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Aquarian Tradition Ritual Presenters, Maiden - Diana's Bow & Full Moon

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Subseries 2: Esbats

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Greater Mysteries

The Goddess Diana is the Huntress of the forest, the one who relies on no one else for survival. She stands alone, steady, strong, and independent. When the New Moon rises in the sky it is Her bow, reminding us that She is beside us, within us. We are strong and free, able to face the challenges that are put before us. Her Light shines and grows as the Light within each of us. At the New Moon we celebrate our new beginnings!!

Subjects

Eleusinian mysteries
Diana (Roman deity)--Drama
MoonStone Circle (Coven)--Rituals--Texts
Aquarian Tabernacle (Wiccan sect)--Rituals--Texts
Aquarian Tabernacle (Wiccan sect)--Customs and practices
Esbat (Neopagan custom)
Mythological plays
Religious drama
Drama

Aquarian Tradition Ritual Presenters Maiden – Diana's Bow & Full Moon

The role of the Maiden contains common elements in both the Full Moon and the Diana's Bow. There are, however, some significant differences. The Maiden is the Handmaiden to the Priestess. This role requires memorization and familiarity with the course of the ritual. It also requires knowledge of magical energy and a demonstrated ability to work that energy. In the Diana's Bow, it is the Maiden's responsibility to set up the circle, making sure that all is in order for the ritual, and she anoints the men as they enter the circle. In the Full Moon, the setting up of the circle is shared with the Magister.

In both the Full Moon and the Diana's Bow, the Maiden cleanses the circle with the besom. This physical act of sweeping and the lines that are spoken with it should be accompanied by the mental image and use of will to project the intent of cleansing. Each line should be paced so that it is completed by the time a Quarter of the circle has been reached. As with all speaking roles, the lines must be delivered in a strong, clear, and confident voice. The Maiden is notifying all, in no uncertain terms, that this is sacred space, and that no uninvited energy will be allowed to enter the circle.

In the Full Moon, the Maiden is also required to raise and direct group energy in the form of a chant. Those who are not comfortable singing will find this challenging. The rhythm of the chant is of utmost importance, as this is the vehicle by which the energy is raised. For the first chant she is gathering energy for the Priestess to use as a tool for invocation. For the second chant, she is blending the energy of the women's chant with the Magister and the men's chant. This requires a high degree of focused energy work, chanting, and precise rhythm.

There is not a linear progression from one role to the next, except that the ability to carry the role and the energy has been clearly demonstrated. One is not required to participate in both the Diana's Bow and the Full Moon. Some are called to one ritual or the other. Some are called to both. That being said, the directors will usually require that a person holds the position of Maiden in a Diana's Bow prior to Maiden in a Full Moon. This is because the roles are similar, but the levels of energy working required are very different. Working with Maiden energy in the Diana's Bow first gives one the opportunity to feel what the role is like without the burden of being responsible for raising and directing so much group energy right away.

When the role of Maiden in the Full Moon is mastered, the role of FM Priestess is within reach, in most cases. The main difference is that the role of Priestess requires working with invocation, and more extensive memorization of lines.