

# *Nocturnal Witchcraft*

*Dark Moon Magick*



*Cauldron of the Gray Witch © 2011, Lady Shadow*

## Understanding the Dark Moon

First I want to make clear the Dark Moon and the New Moon are not the same thing. There Magickal properties, and energies are different. The New Moon comes right after the Dark Moon. The New Moon is the first silvery crescent, ever so small it is still visible) . The Dark Moon is not visible to the human eye, it is completely dark.

Let us go over the phases of the moon.

This is just the basic. As there are more to our Moons phases.

The New Moon

1<sup>st</sup> Day of the waxing cycle.  
The new silvery crescent appears  
This is the time for new beginnings, projects,  
initiations

The Waxing Moon

The Moon like a new life is growing and growing through each day. Becoming brighter and brighter.  
This last for 14 days.  
This is the time to grow and manifestation.  
It is the time to draw to you, your life.  
Magick comes to it's height in power during the full moon

The Full Moon

General rule is this time lasts from the 12<sup>th</sup> till the fourteenth day of the waxing time  
The Full Moon is what it is Full perfect circle O of light.  
Magickal uses varies and are many, but main is for manifestation and fulfillment

The Waning Moon

The descent inward. The waning begins end of the last fourteen days and hence begins a new fourteen days into the dark.  
This is the time for banishing, cleansing, releasing, and removing

The Dark Moon

The Dark Moon enters into the darkness between the 12<sup>th</sup> and fourteenth day  
This occurs around every 28 days as the Full Moon and correlate to a woman's menstruation cycle.

## Women Who bleed with the moon

The moon has always been the primary symbol for female energy; its cycle around the earth takes approximately twenty-nine days, the same amount of time as the average woman's menstrual cycle. It is often felt that as the pull of the moon affects the waters of the world, so does its motion affect the body of woman.

A women's blood and hormonal cycle follows the ebb and flow of the moon; from new moon to full moon, estrogen increases leading to ovulation, or maximum fertility, at full moon. From full moon to new moon, the waning half of the cycle, progesterone predominates. Traditionally, women used to start bleeding right before the new moon, in the dark of the moon.

In modern times, women begin their menstruation during different phases of the moon. Their bodies are out of sync with the moon and their spirits have forgotten the meaning of Grandmother Moon. One way to get back in harmony with the moon is by performing ceremonies and rituals at different times during the moon cycle and also by honoring the time of menstruation.

When a woman begins her monthly bleeding, she has a very special vibration. The blood flow is cleansing as the old uterine lining is sloughed off, one monthly reproductive cycle is ended. At menstruation, women have the chance to rid themselves of all old thoughts, habits, desires, and be receptive to new visions and inspirations for the next cycle. This is the dark moon phase.

If a woman continues her normal routine at menstruation, then she loses a uniquely female opportunity for introspection. She also finds she gets more tired, irritable, and upset because her physical rhythm has slowed down. She needs rest, more time for meditation, and less time doing housework, cooking, working in the outside world, and taking care of children.

In many Native American tribes and other tribal cultures, there is a separate moon lodge to which all women go. Since most women menstruated at the same time (have you noticed women who live together bleed together) during the dark of the moon, the grandmothers and fathers took care of the children. Food was left outside the lodge several times a day. Women during menstruation were/are considered to hold a certain power and not allowed to mingle with the rest of the tribe. Many tribes have taboos against these women, believing that their power would interfere with the hunt or take away the power of the medicine bundles.

This is also why women are not allowed in sweat lodges and must stand outside the circles in other ceremonies when they are in their moon time. We know now that women were also segregated because of fear of the immense power which enabled them to bleed each month and never die -the greatest of all the Mysteries- while a male warrior might succumb quickly after losing so much. –

Source

Women's Medicine Ways' Cross-cultural rites of passage Marcia Starck

# Effect of the Moon's Eight Phases on Your Personal Reality

<i>Area Affected</i>	<i>Dark Moon</i> (Seed)	<i>New Moon</i> (Sprout)	<i>First Quarter</i> (Growth)	<i>Gibbous Moon</i> (Bud)	<i>Full Moon</i> (Flower)	<i>Waning Crescent</i> (Fruit)	<i>Last Quarter</i> (Harvest)
<b>Mind</b>	Your mind turns inwards -- you feel contemplative. Nonfiction reading.  Intuition active.	Sudden insights. New ideas. Writing is easier.	Plans develop easily. You may take on more than you can do.	You notice details. Also become self-aware and gregarious.	You want to share, teach, do. Talkative, sociable.	May sell idea, sign contract  Finish job	Understand personal process  Analyze  Clear thinking.
<b>Body</b> (Biorhythm)	You feel heavy. May retain water. Inactive. Also slowing of metabolism.	Appetite begins to increase.  Sleep less.	You may lose some weight. Increased thirst and hunger.	Urge for exercise. Wake earlier.	Sexuality peaks. Also stay up late.	BP may rise slightly. Activity level diminishes.	Appetite decreases. Slight weight loss.
<b>Magical Energy</b>	May be deep and strong but inwardly focussed. Not interested in public or group ritual. Inner work on Dark Self  NORTHEAST	Divination time. Also begin processes. Dedicate, join coven.  EAST	Good time for learning new lore and skills. Take classes. Work with the God  SOUTHEAST	Begin to see development of process. Initiate change  Initiation  SOUTH	Focus on aether. Connect with "folk".  Goddess work.  SOUTHWEST	Banishing spells. Charms for breaking habits. Dreamwork  WEST	Rituals of praise and thanksgiving. Commemorations of the dead. Divination  NORTHWEST
<b>Physical energy</b>	Low ebb. You sleep well but feel inertia when awake.	Energy spurts. Early rising.	Energy is balanced. Energy increases. 10 am to 2 pm active times.	Hard workouts are possible. Strength increases.	Most active lunar cycle. Also increase in stamina. Evening energy.	Begin to slow down. Become tired in afternoon. Earlier bedtime.	Peaks midmorning. Lazy afternoon. May need nap.
<b>Emotion</b>	Sensitive. Easily hurt. More likely to quarrel. Misunderstandings of communication, rather like moon-void-of-course	Not a good time for crowds. Feelings may be delicate. and shy,	Feeling balanced and more outgoing. Not too introspective.  Detached.	Enjoy socializing. Rather more vocal. Feelings of awareness, compassion.	Feeling nurturing, sexually aware. Lighthearted.  Enjoy crowds.	Aware of others, empathetic, feel like you have much to give.	Wanting attention, feeling like being cared for. Appreciative, clingy, 'cute'.
<b>Women's mystery</b>	May be your bloodtime. If not, you feel full and self-protective. May have backache even if you are not fertile. Not interested in compromise in relationships	Wary of personal relationships. You resemble small wild animal. cautious, shy, nervous.	Most rational time for women. Logic is appealing. You are interested in discussing issues.	You are becoming more loving, interested in intimacy. Also a time you choose to confide secrets.	Femininity surfaces. You are sexy, flirtatious, aware of your appearance. Also emotional, somewhat silly.	You may have passionate emotional and sexual needs, especially for tenderness and verbal intimacy	"Mothering" behavior surfaces.  Health concerns, caretaking, home beautification, family issues.

