



Moon Imagery - A Midsummer Night's Dream Act 1

Act I takes place in the daytime, but there is a lot of mention of the moon. This is foreshadowing of the events about to take place in the night. List some ways this moon imagery is used in Act 1. Then write your thoughts on what those usages might mean.

Word or phrase used	Meaning

Moon imagery examples:

line 3: Theseus says "Four happy days bring in another moon". He is talking about a new moon coming in that time, bringing in his marriage to Hippolyta. He wants the old moon to hurry up and "die", so he can marry his love.

line 9-10: Hippolyta says the moon will be like a silver bow that will look upon their vows. Since these are ancient Athenians, this could also be an allusion to Cupid's bow that they would have believed brought their love together.

line 31: Egeus says Lysander has sung songs to Hermia at her window by the light of the moon. Egeus calls Lysander's love "feigning". He doesn't believe Lysander truly loves Hermia.

line 73: Theseus says that if Hermia doesn't marry Demetrius as her father demands, then she will live a barren (childless) life. He talks about her singing to the "cold fruitless moon". Hermia has until the next new moon to make her decision. The coming of the new moon means something wonderful for Theseus and Hippolyta, but it means something awful for Hermia.