



Ask Rose Ariadne
<http://www.askroseariadne.com>

Pagan Jewelry Energy

Since time immemorial, humankind has been wearing jewelry to symbolically represent Deity, to reflect spirituality and belief, to attract good fortune, to avert negative energies and to enhance worship. This age old pagan custom is still practiced across all cultures and religions today.

Most pagans make a clear distinction between jewelry for every day wear and those worn for ritual purposes only. As is the case with all ritual items, jewelry too is cleansed, consecrated and charged to serve a specific purpose or goal. These pieces gain power over time, a power that would be diminished if worn as a fashion accessory.

The traditional types of ritual jewelry worn by pagans are necklaces, bracelets, rings, garters, moon crowns and horned helmets.

Necklaces

Ancient Goddess statues frequently depict the Lady wearing a necklace. This association makes the necklace a very important ritual piece and wearing one during ritual is symbolic of the attachment to Her. The design of the necklaces can vary greatly, depending on the tradition, the coven or the group:

Single strand necklaces made up from natural materials such as crystals, seashells, acorns etc. Interestingly, fashioning a necklace from acorns is representative of both the God and the Goddess. The God's tree is the Oak whilst the acorn, as the ancient symbol of fertility, belongs to the realm of the Goddess.

Symbols fashioned into pendants and suspended from neck chains, string or even thin leather strips are very popular. The metal used for the pendant could be silver, to represent the Goddess; Gold to represent the God; or a mixture of silver and gold to either represent the union of Goddess and God or the polarity of the Goddess and God.





Bracelets

Bracelets, like necklaces, can be fashioned from natural beads, silver or gold and could be adorned with symbols to serve as magickal amulets. In some traditions, female pagans wear copper bracelets to attune with the solar energies of the Lady or the Lord.

Rings

Rings, in the vast majority of traditions, are optional. The type of ring and the reason for wearing a ring remain personal to the wearer. A pagan working with moon energies during a full moon ritual may for example choose to wear a ring in which moonstone is set to attune with these energies. Some minority groups do not encourage the wearing of rings at all as they believe it interferes with the flow of energy through the hands.

Garter

Strictly speaking, the garter is an item of clothing. Its use however is not to hold up stockings, but a symbol of status in many covens. It is traditional for the High Priestess to add a silver buckle to her garter when a Priestess leaves the mother coven to hive off a new coven. Of interest is that a cave painting was found dating from the Paleolithic era where a male shaman is depicted wearing a garter around each thigh.

The Moon Crown

Statues of Diana, dating back to ancient times, depict Her wearing a band around Her head with a crescent moon attached to it. This crown is representative of her dominion in the Lunar Realm. During the Invocation of the Goddess, a Moon Crown is placed on the brow of the High Priestess to symbolize her connection with the Goddess and that she speaks on behalf of the Goddess. The crown is made of silver materials and may be adorned or set with lunar crystals.

The Horned Helmet

In Paganism, the God is the Horned God. When invoked during ritual, a Horned Helmet is placed on the head of the High Priest to symbolize his connection with the God and to show that he speaks on the God's behalf. Of interest is that the English words "horn" and "crown" were the same word in Hebrew. When Michelangelo did research in preparation for creating the Moses statue, he was unaware of the fact that these words were synonymous in Hebrew. The result was a statue of Moses with horns.





In modern times and in addition to the traditional pagan jewelry discussed in this article, pagans wear anklets, toe rings and a vast variety of body-pierced jewelry during ritual. Symbols used differ greatly too and are personal – either to the tradition, to the coven or to the individual.

Jewelry for everyday wear can be empowered too in a different manner. A “difficult-meeting-necklace” and a “get-through-the-backlog-on-my-desk-bracelet” and a “protect-me-from-the-office-gossip-monger-ring” could be highly useful. After all, being pagan is not limited to ritual times only. Being pagan also means bringing a little magick into your lives.

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