is known as “hekataia”. These triple-formed statues or pillars of the Greek goddess Hecate were often placed at crossroads, doorways, and city gates to protect against evil spirits and to honor her role as a guardian of boundaries, including the entrance to the Acropolis of Athens.



*Hecate, Greek goddess of the crossroads; drawing by Stéphane Mallarmé in Les Dieux Antiques, nouvelle mythologie illustrée in Paris, 1880*

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.worldhistory.org/Hecate/>

## HECATE PRACTICES



What words or ideas do you associate with “light”? What words or ideas do you associate with “dark”? Spend some time reflecting on how you think about these two aspects of nature.



Why do you think Western cultures tend to see white or light as “good” and black or dark as “bad”. How could this way of thinking affect the society that we live in? How could it affect our own views or spiritual practices? Hecate invites us to wander inward through the labyrinth of our souls and question our own beliefs and practices.



Hecate is a lunar goddess who is associated with the dark or new moon rather than the full moon. She is the goddess of the nighttime, but she carries a torch to light the way for others. Myths depict her as both a fierce maiden and a wise crone. Like all women, she is complex and multifaceted. What are some of the roles that you play in your life?



Just as the moon has a shadowed half that is hidden from the world, we also have a hidden inner part of ourselves. This “shadow self” may hold our fears that we don’t talk about, a part of ourselves that we are embarrassed about, or just old wounds that we would rather ignore than heal. What parts of your personality or personal history are carefully hidden away or accidentally ignored?



Hecate is a wonderful ally to call upon when you face uncertainty and indecision. As the guardian of the crossroads, the torch-bearer, and the keeper of keys, she is able to not only shed some light on your troubles, but also unlock pathways and opportunities. Those who worship her or petition her for help have often left offerings to the goddess during the night of a new moon, at crossroads if possible.



## CHANT

All of these chants are beautiful on their own, but they follow the same beat and can be sung as a round. If possible, have the men sing “Hoof and Horn” and the women sing “We All Come From The Goddess”

### Sage And Crone

Sage and Crone, Sage and Crone,  
Wisdom’s gift shall be our own.  
Crone and Sage, Crone and Sage,  
Wisdom is the gift of age.

### Hoof And Horn

By Ian Corrigan

Hoof and horn, hoof and horn,  
All that dies shall be reborn.  
Corn and grain, corn and grain,  
All that falls shall rise again.

### We All Come From The Goddess

By Lila

We all come from the Goddess  
And to her we shall return  
Like a drop of rain  
Flowing to the ocean

### *Music Suggestion For Ritual*

“Orphic Hymn to Hecate”  
by Arlechina V  
from Youtube



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