### Men's mystery

Time when communication is hard for you. The women in your life may seem withdrawn or unreasonable.

Rejuvenate-- feeling invigorated. The sap is rising. Feel like courting.

You are exocentric now, focus is on job or other mundanity. Least emotion manifested.

Burst of emotional energy which does not last long. More gregarious, flirtatious.

You become sociable, expansive, may spend money. You are flaunting your plumage.

You are horny, but not necessarily tender. Variety may look good.

You become focused on "husbanding" money, resources, time. You are nesting.

### Weather (Northern Utah)

If a dry month, may be windy. If rainy, rain will be heavier. Often a time of unexpected storms.

Most likely to sprinkle. Wind gusts.

Except in winter, calmest winds of the month.

Likely to have clouds with no rain. Moderate wind.

During summer, most extreme temperatures of month.

Time of the month in winter when the inversion most likely.

Chaos patterns in weather. Also most unlikely weather events.

### Dreams

Symbolic, obscure. May contain images of caves, shadowy places, blood and secrets. Often dream of childhood, dead friends

Restless sleep. Dreams are fragmentedWish-dreams.

Dreams more realistic, fewer symbols. May have prophetic dreams now.

Dreams are active. Sleep is deep and relaxing. Often dream of the past, recognizably.

Best time of month for lucid dreaming. Most likely to remember dreams.

If you do not usually remember your dreams, this is the best time of month to try.

Often dream answers to real-life questions. Start dream diary now to see patterns.



## The Dark Moon Goddesses in Astrology

by Evelyn Laino

The Moon has long been seen as a symbol of the feminine. Early peoples noticed that the 29½ days it took the Moon to cycle through its phases corresponded to the number of days of a woman's typical menstrual cycle. They, therefore, surmised that the Moon must be feminine and personified it as the divine Moon Goddess. The symbolism of the Triple Goddess grew out of the new, full and dark phases of the Moon cycle.

The waxing New Moon was conceptualized as the White Virgin Goddess who birthed new life, the Full Moon was likened to the Red Mother Goddess who nourished and sustained life, and the Waning Moon was envisioned as the Dark Crone Goddess who destroyed life and prepared it for renewal.

The Dark Goddess destroyed in order to renew, and her underworld was not a place of torture but of salvation; her role was to purify, heal, and prepare souls to be reborn. She was also the keeper of the secret traditions of magic, oracle, prophecy, and of sacred sexuality as the vehicle for ecstasy, regenerative healing and spiritual illumination.

Over the course of many millennia, solar-centered cultures gradually replaced the Moon worshippers, and knowledge of the cyclic nature of reality, as mirrored by the

phases of the Moon, was lost. Death was no longer the precursor to rebirth, but rather the final ultimate conclusion of life that plunged one into endless damnation.

In the mythic imagination of male dominated cultures, the original nature of the Dark Goddess became distorted and she took horrifying proportions. As Lilith, the Dark Goddess flew into the night as a she-demon who seduced men, bred demons and killed infants. As Medusa, her beautiful abundant hair became a crown of hissing snakes and her evil eye turned men into stone. As Hekate, she stalked for men at the crossroads at night with her vicious hounds of hell. As the Hindu goddess Kali, however, she retained her sense of positive motivation – that of a powerful mother protecting her human children. Although her image appears in cremation grounds adorned with a garland of skulls and holding a severed head dripping with blood, the skull and severed head are those of demons she has killed to protect people. Even so, she is frightening. According to Hindu legend, Kali's destructive wrath had been so great she had even wounded her mate, Shiva, as he had found it necessary to get between her and the Earth to protect the Earth from destruction.

Demetra George, in her book *Finding Our Way Through the Dark: The Astrology of the Dark Goddess Mysteries*, describes the astrological embodiments of this dark, feminine energy as potentially healing and worthy of respect. As the collective culture has banished and defamed the mythical Dark Goddess and her teachings, so have we as individuals been conditioned to deny and repress the parts of our personalities that correspond to the qualities of the Dark Goddesses. But if we acknowledge and pay respect to the dark forces in our unconscious, our inner Dark Goddesses will be well-disposed towards us and provide insight, healing, and renewal. It is when we demean and exile the Dark Goddess of our nature that she will (like the shadow self when rejected and denied), unexpectedly burst forth into our conscious reality during our weakest moments.

The positions of the asteroids that share the same name with the Goddesses of the Dark Moon, in mythic-psychological astrology, represent our feminine shadow personalities as they operate between men and women. Ephemerides are available with these asteroids' positions. Some asteroids will be more significant than others in any given chart. An asteroid is most significant when it is conjunct or opposite the Sun, Moon, or an angle (the 1st, 4th, 7th, or 10th house cusps). Its motifs also may be prominent in our personality when it aspects any of the other personal planets, the four major asteroids (Ceres, Pallas, Juno and Vesta) or Chiron. Here are the descriptions of some of the Dark Goddesses George includes in her book and their meanings in the birth chart.

