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Greek Mythology #6: SELENE (Luna), THE MOON *by Joy Journey*

Goddess of: Moon
Home: Sky
Symbols: Crescent, raised cloak, bull, rooster, dog and torch
Parents: Hyperion and Theia
Consorts: Endymion
Siblings: Helios, Eos
Children: 50 daughters to Endymion, plus Pandia and Ersia to Zeus
Roman Counterpart: Luna

Selene, Titan goddess of the moon, drives it each night across the skies in a silver chariot pulled by two white horses. She is linked to Artemis and Hecate as all three are lunar goddesses. Selene is often depicted with a crescent moon accompanied by stars. The crescent moon can rest on her brow or the points of the crescent moon can point upwards in the manner of horns.

Selene fell in love with Endymion, the first human to observe the movements of the moon. He is thought to be a shepherd or astrologer, and Selene watched him from afar and slid to earth for passion. Zeus had granted Endymion the ability to choose when to die, and he chose when he would die, and he chose eternal sleep. One version says Zeus gave him this wish because Endymion had fallen in love with Hera.

Some accounts suggest that Selene and Zeus are the parents of Dionysius, but this confusion may come from the names of Selene and Semene being so close. Virgil wrote that Selene had a tryst with Pan, who seduced her with beautiful white wool.



Selene on a Roman Sarcophagus. Marble.



Stamped and engraved one-piece brass button known as Luna & Sol, the Roman god's names of Selene and Helios. Dark original tint. Medium.