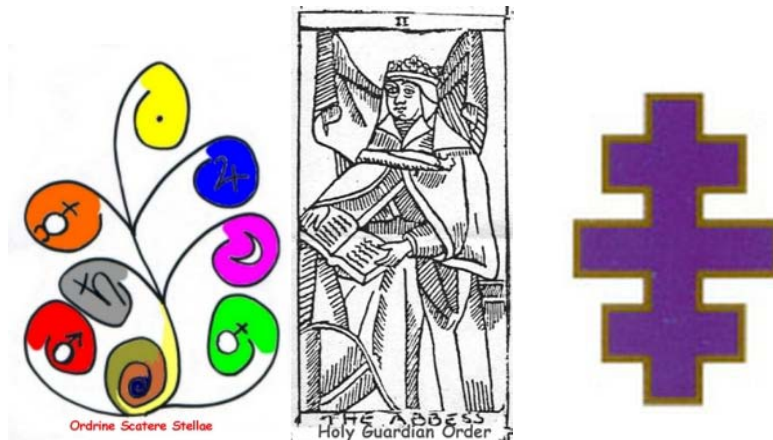




Jean de Cabalis - various Orders paper

For Members of the Following Orders



The Fivefold Nature of the Goddess

By Soror Moonshee and Michael Freedman (as Diana White SG)

Essaier XIII

The Fivefold Nature of the Goddess

Witches often talk about the Threefold Nature of the Goddess: Maiden, Matron and Crone. The Greek statues of Hekate showed her with three faces, symbolising Past, Present and Future. It also symbolised Her power in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld; and linked Her to the three phases of the Moon: Crescent, Full and Dark. Hekate is pronounced

hek-a-tee; accent on the 1st syllable. In the Homeric Hymn to Demeter, three goddesses play a prominent role:

Persephone, the Daughter or Maiden

Demeter, her Mother, the Fruitful One

Hekate, their aged friend, the Wise One

It is these three who are honoured in the idea of the threefold Goddess. We women should always be wary of the ancient myths as they appear in classical writings. Greek religion was patriarchal, forcibly replacing the ancient worship of the Goddess. The traditional three aspects of the Goddess express a very male view of woman:

Maiden, too young to bear children

Matron, bearing children

Crone, too old to bear children

The much older legends of the goddesses and gods of the very ancient Middle East present a more complete picture. The Great Goddess has many names: Anahita, manna, Anath, Astarte, Ishtar, Isis and Magna Mater. But by whatever Name She is known, the Great Goddess has five sides to her nature.

1. The Many-breasted Mother, source of all fruitful benevolence
2. The Ever-Virgin Maiden, her infinite potentials not yet realised
3. The Warrior, who will war with anyone who would seek to conquer her
4. The Wanton, freely giving herself to whoever she chooses for her lovers
5. The Wise Crone, judge and counsellor to all.

The Elemental Forces of the Universe and of the Pentagram can also be referred to the five aspects of the Goddess.

Air, the Virgin, for her potential energies

Water, the Wanton, Mistress of the Male and Female Rows

Fire, the Warrior, for her assertive activity in the universe

Earth, the Matron, for her fruitful creativity in life and art

Spirit, the Wise Crone, She inheres in all through Wisdom, Understanding & Knowledge

All five aspects of the Goddess can be found among the Goddesses of any of the later pantheons, for example, in Greece and Rome:

The Virgin, Persephone and Proserpina

The Warrior, Pallas Athene and Minerva

The Wanton, Aphrodite and Venus

The Matron, Demeter and Ceres

The Wise, Aged One Hekate and Hecata

Among the Tarot, Her five aspects are shown in:

8 Strength, the Virgin taming the Beast

14 Temperance, the Wanton mingling the Rows

11 Justice, the Warrior wielding her sword

3 Empress, the seated pregnant Matron

2 High Priestess, the Wise Old Woman

The Star is the Naked Goddess Anahita, Mistress of all the Male and Female Flows and Conqueror of the Dragon Chaos. She is the supreme expression of good tidings, the Fivefold Goddess, and embodies all her aspects.