## Moira, Triple Goddess of Fate

Moira is the Goddess of Fate who spoke to the issues of fate, destiny, and the karmic patterning of the soul. Her position in the chart gives clues to how we experience our fate, for better or for worse, as the inevitable ripening of our karma, or prior actions.

The ancients believed that once the destiny of an individual was woven, it was irrevocable and could not be altered. In her triple aspect, she is known as Klotho, the spinner, who signifies how we spin our fate by our actions; Lachesis, the measurer, who shows how we weave our fate into the fabric of our daily lives; and Atropos, the cutter, who indicates the inevitable ending and has to do with closures and terminations.

## Nemesis

Nemesis is the Goddess of Swift Retribution who maintained the equilibrium of the human condition. Her position in the chart shows how our conscience and morality guide us toward right action, and how when we ignore these promptings we suffer the consequences.

## Lilith

*Hug thee thy dream,  
Poor fool! I am no dream, who offer thee  
Rapture and peace at cost of sterile pride.*

*Thou dost deny and question, but mine eyes  
Gleam on thee, being lit with alien light;  
My lips proclaim thee mysteries; mine arms  
Are bond for all thy doubts, not mist nor mud,  
But all that Gods desire and fools reject:  
Behold me!*

*My name thou knowest not, and yet shalt know,  
And know too late. But know thou this indeed:  
Joy is my sister, sister I to Death.*

*He conquers me  
Who dares to pay my price. My price thou  
Know'st.*

– Excerpts from the lyric play *Lilith*,  
written by George Sterling in 1919.

Lilith is best known as the first wife of Adam, who left her husband, choosing exile and loneliness rather than domination and sexual subjugation to Adam's will. She was subsequently distorted into a demoness by the nomadic patriarchal tribes for her instinctive sexuality and for defying male authority. She was then feared, hated and vilified as Torturous Serpent, Blood Sucker, Harlot, Impure Female, Alien Woman, Witch and Hag, rather than revered for her powers.



In astrology there are three distinct astronomical bodies that are all named Lilith: the asteroid, the Dark Moon Lilith and the Black Moon Lilith. The asteroid describes how we find ourselves in those repressive situations where we are not free to express ourselves and not valued for who we intrinsically are.

We are prevented from acting, moving, choosing and determining our life circumstances. In chart analysis, the asteroid Lilith shows where we want to be free to move, to act, to choose, to speak our truth. When the energy of this dark maid is blocked or denied, it shows how and where we experience the themes of suppression, resentment, explosive anger, rejection and flight in our lives.

The Dark Moon Lilith describes our period of exile where the rejected shadow becomes distorted by the anguish of our pain. As it festers it poisons our psyche with images of revenge and retaliation. The Black Moon Lilith describes how and where we cut away our pretensions, false roles, and delusions and actualize our true, essential selves.

### **Hekate, Queen of the Night**

Hekate is an original embodiment of the Triple Goddess and one of the most ancient images from the pre-Grecian stratum of mythology. This lunar goddess could be seen walking the remote roads of Greece accompanied by her howling dogs and blazing torches. She dwelt in caves, made love on the vast seas, and was the force that moved the Moon. She is often linked with the dark of the Moon, and she presides over magic, ritual, prophetic dreams and visions, and madness. As Queen of the Dead, Hekate is a ruler of the underworld where she is a wardress and conveyor of souls. In the birth chart, Hekate is a guardian figure of our unconscious who enables us to converse with the hidden parts of our psyche. When our relationship with Hekate is positive, we may



experience her as inspiration or prophetic dreams and visions. When we deny or reject Hekate, her shadow nature may make itself known as madness, nightmares, stupor, depression, stagnation, blocked creative energy, and real or imagined persecution.

Other signifiers of the Dark Moon type of energy are: the 12th house, the South Node of the Moon and Pluto. The darkness becomes light if we shine a torch into it and seek to understand!



## Embracing the Dark Goddess

by Dominae

During a dark time of my life, when I was trying to deal with the pain of past experiences, I had a vision of the dark goddess Lilith. Lilith was the wild haired and independent first wife of Adam who refused to be dominated by him. Because of this, she was cast out of the Garden of Eden and replaced by the more complacent Eve. In my vision, Lilith appeared frightening at first sight; claw-footed and winged with blazing red eyes. But I did not turn away from her. I knew that no vision comes without reason, so I drew closer to her. When she felt my fear fading she spoke to me. She told me that her beating wings were her freedom, her claws held her power and her red eyes blazed with the anger she felt towards those who had tried to suppress her. Behind the anger was pain. Behind the pain flowed the strength, understanding and the wisdom of our full feminine nature. When I stepped back from her and looked again she was beautiful. All of the fear I had placed on her had disappeared and I knew that she had much to teach me and that I had much to learn.

It is no wonder that the Crone aspect of the Triple Goddess is the most feared and misunderstood. She represents the most frightening aspects of our humanity; destruction and death, fears we have yet to face and mysteries that we have yet to know. While most of us would love to dwell in the youth and light of the Maiden and Mother Goddesses, we cannot deny the Crone's presence. Though we may try to push her to the backs of our minds, the Crone makes herself known by emerging in the horrifying forms of our nightmares and deepest fears. But it is only because most of us dread to look her in the eyes that she emerges in such terrifying forms. If we could learn to truly face her and therefore our own dark natures, we would see that she holds within her the wisdom and strength which we need to heal ourselves emotionally and to become more spiritually complete.

While the pagan God is represented in two aspects (the young, wild and passionate God of the Hunt and the older, more reserved and self-sacrificing God) the Goddess is represented in three aspects. These aspects are the Maiden, Mother and Crone. The Maiden is the young Goddess, represented by the moon which is waxing towards fullness and the season of Spring. She is the

carefree Goddess who is full of wonder and budding sexuality and who rules among the blossoming of life towards Summer.

As Summer and Fall approach, the Mother Goddess takes rule as the Goddess of the full moon and Summer season which moves towards Fall. The Mother Goddess is the life-giver and nurturer of the Earth and her people.

