



Romanian Mithology



SÂNZIENELE



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The legend says that Sânziennele are amazingly beautiful girls, fairies, who live in forests or in the fields. They are said to be part of the Iele family, gracious fairies with magical powers. Unlike the most of Iele, who can be mean and evil, Sânziennele are always good and kind to humans.

They start a round dance called 'hora' while bringing flowers and weeds to life, turning them into miraculous medicinal plants, good for healing all diseases.

This happens on the night before June 24, when they are flying over meadows, smelling and touching the wildflowers, enriching them with special healing properties. The dance is performed by a group of 5-7 young girls, with a chosen one called Drăgaica. She is dressed as a bride, wearing a wheat wreath on her forehead, while the other girls are dressed in white. According to ancestral tradition, on Sânzienne's Eve, it is said that the fairies bless the animals and the fountains, strengthen the marriages, heal people of different diseases and then like to dance and sing until dawn.

On the eve of June 23, girls used to pick yellowweed flowers on the fields and made wreaths that they threw over the roofs. At night, the girls who want to get married join the young men who want to wed.

Older people are also throwing garlands over the roof to find out when they'll die.

There's the belief that when the garland will fall from the roof, death is near.

