



Ritual for the Eleusinian Mysteries (Opening) September 27, daytime

- ◆ **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 – khnerips (holy water) sprinkled from a bay branch – Be gone all corruption and evil” (three times).**

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

- ◆ **Euphemia sto, euphemia sto, eukhomai tois Theois pasi kai pasais.**
(Let there be words of good omen, Let there be words of good omen, pray to the Gods and Goddesses.)
- ◆ **Who is present? Those attending answer: All good people!**
- ◆ **Lighting of the lamp for Hestia with invocation: Daughter of Kronos, You whose eternal flame illumines all our worship, come to this oikos with blessings . . .**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine to Hestia**
- ◆ **Homeric Hymn 24 to Hestia**

To Hestia

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.

- ◆ **Strewing of barley groats around the altar (circling clockwise three times)**
- ◆ **Invocation, prayers, and Orphic Hymn 26 to Gaia**
- ◆ **To Gaia**

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

- ◆ **Invocation and offering of khernips poured out to Gaia: Gaia, to you who nurtures us into being, who nurtures us through life, and who accepts us unto once again unto Thee, blessed Kourotropos, I honor you with khernips**
- ◆ **Orphic Hymn 26 To Earth**

Ges

[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.

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis

- ◆ **Invocations and prayers to Themis: To you who sits leaning against Zeus, who consults closely with Zeus, and who are the just order of all things**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine**

Leap for goodly Themis

From the Hymn of the Kouretes

- ◆ **Invocation to Demeter: Khaire Demeter, you who taught us to work the earth and provides for us so bountifully...**

I begin to sing of rich-haired Demeter, awful Goddess, of her and of her daughter lovely
 Persephone. Hail, Goddess! Watch over us as we walk your most sacred road.

From Homeric Hymn 13 to Demeter

- ◆ **Libation of a kykeon (barley meal, water, ground goat cheese, mint) to Demeter**
- ◆ **(Part of) Homeric Hymn 2**

To Demeter

Golden-haired Demeter sat at Eleusis, apart from all the blessed Gods and stayed, wasting with yearning for her deep-bosomed daughter. Then she caused a most dreadful and cruel year for mankind over the all-nourishing earth: the ground would not make the seed sprout, for rich-crowned Demeter kept it hid. In the fields the oxen drew many a curved plough in vain, and much white barley was cast upon the land without avail. So she would have destroyed the whole race of man with cruel famine and have robbed them who dwell on Olympos of their glorious right of gifts and sacrifices, had not Zeus perceived and marked this in his heart.

◆ **Homeric Hymn 40**

To Demeter

Deo, divine mother of all, goddess of many names, august Demeter,
Nurturer of youths, and giver of prosperity and wealth.
You nourish the ears of corn, O giver of all, and you delight in peace and in toilsome
labor.
Present at sowing, reaping and threshing, O spirit of unripe fruit,
You dwell in the sacred valley of Eleusis.
Charming and lovely, you give sustenance to all mortals,
And you were the first to yoke the plowing ox and to send up from below,
A rich and lovely harvest for mortals.
Through you there is growth and blooming, O illustrious companion of Bromios,
And, torch-bearing and pure one, you delight in the summer's yield.
From beneath the earth you appear and to all you are gentle,
O holy and youth-nurturing lover of children and of fair offspring.
You yoke your chariot to bridled dragons,
And round your throne you whirl and howl in ecstasy.
Only daughter with many children and many powers over mortals,
You manifest your myriad faces to the variety of flowers and sacred blossoms.
Come, blessed and pure one, and, laden with the fruits of summer,
Bring peace, together with the welcome rule of law, riches too,
And prosperity, and health that governs all.

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis

- ◆ **Invocation to Persephone: Khaire Persephone, maiden Goddess of spring's bounty...**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine to Kore**
- ◆ **Orphic Hymn 29**

To Persephone

Persephone, blessed daughter of great Zeus, sole offspring of Demeter,
Come and accept this gracious sacrifice.
Much-honored spouse of Plouton, discreet and life-giving,
You command the gates of Hades in the bowels of the earth,
Lovely-tressed, Praxidike, pure bloom of Deo, mother of the Furies,
Queen of the netherworld whom Zeus sired in clandestine union.
Mother of loud-roaring and many shaped Eubouleus,
Radiant and luminous playmate of the Seasons, august, almighty,
Maiden rich in fruits, you alone are beloved of mortals.
In spring you rejoice in the meadow breezes,
And you show your holy figure in shoots and green fruits.
You were made a kidnapper's bride in the fall,
And you alone are life and death to toiling mortals,
O Persephone, for you always nourish all and kill them too.
Hearken, O blessed goddess, and send forth the earth's fruits.
You who blossom in peace, in soft-handed health,
And in a life of plenty that ferries old age in comfort to your realm,
O queen, and to that of mighty Plouton.

- ◆ **Visualize walking those first steps from Athens to Eleusis down the sandy road. The sun is bearing down, already hot. You are surrounded by everyone doing this ritual with you and the thousands of people who participated in the Mysteries before you. Feel the connection to ancient Hellas, the excitement, the sliver of fear of the unknown. These are the Mysteries and they are connected to the end of life.**

“Blessed Demeter and golden haired Persephone. Today we walk the path of the ancients. As they walked the road to Eleusis, towards Your sanctuary. These days are devoted to You and You alone, and we vow to pay homage to You along the way, as did the ancients as they walked. Be with us, and when we come to You again, give us a glimpse of the Mysteries You have taught others oh so many years. This we pray of You, Goddesses of abundance who watch kindly over the human race.”