The waning and new moon are the symbols of the Crone or Dark Goddess. She is the older Goddess who is full of the wisdom and experience of life and death. The Fall and Winter are the seasons of her reign where the circle of life moves towards and through the stage of death. She rules the Underworld, which was a place for all spirits no matter what their earthly behavior had been. Monotheistic theology transformed what the concept of the Underworld was into the more commonly known Hell full of everlasting torments. Pagan belief still holds true to the initial concept of the Underworld as a place for all to rest and prepare for physical rebirth.

The cauldron is a symbol of the Crone Goddess and is representative of the womb from which all life springs and must return. The Crone takes in energy and matter so that it may be broken down and recreated in other forms. She holds within her the greatest mystery of all which is the mystery of death and of the afterlife. Visual representations of the Crone Goddesses are usually frightening in appearance. She is the Wicked Witch who is seen in abundance during Halloween, in fairy tales and in the movies. Because of her frightening appearance, she is often feared and ignored by pagans who see her as being evil and destructive.

When someone says the word "Witch," the Crone in her modern depiction is the image which will most likely appear in one's mind. But it must be understood how patriarchal society and monotheism has portrayed the general idea of the Witch in such a negative manner because in a society where the patriarchy rules, the Powerful Woman is seen as a threat. The Witch is strong, wise and self-sufficient if she so chooses to be. The Crone possesses all of these wonderful qualities, along with a lifetime of experiences and encounters to draw from. She is not someone to fear, but a helpful and insightful guide who should be called upon to aid us in confronting our fears and feelings of being powerless. For pagan men, study and encounters with the Crone can help in understanding the strength and emotion of women as well as getting in touch with men's own feminine natures.

The Crone has many names and is included in the pantheons of many cultures. She is Kali in India, Hekate in ancient Greece, Eresh-Kigal in Sumeria, Morgana in Britain and Lilith in the Near East. In this article, I will be discussing three of the Crone Goddesses; Kali, Hekate and Lilith, along with ways in which the Crone Goddess may be helpful for emotional healing and the gaining of wisdom.

Of all of the Crone Goddesses, the Hindu goddess Kali is the most hideous and fear-evoking. Kali is a black-skinned goddess who appears to be fierce and unapproachable. She wears a necklace of skulls around her neck and has four arms which she uses to flail her victims to death before devouring them. She is often seen with protruding fangs or tusks and a long tongue which she uses to lap up the blood of her victims. The skulls around her neck were used by her to form the letters of the Sanskrit alphabet. Each skull was inscribed with one of the fifty letters of the

alphabet which collectively were called the matrika (mothers) and words were formed with these symbols. When myths speak of words being formed, it is usually a metaphor for the act of creation.

Although Kali is frightening in appearance, she is a fierce warrior goddess who is a fighter of demons and yet is still able to dispense grace to her followers. She was first manifested from the brow of the mother goddess Parvati in order to slay the demon Daruka. The demon had gained divine power and was threatening the safety of the gods. It was told that a drop of blood which fell from the demon would produce millions more like him, so Kali could not slay him in a usual manner. Instead she held him up and drank every drop of blood from the demon, therefore saving the gods from destruction. But the taste of blood and the thrill of destruction made Kali insatiable. She was unable to be controlled by anyone, including the gods. The thrill and ecstasy of killing made Kali dance an uncontrollable dance of death on top of her victims. Kali was so uncontrollable that. The god Shiva was almost trampled under her dancing feet.

One of the most frightening depictions of the goddess Kali is a statue of her squatting over her consort Shiva and engaging in sex while eating his intestines. Kali is the goddess of destruction and regeneration, and it is therefore appropriate that she be depicted in this manner. While she is taking in Shiva's seed, she is destroying him simultaneously. Shiva is a god of life and Kali is a goddess of death. These two forces meet and join in this statue of Kali and Shiva, where Kali kills and prepares to create new life from Shiva's seed.

Because Kali is a manifested aspect of the Mother Goddess, she is representative of the Cosmic Power and of the totality of the universe. She is the destroyer who makes way for creation and is therefore seen as harmonizing all pairs of opposites. The four arms of Kali are often viewed as being symbolic of this harmony. Her upper left hand grips a bloody saber, her lower left hand holds a severed head by the hair. Her upper right hand is often seen making a "fear not" gesture while her lower right hand bestows boons to her devotees.

Those of the Hindu religion realize that in order to fully understand the Goddess, we must understand all aspects of her. They do not see Kali as being evil, but as being one of the manifestations of the Divine Mother, or Shakti. In fact, there is hardly a village in India which does not have a temple devoted to her. She is one of the most recognized and respected deities of the Hindu pantheon. The horrific looking Kali represents an important contribution to Vedic Hinduism by showing both the negative and positive aspects of the Mother Goddess. She symbolizes a meaningful abstract view of Hinduism, that creation and destruction arise from the same source.

As a Goddess who rules over both life and death, the Dark Goddess or Crone holds within her all aspects of the Triple Goddess. She is the mature and aged Maiden and Mother, who possesses the wisdom and experiences of youth, adulthood and old age and who stands as a bridge between death and rebirth. As a goddess who retains attributes of the three aspects of the Triple Goddess, Hekate is often seen in triple form. She rules not only over death and the underworld, but over birth and regeneration as well.

Hekate is one of the most ancient and primordial representations of the Goddess in Greek mythology. She was originally said to be the daughter of Nyx (Night) and therefore a Titan who predated the more commonly known Olympian gods. While most of the Titans were overthrown by the more civilized gods of the Olympian pantheon, Hekate was given a place in the Olympian realm and was very honored and respected by Zeus, the most powerful god in Greek mythology. She was so respected by him that he gave her dominion over the Heavens, Earth and the Underworld. He also allowed her the one power that only she retained; the ability to grant or withhold anything that humans asked of her. Mythology later changed Hekate's origin to that of the daughter of Zeus and Hera so that she could more easily fit into the structure of the Olympian myths. In Hesiod's Theogony, she is said to be the daughter of Perseus and Asteria.

