

HECATE

Greek name Ἑκάτη

Latin name Hecate

Name in your language

Parents Perses and Asteria

Role goddess of witchcraft

Home Underworld

Attributes torches, keys,
Hecate's wheel

Pets dogs, snakes

Hecate, the goddess of witchcraft, had a special connection to crossroads. This is the reason: she was depicted as a three-bodied woman holding a torch or keys; when travellers ended up at a crossing of three roads, she always showed them their way home. From far away and from any direction, they could see her statue. Hecate was also a psychopomp (like her colleague, the god Hermes). In Greek mythology, a psychopomp was a companion of souls who took dead people's spirits to the Underworld. She guided the souls, holding high her bright torches. Then you may imagine what guiding role she had among witches, too: led by Hecate's torch, witches could find mysterious ways that were invisible to the eyes of non-magical people. Modern witches have worshipped Hecate even in much later times (it is a rarity for an ancient Greek god!). They have acknowledged her as the Triple Goddess, in her three-bodied form. To witches, Hecate's three forms symbolize the three stages of a woman's life (Maiden, Mother, Crone); the three phases of the Moon (crescent, full, dark).

