



Roles of bath master in modern time Lithuanian bath

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Pirtininkas. The bath master in Lithuanian *pirtis*.

The bath master (**pirtininkas**) in the traditional Lithuanian bath (**pirtis**) was described as “the one, who has and/or heats sauna”.

Also, there were people who were invited in special cases and people, performing bath procedures in city baths.

Modern time Lithuanian bath masters combine all these traditional roles, but on the other hand, it is a new and unique phenomenon.

Consciously or not, every bath master leading group or individual bathing process, performs one of the typical roles (or combination of several roles), which are formed by clients requests, requires specific skills and influences the process.



“The master of public bath”

Takes care of order and steam in public bath. Sometimes they offer some simple procedures (like salt inhalations) - but mostly it is technical work, with not so much contact with clients.

Type of bathing: group

Clients' requests:

No special requests



“Soul of the group”

The closest role to the traditional bath masters' understanding. The one who has own sauna or gathers friends and close people to enjoy bathing together.

Type of bathing: group

Clients' requests:

“Could I join, when you will organize a group of people to bath?”

“Will you heat your *pirtis* tomorrow? We'd like to come!”



“Entertainer”

Leads group procedures, feasts, celebrations. Mostly orientates to having fun together, playful group programs, can include group whisking or show elements.

Type of bathing: group

Clients' request:

“We have special occasion and want to celebrate it in *pirtis!*”

“Our company has a team building meeting. We want to include this experience too!”



“Whisker and master of procedures”

Performs whisking and other bath procedures. Often combines this role with one of the “group” roles or works in a SPA.

Type of bathing: individual

Clients' requests:

“I want to get good whisking!..”

“Could you heat my back and make scrub?”

“I want to relax and have good treatment for my body!”



“Healer”

Performs physical or/and emotional healing procedures, especially combining bath procedures with other methods (e.g. massage, physiotherapy, body psychotherapy etc.). The procedures are very effective for people who are burned-out or depressed.

Type of bathing: individual

Clients' requests:

“I feel pain in my back. Is it possible to do something with this?”

“Feel tired and depressed, can't sleep. Could you help me somehow?”



“Teacher”

The one, who combines bathing and education. The goal is not to make a sophisticated or luxury procedure, but to explain, give to try, educate.



Type of bathing: group or individual

Clients' requests:

“Could you show how to bath in a right and healthy way?”

“I'd like to learn a little bit, how to make and use whisks...”

“We have foreign guests, could you show and explain them, what Lithuanian *pirtis* is?”

“Shaman”

Performs special rituals or spiritual practices. There are people who look for a spiritual experience in *pirtis*. They see it as a kind of “non ideological form of meditation”, or have a longing for something deeper to connect with their Soul, Source and Wisdom.

Type of bathing: group or individual

Clients' request:

“Something is happening in my life. I need support.”

“A special day is coming. We want to get ready for it.”

“I want to connect with myself, looking for a spiritual inspiration.”



Thank you!



Special thanks to:

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