Because Hekate was given rule over all of the three realms; the heavens, Earth and the Underworld, she was originally a goddess who encapsulated all three aspects of the Goddess. However, as Olympian mythology evolved, her dominion was minimized to primarily that of the Underworld. She is said to have helped Demeter in her search for her daughter Persephone in the myth of Persephone's descent to the Underworld. In the myth, the young Persephone, who represents the Maiden aspect of the Triple Goddess in Greek mythology, is spotted by the Lord of the Underworld, Hades, while she is picking flowers in a field. He captures her and takes her to the Underworld to be his mate. While Persephone is in the Underworld, all of the plant life on Earth dies and cannot come back to life until she is returned to Earth. Her mother Demeter goes searching for her daughter with the help of Hekate, and a deal is made with Hades that he allow Persephone to return to Earth for half of the year (Spring) and spend the other half (Winter) as his mate in the Underworld. This myth was told to explain the changing of the seasons and the path of the circle of life. It is repeated in various forms in the mythologies of many cultures.

Because of the importance of the myth of Persephone, Hekate is most commonly recognized as the Goddess of the Underworld and of death and its mysteries. But as it is with all Crone goddesses, Hekate still possesses the attributes of all three aspects of the Goddess. She is the Queen of Night, who rules over magick, ritual and prophecy, but also over childbirth and regeneration. Many statues of Hekate depict her with three heads and six arms. The three heads are the three faces of the Goddess; Persephone (Maiden), Demeter (Mother), and Hekate (Crone). In the Triple Goddess form, she is known as Hekate Triformis, the Goddess who rules over the three phases of the moon.

All animals are sacred to Hekate, but the dog is her primary animal. Hekate is said to be followed by packs of howling dogs who can see the spirits of the dead who follow her. Although she is the goddess of the vast Underworld, she is seen primarily as the goddess who rules over those who have died unnatural deaths. Those who have died unnaturally, such as from suicides, executions and death at birth were often buried at crossroads, where three roads meet. This is one of the reasons that Hekate is said to be able to be summoned at the cross roads by those who would ask for her help with magick, childbirth or false claims against them. Many statues and masks of Hekate have been found at crossroads, where her presence is believed to be most powerful. Offerings of dog meat, blood and small cakes topped with candles have been found at the crossroads as gifts to Hekate. But the crossroads also have another significance. As a symbol of the place where paths of fate may be taken and where the paths of life and death meet, it is appropriate that Hekate could be summoned as asked for guidance at the crossroads.

Hekate is one of the deities known as The Goddess of the Witches. Her precedence over death and mysteries as well as her role as protectress and revenger of those wrongly accused and oppressed makes her a powerful goddess who can aid us in many different areas of need. Hekate is worshipped and respected because she has the power to destroy and create through rebirth as well as disclose the wisdom and mysteries that come with the knowledge of the afterlife.

As an initially primordial goddess who was the daughter of Titans, Hekate evolved to become the more "civilized" goddess of the Greek Olympian pantheon. As with many gods and goddesses, she changed in lineage and function in order to meet with the needs of changing cultures. However, the dark goddess Lilith is one who retained her primordial feminine self throughout the evolution of many cultures. Various manifestations of Lilith can be seen in Sumerian, Babylonian, Canaanite, Persian, Hebrew and Teutonic mythology. Persistent throughout these mythologies, Lilith is the primal seductress and she-demon of the night, a killer of mortal children and Mother of child demons.

There are several myths which account the origin of Lilith. The Hebrew Zohar states that God created the masculine sun and feminine moon initially equal in power and reign. However, because of their equality, the moon and sun were constantly arguing. Because the moon more frequently questioned the authority of the sun, god in judgement told the moon that she must diminish herself. This means that her radiance would be less than that of the sun and that she would take rule over the night. Her diminishment is seen in the waxing and waning of the moon's phases.

Lilith is created in this myth by the diminished moon, who is angry and resentful at having to distance herself from the sun because of God's judgement. The anger and rage which the moon feels from the judgment of God creates a powerful light from which Lilith is born. Therefore Lilith, in essence, is the power that is gained by the feminine when she is misunderstood, alienated and "diminished" by the masculine.

Another myth claims that Lilith was present at the time of God's first presence. It states that God and his feminine representation, the Shekina ruled above (in the Heavens) and that Samael (the Devil) and his feminine representation, Lilith ruled below (on Earth.) These four manifestations of the one source of Power were like four shoots coming forth from the same seed.

While Hebrew myths are full of the tales of Lilith, she is very rarely seen in the Old Testament of the modern Bible, where the story of her origin comes before that of the creation of Eve as a mate for Adam. It is told in this myth that God created man from the dust of the earth and that woman was created in the same manner. Man, or Adam's wife was named Lilith, but the soil from which God created her was impure and of a lesser quality than the dust from which Adam was created. Again, Lilith argues with Adam as to why he should be the dominant of the pair. She refuses to lie under him during intercourse because she feels that this is an act of domination of her by Adam. Lilith wished to be an equal with Adam, having the same freedoms and ability to choose as he. Fearing that Adam would be able to overpower her, she flees from the Garden of Eden and utters the ineffable name of God. Lilith flies through the air and dwells in a cave by the shores of the Red Sea. There she mates with demons and brings forth millions of demon children, called Lilim.

The name Lilith is derived from the Semetic word for night. As an intense and fiery emanation of lunar and feminine energy, Lilith is a goddess of the night who rules over spirits of the dead. Her symbol is the owl, and she is depicted with wings and the owl's taloned claws. She is also often depicted as the serpent with a woman's head. She is said to have given Eve the forbidden fruit of knowledge in the Garden of Eden.

When Adam and Eve fell from the grace of God, Adam vowed in penance to avoid the sexual pleasures of marriage for a hundred years. It is said that Lilith then sought her revenge. Each night she would come to Adam while he slept, mount him and have sexual intercourse with him. She would capture his sexual emissions and use them to produce more of her demon babies.

Lilith was a succubus; a she-demon who would visit men while they slept and have intercourse with them without their knowledge. A man who was visited by a succubus would feel pressure on his chest while he slept and have a feeling of "being drained" when he awoke from sleep. A succubus would not only have sex with the sleeping victim but would also drain them of their vital energy. Therefore, a succubus is a demon seductress and psychic vampire who is feared by men.

