

AKERBELTZ

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Basque History and Culture I





INTRODUCTION

-Aker means male goat and Beltz, black

-Spirit in the popular mythology of the Basque Country



ORIGIN

-Roman inscriptions from the 3rd century founded in Aquitaine with the word "Aherbelste"

*-This himself could be the genius that the witches (**Sorginak**) worshiped in the 16th-17th centuries.*

Appearance

- Takes the form of a *black goat*
- Sometimes he shows us his *benevolent side* but other times he shows us his *dark side*
- When he shows us his *good side*, he has similar characteristics to *Mari*





ROLE

-He protects the animals that are in his care and even has powers to cure their diseases

-It´s normal in the villages to have a black male goat, so that it protects the domestic animals that are raised in the place.