



Vernal Equinox Ritual

◆ Ritual washing with invocation to Okeanos

Okeanos whose nature ever flows, from whom at first both Gods and men arose;
sire incorruptible, whose waves surround, and earth's all-terminating circle bound:
hence every river, hence the spreading sea, and earth's pure bubbling fountains spring from thee.
Hear, mighty sire, for boundless bliss is thine, greatest cathartic of the powers divine:
earth's friendly limit, fountain of the pole, whose waves wide spreading and circumfluent roll.
Approach benevolent, with placid mind, and be forever to thy mystics kind.

◆ Purification – water sprinkled from a bay branch – “Be gone all evil and corruption” (three times).

Blessed Okeanos, may your bright waters purify this space, and prepare both me, and it, for the sacred rites that are about to unfold.

- ◆ Let there be only words of good omen (three times); I pray to the Gods and Goddesses.
- ◆ Offering of barley groats strewn around altar
- ◆ Lighting of the lamp with invocation to Hestia
- ◆ Homeric Hymn 24 to Hestia

24. EIS ESTIAN

Hestia, you that tend the far-shooting lord Apollo's sacred house at holy Pytho, from your locks the oozing oil ever drips down. Come to this house in kindly (?) heart, together with Zeus the resourceful, and bestow beauty on my singing.

- ◆ Libation of wine poured on the corners of the altar
- ◆ Lighting of the sacrificial fire
- ◆ Lighting of the incense burner with frankincense
- ◆ Invocations to Gaia: To You who nurtures us into being, nurtures us through life, and accepts us unto Thee:

First of all, in my prayers, before all other Gods, I call upon the foremost prophetess Gaia.

Aeschylus – Eumenides (opening lines)

◆ **Orphic Hymn 26 to Ge**

Ges

Divine Earth [Gaia Thea], mother of men and of the blessed Gods,
you nourish all, you give all, you bring all to fruition, and you destroy all.
When the season is fair you are heavy with fruit and growing blossoms;
and, o multiform maiden, you are the seat of the immortal cosmos,
and in the pains of labor you bring forth fruit of all kinds.
Eternal, reverend, deep-bosomed, and blessed,
you delight in the sweet breath of grass, O Goddess bedecked with flowers.
Yours is the joy of the rain, and round you the intricate realm of the stars
revolves in endless and awesome flow.
But, O blessed Goddess, may you multiply the gladsome fruits
and, together with the beautiful seasons, grant me favor.

◆ **Choes of water**

◆ **Prayers (for blessings of bounty for the coming season)**

◆ **Invocation to Themis: Khaire Themis, you who sits leaning against Zeus, you who Zeus consults closely with, you who are the Just Order of all things.**

Leap for goodly Themis

From the Hymn of the Kouretes

◆ **Invocation to Helios**

◆ **Libation for Helios**

◆ **Offering for Helios**

◆ **Homeric Hymn 31 to Helios**

To Helios

And now, O Muse Calliope, daughter of Zeus, begin to sing of glowing Helios whom mild-eyed Euryphaessa, the far-shining one, bare to the Son of Earth and starry Heaven. For Hyperion wedded glorious Euryphaessa, his own sister, who bare him lovely children, rosy-armed Eos and rich-tressed Selene and tireless Helios who is like the deathless gods. As he rides in his chariot, he shines upon men and deathless gods, and piercingly he gazes with his eyes from his golden helmet. Bright rays beam dazzingly from him, and his bright locks streaming from the temples of his head gracefully enclose his far-seen face: a rich, fine-spun garment glows upon his body and flutters in the wind: and stallions carry him. Then, when he has stayed his golden-yolked chariot and horses, he rests there upon the highest point of heaven, until he marvelously drives them down again through heaven to Ocean.

Hail to you, lord! Freely bestow on me substance that cheers the heart. . . .

◆ **. Prayers (blessings for the coming season)**

May the bright gleam of the sun cause blessings that give happiness to life to spring from the earth in plenty.

Modified from Aeschylus' Eumenides

- ◆ **Invocation to Apollon**
- ◆ **Libation for Apollon**
- ◆ **Offering for Apollon**
- ◆ **Homeric Hymn 21 to Apollon**

To Apollon

Phoebus, of you even the swan sings with clear voice to the beating of his wings, as he alights upon the bank by the eddying river Peneus; and of you the sweet-tongued minstrel, holding his high-pitched lyre, always sings both first and last.