The connection with Lilith and mortal children is a strong one. She is said to visit infants while they slept and tickle them, causing them to giggle in their sleep. Lilith is also known to have murdered many infants or to cause the children's deaths during childbirth. Numerous amulets worn to repel Lilith from pregnant mothers have been discovered.

The myths of Lilith and her vengeful actions against men show her to be full of anger, rage and resentment at the idea that she could not be wild and free and still remain in the favor of God. She represents the darkest facets of femininity; the opposite of the maternal and nurturing instinct which seeks to be sexually indiscriminate, wild and self-sufficient. While the maternal instinct causes one to desire to bear and protect infants, the qualities which Lilith represents are evident when one wishes to abandon her children, motherly and wifely duties. Women possess both maternal and dark feminine qualities and it is natural that they have both, because they are in persistent struggle to be both independent and nurturing at once. Feelings associated with Lilith may come before and during menstruation when a woman may feel compelled to speak her mind, be isolated and ride the waves of her emotions.

Masculine and Feminine energies are both extremely powerful, but significantly different in their qualities. When viewed through the myths of masculine heroes, masculine energy is a force with strategy and purpose. It is represented by the hero who plans his actions and takes a logical and rational progression towards his goal. Feminine energy differs in that as seen through the myths of the Crone Goddesses, it is often intensely emotional and chaotic. Kali dances the wild Dance of Death without logical reason and Lilith mates and murders often indiscriminately. The Crone is instinctual in her actions, but this does not mean that they have a lesser purpose than those of the male gods. It is because she is instinctual and emotional that she is able to guide us through the mysteries which may not be fully understood and yet can still be known. The realm of dead, magic and the unknown can best be known by one who does not rationally think of them but instead allows them to be revealed without conscious thought with the aid of the Goddess.

When one is overwhelmed by emotions, fears and the desire to take actions which may not seem logical, the Crone Goddess can be called upon to guide and aid in understanding the darker desires one may have. A woman cannot fully understand herself and a man cannot fully understand Woman or his own feminine nature without understanding the Crone.

As a holder of the deepest mysteries, the Crone is an obvious choice for those wishing to understand magick and ritual as well as the art of divination. The Crone knows all phases of the circle of life, death and rebirth and is therefore able to disclose that which we as mortals may not foresee and also aid in molding energy so that it may manifest into our desired goals. It would be appropriate to call the Crone the Goddess of the Witches for these reasons.

But the Crone is also helpful in understanding the death processes and in dealing with the grief over the loss of a loved one. Since she rules the Underworld, she has knowledge of these areas which we least understand. When we approach old-age, the Crone is there to comfort and guide us to a better acceptance of this stage of life. It is for all of these reasons that the Crone should not be feared or denied. She should be faced and recognized as one of the balancing forces of nature and as a means to balance the spiritual natures within ourselves.

## **The Charge of the Dark Goddess**

**By Lynne O'Connor**

**[Click here to go to her website.](#)**

**The Dark Goddess speaks to us, through the mouths of Lilith,  
Kali, Tiamet, Hekate, Nix, the Black Madonna, Nemesis and  
Morgane.**

**I am the Darkness behind and beneath the shadows.**

**I am the absence of air that awaits at the bottom of every  
breath.**

**I am the Ending before Life begins again,  
the Decay that fertilizes the Living.**

**I am the Bottomless Pit,  
the never-ending struggle to reclaim that which is denied.**

**I am the Key that unlocks every Door.**

**I am the Glory of Discovery,  
for I am that which is hidden, secluded and forbidden.**

**Come to me at the Dark Moon  
and see that which can not be seen,  
face the terror that is yours alone.**

**Swim to me through the blackest oceans  
to the center of your greatest fears--  
the Dark God and I will keep you safe.**

**Scream to us in terror, and yours will be the Power to Forbear.**

Think of me when you feel pleasure, and I will intensify it,  
until the time when I may have the greatest pleasure  
of meeting you at the Crossroads Between the Worlds.

## **The Charge of the Dark Goddess II**

Wisdom and empowerment are the gifts of the Dark Goddess  
of Transformation. She is known to us as Kali, Hecate,  
Cerridwen, Lilith, Persephone, Fata, Morgana, Ereshkigal,  
Arianhrod, Durga, Inanna, Tiamat, and by a million, million  
other names:

Hear me child, and know Me for who I am. I have been with  
you since you were born, and I will stay with you until you  
return to Me at the final dusk.

I am the passionate and seductive lover who inspires the poet to  
dream. I am the One who calls to you at the end of your  
journey. After the day is done, My children find their blessed  
rest in my embrace.

I am the womb from which all things are born.

I am the shadowy, still tomb; all things must come to Me and  
bare their breasts to die and be reborn to the Whole.

I am the Sorceress that will not be ruled, the Weaver of Time,  
the Teacher of Mysteries. I snip the threads that bring my  
children home to me. I slit the throats of the cruel and drink  
the blood of the heartless. Swallow your fear and come to me,  
and you will discover true beauty, strength, and courage.

I am the fury which rips the flesh from injustice.

I am the glowing forge that transforms your inner demons into  
tools of power. Open yourself to my embrace and overcome.

I am the glinting sword that protects you from harm.

I am the crucible in which all the aspects of yourself merge  
together in a rainbow of union.

I am the velvet depths of the night sky, the swirling mists of  
midnight, shrouded in mystery.



