

# LEGEND AND FOLKLORE SYMBOLS: GOGA

*Many cultures around the world have a myth concerning the origin of fire: some say it was a gift from the gods, while others say it was stolen by humans.*

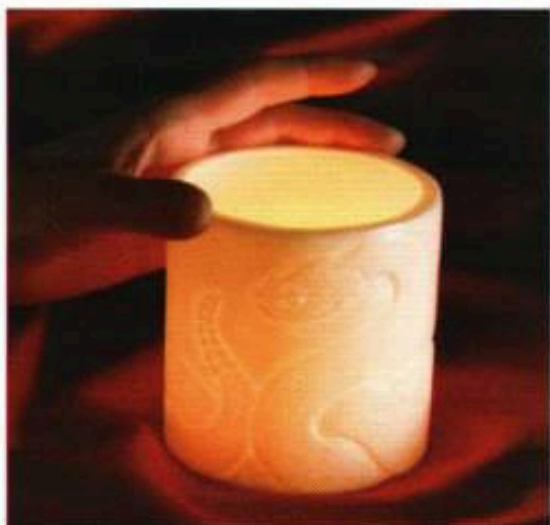
**T**he Massim people of Papua New Guinea believed that the primal being was an immortal old woman called Goga and in her body resided the element of fire. The myths vary on how Goga's fire came into human possession, but the most popular version involves a snake's tail.

## The wrath of Goga

Legend says that a human boy, or the first men, stole fire from the ageless body of Goga and then fled. Goga pursued the stolen firebrand and, as she was also the goddess of rain, tried to quench the flame by causing a great deluge. In his terror the thief dropped the firebrand onto a tree, which caught fire.

Goga's rains flooded the world, but there was a snake in the tree whose tail caught alight and it continued to smoulder after the tree had burned down and the rains had passed. Humans found the snake and used its tail to create the first fire on Earth.

*Goga's sacred flame set alight a snake's tail in a tree and passed fire to humans.*



## THE SYMBOLISM OF GOGA

Goga was the goddess of rain and fire, and as controller of these elements, she is a useful deity to call upon when working fire or water magic, or casting weather spells.

⚡ A firebrand, or the image of one if you wish to exercise

**A candle holder with a snake carving is ideal for calling upon Goga.**

caution, may be used in spells and rituals to harness Goga's power. Just remember to make an offering to the goddess first so as not to anger her like the first humans did!

⚡ You can also make a snake charm to carry with you, or to wear as a brooch or pendant, when working with Goga's fiery and creative energies.

⚡ According to the Kiwai people of Papua, the primal woman also taught humans the rules and rituals of civilised life. If you need some order in your life, call upon the old goddess for guidance.

⚡ Water symbols to use with Goga's magic include blue candles, ribbons and crystals and rain water.