

# Walpurgisnacht



## Tradition and custom

Many Walpurgis rites live on in rural May customs. In the tradition one protected his court by night whip blasting, laid out brooms and May bushes. The maypole, mostly a birch, is at the same time a fertility symbol and actor of the world tree. To Walpurgisnacht the maypoles are got traditionally from the wood in the place to put them of the darlings before the house. In the village middle it is danced around the tree.



## Short History

The Walpurgisnacht is a traditional European festival on the 30th April.

It received her name after the holy Walburga.

Mythologically the Walpurgisnacht takes place as a lunar party at night of the first full moon between the spring equinox and the summer solstice.



Nevertheless, traditionally the night counts from the 30th April on 1st May as the night at which supposedly the witches hold a big party in particular on the block mountain, but also at other raised places. At the latest from the witch's processes of the 16th and 17th century the motive of the devil's admiration comes along. The name Walpurgisnacht is derived from Walburga, an abbess from England (710-779).