**I am the chrysalis in which you will face that which terrifies you and from which you will blossom forth, vibrant and renewed. Seek me at the crossroads, and you shall be transformed, for once you look upon my face, there is no return.**

**I am the fire that kisses the shackles away.  
I am the cauldron in which all opposites grow to know each other in Truth.**

**I am the web which connects all things.**

**I am the Healer of all wounds, the Warrior who rights all wrongs in their Time. I make the weak strong. I make the arrogant humble. I raise up the oppressed and empower the disenfranchised. I am Justice tempered with Mercy.**

**Most importantly, child, I am you. I am part of you, and I am within you. Seek me within and without, and you will be strong. Know me. Venture into the dark so that you may awaken to Balance, Illumination, and Wholeness. Take my Love with you everywhere and find the Power within to be who you wish.**

### **The Charge of the Dark Goddess III**

**Listen to the words of the Dark Mother, who of old was called Hecate, Nuit, Morrigan, Banba, Erda, Macha, MotherNight, Sekhmet, and many other names:**

**Whenever you seek wisdom, at the time of the Darkening Moon, come together in love and trust and learn of Me, who am the Wisest of Cronos...Ye who search the mysteries of the Earth, the secrets of Air and Darkness, of Blood and Fire, the silence of the uttermost stars, come unto me, and I shall whisper to you in the depths of midnight.**

**Ye shall approach Me in silence, and as a sign that ye are free from fear, your breast you shall bare to My blade...for fear has no place in My mysteries, and that which you seek of me will destroy you if you fear it.**

**For I am the dolmen arch beyond which stretch the mysteries of infinity. I am the silence before birth and after death. I am the clouded mirror in which you scry your own soul. I am mist in the twilight, the vast and starry sky of midnight, shadows on**

the Moon.

All things come to Me in the end, and yet I am the beginning of all. I meet you at the crossroads, I lead you through the darkness, My hand you grasp in the passage between the worlds. To those that toy with Me am I an instrument of self-destruction. yet to the true seeker do I bring knowledge beyond mortal comprehension.

Of you shall I demand the utter truth of all that you are, and in return shall I give you all that you may be, all that I am. For My wisdom is beyond the Ages, and knowledge of My Secrets is power over self, over fear, over death. Nor do I demand aught of you which you cannot give. For I am the Mother of Mysteries, and as you know Me, so shall you learn to know yourself.



List of some of the Dark Goddesses

Click on the goddess' name to get more information.

[Nuit](#)

Mother Sky-Goddess and Goddess of the Starry Sky

[Nyx](#)

Goddess of the Night

[Nemesis](#)

Goddess of Retribution and Daughter of the Night

[The Erinyes](#)

Children of the Night and Daughters of the Earth and Darkness

[The Hesperides](#)

Daughters of the Evening

[The Moirae](#)

also known as the Fates

[Kali](#)

The Black One

[Ereshkigal](#)

Sumerian Death Goddess

[Hel](#)

Ruler of Helheim

[Naunet](#)

Goddess of the Primordial Abyss of the Underworld

[Sekhmet](#)

Lady of the Place of the Beginning of Time

[Hekate](#)

Queen of the Night

[Rhiannon](#)

Horse Goddess

[Morrighan](#)

Queen of the Ghosts

[Cerridwen](#)

Keeper of the Cauldron

[Mother Holle](#)

Queen of the Nether Regions

[Nepthys](#)

Goddess of Dusk

[Baba Yaga](#)

Black Crone Goddess

[Freyja](#)

the Shining Lady of the Vanir

[Skadi](#)

Snow-Shoe Goddess

[Berchta](#)

Mistress of Destiny

[Cailleach](#)

Celtic Crone Goddess

**SOURCES:**

The New Book of Goddesses and Heroines	Patricia Monaghan
Moon Magick	DJ Conway
Dark Moon Mysteries	Timothy Roderick
The Mysteries of the Dark Moon, The Healing Power of the Dark Goddess	Demetra George
<a href="#"><u>Encyclopedia Mythica</u></a>	Unknown

Note: Not all Nocturnal Witches work with a specific Goddess or God

Magick best done during the Dark Moon

Magick best done during the Dark Moon is cursing, chaos magick, bringing justice, exploring the shadow aspect of oneself, understanding anger, dealing with bad habits, dealing with attackers, stopping stalkers and theft, dealing with addictions, change, divorce, enemies, obstacles, fights and quarrels, removal, and separation, pulling out unwanted thoughts or desires, receiving guidance or gifts from the dark goddesses, and honoring the dark goddesses.

## **BLACK MOON RITUAL**

**Conquering the Shadows,**

**by Sor.: Zauberkraut**

---

Dealing with ones fears and socalled shadows is essential to the aspiring magician. Only through continously facing and conquering our shadows can we put ourselves truly in charge of our lives. Being in touch with, and realistic about "the dark night of the soul" is also a tool against the most dangerous, and common, sickness of the magician: megalomania and paranoia.

It appears that the majority of humans in this society go through life in a moderately depressed state. It seems that people avoid major mood changes, preferring to be more or less miserable at all times. One who does not know the deep pit of fear and depression will also never know the high altitudes of ecstasy.

This ritual is designed to get people in touch with their shadows and to overcome them. Our fears and depressions are in fact our demons and shadows. For the individuals who refuse to deal with them they become ever more treacherous and powerful. To quote Fra.: U.D.: "If you lock the demons in the basement they are going to blow up your house!"

### **Paraphernalia:**

- Black altar cloth
- one black candle

- tarot card XVIII (The Moon)
- Hecate or Moon/Pluto incense
- tapes with appropriate music (Diamanda Galas "The Saint of the Pit" and Laibach "Life is Life),
- white votive candles in glass containers, (one for each participant, to be used to cast out unwanted shadows).

### **Structure:**

-Banishing ritual of personal preference.

-Statement of intent: "It is our will to face and overcome our shadows".

-Five minutes of guided pranayama during which the instrumental portion of the Diamanda Galas is played. The Magister Templi guides the pranayama by raising and lowering his or her hands over the altar in time with the breathing. He or she should begin to slow the breathing down gradually in order to allow all of the participants to tune in and breath simultaneously.

-At the end of the instrumental portion of the tape participants form a circle facing outwards, for we must conquer our shadows by ourselves. Here a guided meditation follows while the music continues:

Remember a time in your life when you were truly miserable, you have become terribly depressed, you feel you have no value, your love has betrayed you, life is pain.

You begin to feel very weak now, all your will power is gone and you are frightened. Your knees are shaking, no strength, no hope, nothing can help you now.

Lie down on the floor, curling up in an embryonic position, you are alone, nobody is present to help you, all of your friends have left, your parents have long since departed. You have nothing any more, terrified you lay there.

This is the dark night of the soul, you are completely obsessed by pain, insanity, depression. You begin to go insane with misery as the shadows around you begin to cackle with delight. There is naught you can do in the paralyzing anxiety. There is absolutely nobody there to assist you. All that remains is total surrender.....