And so hail to you, lord! I seek your favor with my song.

- ◆ **Prayers (blessings for the coming season)**

- ◆ **Invocation to the Horai**
- ◆ **Libation for the Horai**
- ◆ **Offering for the Horai**
- ◆ **Orphic Hymn 43 to the Horai followed by libation and prayer**

Horai

Horai, daughters of Themis and of Lord Zeus –
Eunomie and Dike and thrice-blessed Eirene –
pure spirits of spring and of the blossoming meadow,
you are found in every color and in all scents wafted by the breezes.
Ever-blooming, revolving and sweet-faced, O Horai,
you cloak yourselves with the dew of luxuriant flowers.
You are holy Persephone's companions at play, when the Fates
and the Graces, in circling dances come forth to light,
pleasing Zeus and their fruit-giving mother.
Come . . . and bring seasons perfect for the growth of goodly fruit.

- ◆ **Prayers (blessings for the coming season)**

- ◆ **Invocation to Kronos**
- ◆ **Libation for Kronos**
- ◆ **Orphic Hymn 13 to Kronos**

To Kronos

Everlasting father of blessed Gods and men,
resourceful, pure, mighty, and powerful Titan,

you consume all things and replenish them, too.
Unbreakable is the hold you have on the boundless cosmos.
O Kronos, begetter of time, Kronos of contrasting discourse,
child of Earth and starry Sky.

In you there is birth and decline, august and prudent lord of Rhea.
who, as progenitor, dwell in every part of the world.
Hear my suppliant voice, O wily and brave one,
and bring an ever blameless end to a good life.

◆ **Prayers (blessings for the coming season)**

◆ **Invocation to Rhea**

◆ **Libation for Rhea**

◆ **Orphic Hymn 14 to Rhea**

To Rhea

Mighty Rhea, daughter of many-faced Protogonos,
your sacred chariot is drawn by bull-slaying lions.
The sound of drums and cymbals, O frenzy-loving maiden,
is yours, and you are the mother of the aegis bearing Olympian lord.
Illustrious and honored, you are Kronos blessed consort
and you delight in the mountains and in the horrid shrieks of mortals.
Strong-spirited Rhea, queen of queens, lover of the battle din,
liar, savior, redeemer, first by birth,
you are mother of Gods and mortal men.
From you come the earth, the wide sky above,
the sea, and the winds. Ethereal and restless,
come, O blessed Goddess, as gentle-minded savior,
Bring peace and a wealth of possessions,
and send death and mire to the ends of the earth.

◆ **Prayers (blessings for the coming year, etc.)**

◆ **Invocation to Demeter**

◆ **Libation for Demeter**

◆ **Prayers (blessings for the coming season)**

◆ **Invocation to Zeus Teleios**

◆ **Libation for Zeus Teleios**

◆ **Homeric Hymn 23. To the Son of Kronos, Most High, To Zeus**

To the Son of Kronos, Most High, To Zeus

Of Zeus, best and greatest of the gods, I will sing, the
wide-sounding ruler, the one that brings to fulfillment,
who consults closely with Themis as she sits leaning
against him.

Be favorable, wide-sounding son of Kronos, greatest
and most glorious.

- ◆ **Prayers (for blessings for the coming season)**
- ◆ **Invocation to Hera Teleia**
- ◆ **Libation for Hera**
- ◆ **Homeric Hymn 12 to Hera**

To Hera

Of Hera I sing, the golden-throned, whom Rhea bore to be
queen of the immortals, of supreme beauty, sister and wife
of Zeus the loud-booming; glorious one, whom all of the
blessed ones on long Olympus revere and honor no less
than Zeus whose sport is the thunderbolt.

- ◆ **Prayers (for blessings for the coming season)**
- ◆ **Libation poured on the sacrificial fire to Hestia and for all the Gods with prayers**

Then may blessings go with us, and may the Gods watch benevolently over us and
guard us with favorable fortunes!

Modified from Aeschylus – Libation Bearers – Chorus

- ◆ **Extinguishing the lamp with a prayer for Hestia's blessings**