

Artemis

Diana

Ἄρτεμις



Goddess of the Hunt, the moon, virginity and midwifery.

Daughter of Zeus and Leto, she is the twin sister of Apollo. It is said that she was born first, and then assisted as midwife to her mother for the birth of her brother.

Her symbols are the golden bow and arrow, the hunting dog, the stag, and the moon.

She did not want a city dedicated to her, but always to rule the wild lands, and for the ability to help women in the pains of childbirth.

As a child, she asked Zeus to grant her 6 favors:

- To remain always a virgin
- To have many names to be different than her brother Apollo
- To be the Light Bringer
- To have a bow and arrow and knee-length tunic to be able to hunt
- To have sixty 'daughters of Okeanos' to be her choir
- To have 20 Amnisides Nymphs as her handmaidens to watch her dogs and bow while she slept

Her bold independence has always encouraged me. When I hear the statement 'quiet women seldom make history', I think of Artemis. When I see her in my mind's eye, it is a version of the statue above, but in living colors of the forest around her with the dappled sunlight peeking through. Soft, muted greens – the colors of the cool forest.