(All of this litany should have been read in a slow enough fashion to allow the participants to trance out and the tape to end. During the rest of the meditation the M.T. moves about lighting the candles one by one.)

Yet in darkness there is light! Feel the life force returning to you. Feel your heartbeat strong and vigorous, fill your lungs with air, roll onto your back and stretch. Stretch your body as though it were recently awakened from a long deep sleep. Stretch with your arms, legs, back and neck. You are attempting to touch the universe, open your senses and your eyes as wide as they possibly can be. Get up and take your candle from the altar, passing it over your body. Cast out all that is not strong, healthy, vibrant and whole. Tune in completely with the light and allow it to heal you. Take your time allowing its rays to permeate your being, cleansing every aspect. Make certain there is nothing left that is not light, bright and strong.

When you are ready, replace the candle upon the altar in the middle of the temple. (At this point place the Laibach tape in the player if you desire.)

-All participants hold hands and move rhythmically around the altar, ever faster, drawing the combined life force within.

-At the climax of the circumambulation collapse to the floor whilst performing a laughter banishing.

-Closing banishing of preference if desired.



## DARK MOON ESBAT

Unknown Author

HP/HPS: We are gathered here in recognition of the dark, to celebrate the dark mother, the crone of time, grandmother of us all!

All ears hear! The circle is about to be cast, let none be present but of their own free will! Be it known that we are in the presence of the dark Goddess.

HPS circling deosil with the salt, casts the first circle saying: I cast the circle thus! With salt; deep from the womb of the Mother! From oceans deep and cold I consecrate this space! So mote it be!

HP circling deosil with water saying: I cast the circle thus! With water, ancient and old; with the life blood of the world, I consecrate this space! So mote it be!

HPS circling deosil with censor saying: I cast the circle thus! With fire and air clean and hot, I consecrate this space! So mote it be!

HPS: And ever it was thus!

ALL: So mote it be!

Calling of the quarters:

Ancient one of elemental air, I call and summon thee by name! Raphael of the wide ranging air! Sylph of the endless skies we bid you come! Stand in our presence and guard this circle cast.

ALL: So mote it be!



Ancient one of elemental earth, I call and summon thee by name! Oriel of the fertile plain! Gnome of forests deep, we bid you come! Stand in our presence and guard this circle cast.

ALL: So mote it be!

Ancient one of elemental fire, I call and summon thee by name! Michael of flickering flame! Salamander of scorchy fire! We bid you come stand in our presence and guard this circle cast.

ALL: So mote it be!

Ancient one of elemental water, I call and summon thee by name! Gabriel of oceans and streams! Undine of pools and ponds, we bid you come stand in our presence and guard this circle cast.

ALL: So mote it be!

HPS: And ever it was thus! From the beginnings of the world, air and earth, fire and water!! The circle is sealed!

CHANT

Lady weave your circle tight,  
Spin a web of glowing light.

Earth and air, fire and water, bind us to you ever.

(repeat until energy is "fine and flowing")

HPS: Dark Mother!! Crone of time!! We ask your presence and your blessing! All things to you must go, though darkness and death are your domain you promise peace and rest! Thy gift is life! Yours is the hand that turns the wheel and cuts the thread. Be with us this magickal night. Give each of us your wisdom and bless our rite!

ALL: So mote it be!

#### CHANT

Hecate, Hecate of visage dower,  
Dark Mother, Dark Mother come with power.

Hecate, Hecate of visage dower,  
Dark Mother, Dark Mother crone of time.

(repeat until cone is well established)

(Chant should be done while circling altar)

MAGICK is done at this time!

HPS takes chalice and says: Dark Lady, Mother of night, we thank you for your presence and wisdom (pouring liquid into libation bowl) as the fruit of the vine

was plucked and pressed, it came to know the touch of death and thereby we are  
sustained and carry on!

Offering to HP saying: "May you never thirst."

HP takes chalice and offers to HPS saying: "May you never thirst."

Chant "Lady weave your circle..." while being passed to rest of group.

HP takes the cakes and says: Likewise as the grain of the field ripened and  
fell beneath the scythe it came to know the touch of death, whereby we are  
sustained and carry on!

HP offers cake to HPS saying: "May you never hunger."

HPS takes cakes offers to HP saying: "May you never hunger."

Chant "Lady weave your circle..." while being passed to rest of group.

HPS: And ever it was thus!

ALL: Blessed be!

HPS: Dark Lady of the waning moon, we thank you for your presence and your  
blessing, and in silence we turn within and willingly offer to thy realm that  
which is old and outdated, that which no longer has life and no longer grows.

We offer to thy Blade which we no longer need. (each person in turn ignites their petition and tosses it into the cauldron saying: "So mote it be!")

HP: And ever it was thus! That which falls to the hand of the crone finds regeneration and new life!

CHANT

She changes everything she touches and  
everything she touches changes!  
(repeat as to replenish cone)

HPS: Grandmother! Blessed thou be! Depart to thy realms if thou must stay it thou will. Thank you for the lessons learned this dark moon night!

ALL: Blessed be!

Dismissal of quarters.

Ancient ones of elemental air! Thank you for your vigil here! Leave with us a renewed mind as clear as air! Blessed be!

ALL: Blessed be!

Ancient one of elemental earth! Thank you for your vigil here! Leave with us

steadiness and patience! Blessed be!

ALL: Blessed be!

Ancient one of elemental fire! Thank you for your vigil here! leave with us  
swiftness and action, a flaming soul to always do what is right! Blessed be!

ALL: Blessed be!

Ancient one of elemental water! Thank you for your vigil here! As you depart  
leave with us the fluidity of water that we may have compassion for our fellows  
as well as our selves! Blessed be!

ALL: Blessed be!

HPS: Let all ears hear! The circle is open but remains unbroken! Brothers and  
sisters are we children of the Lord and Lady! May they always dance within our  
hearts.

Merry did we meet, merry do we part, merry we meet again.

ALL: Blessed be!

Simple feast.

What you choose to do during the Dark Moon is up to you.

It can be simple or elaborate, solitaire or with others

Just make sure you know what you are doing and why.