- ◆ **Present both Demeter and Persephone, and any Gods and Goddesses you feel close to, who you want to invite to support you on this journey, with a personal offering that will be left on your altar for the duration of the Mysteries. You may offer anything you want, perishable or not. The road to Eleusis was littered with small shrines to various deities and people would leave small offerings at these with a word of prayer. That is what we are emulating here. Take a moment to commit to this journey that the Mysteries are. Remember that it’s going to mean daily sacrifices to Demeter and Persephone, a day of fasting if you can, and daily rituals. Once you are ready, tie the króki around your left wrist, a yellow—traditionally woollen—string to indicate you are fully committed to fulfilling the Mysteries. Then you may finish the rite.**
- ◆ **Invocation to Hestia: Daughter of Kronos, You whose eternal flame illumines all our worship, we have honored You in first place with a libation of honey sweet wine and now honor you in last place with a libation of honey sweet wine:**

“Blessed Hestia, Goddess of home and hearth, to you, we offer last of all a libation of honey sweet wine, as a pious mortal should. Tend to those whom we love and guard the houses of the pious. As the Gods will it, so shall it be!”

- ◆ **Libation of wine to Hestia**
- ◆ **Extinguishing of the lamp**



Ritual for the Eleusinian Mysteries (Purification rite) September 28, daytime

- ◆ **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 – khnerips (holy water) sprinkled from a bay branch – Be gone all corruption and evil” (three times).**

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

- ◆ **Euphemia sto, euphemia sto, eukhomai tois Theois pasi kai pasais.**
(Let there be words of good omen, Let there be words of good omen, pray to the Gods and Goddesses.)
- ◆ **Who is present? Those attending answer: All good people!**
- ◆ **Lighting of the lamp for Hestia with invocation: Daughter of Kronos, You whose eternal flame illumines all our worship, come to this oikos with blessings . . .**
- ◆ **Lighting of the sacrificial fire**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine to Hestia**
- ◆ **Homeric Hymn 24 to Hestia**

To Hestia

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.

- ◆ **Strewing of barley groats around the altar (circling clockwise three times)**
- ◆ **Invocation, prayers, and Orphic Hymn 26 to Gaia**
- ◆ **To Gaia**

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

- ◆ **Invocation and offering of khernips poured out to Gaia: Gaia, to you who nurtures us into being, who nurtures us through life, and who accepts us unto once again unto Thee, blessed Kourotropos, I honor you with khernips**
- ◆ **Orphic Hymn 26 To Earth**

Ges

[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.

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis

- ◆ **Invocations and prayers to Themis: To you who sits leaning against Zeus, who consults closely with Zeus, and who are the just order of all things**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine**

Leap for goodly Themis

From the Hymn of the Kouretes

- ◆ **Invocation to Demeter: Khaire Demeter, you who taught us to work the earth and provides for us so bountifully...**

Demeter first turned the earth with the curved plough; She first gave corn and crops to
 bless the land; She first gave laws; all things are Demeter's gift. Of Demeter I must sing.
 Oh that my song may hymn the Goddess' praise as She deserves, a Goddess who
 deserved high hymns of praise.

From Ovid, Metamorphoses 5

- ◆ **Libation of a kykeon (barley meal, water, ground goat cheese, mint) to Demeter**
- ◆ **Homeric Hymn 41 to Demeter**

To Demeter

Queen Antaia, Goddess and many-named mother of immortal Gods and mortal men,
 Weary from searching and wandering far and wide,
 Once you ended your fast in the valley of Eleusis and came to Hades for noble
 Persephone.
 Your guide was the guileless child of Dysaules,
 Who brought the news of pure chthonic Zeus' holy union.
 Yielding to human need you bore divine Euboulos.

But, O Goddess and Queen to whom many pray, I beseech you,
Come graciously to your pious initiates.

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis

- ◆ **Invocation to Persephone: Khaire Persephone, maiden Goddess of spring's bounty...**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine to Kore**
- ◆ **Orphic Hymn 43 to the Horae**

To Persephone

Horai, daughters of Themis and lord Zeus, Eumonie and Dike and thrice-blessed Eirene,
Pure spirits of spring and of the blossoming meadow,
You are found in every color and in all the scents wafted by the breezes.
Ever-blooming, revolving and sweet-faced, O Horia,
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 to the new initiates and their reverent and holy rites,
And bring seasons perfect for growth of goodly fruit.

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis

- ◆ **Prayers to Demeter and Persephone**

“Blessed Mother and Daughter divine, who watch over mankind and Earth's bounty. Around You the seasons revolve, both of the harvest and life. It is you who allow us to reap the rewards of our labour, who help us fill up our bellies and allow our children to grow strong. It is You who guide us now, as we walk the path of the ancients. Guard over us and purify us as we prepare to take part in Your rites.”

- ◆ **Pour out heavily salted water over your head to emulate the dip into the sea the ancient initiates would have taken to purify themselves.**

“Make us clean!”

- ◆ **Invocation to Hestia: Daughter of Kronos, You whose eternal flame illumines all our worship, we have honored You in first place with a libation of honey sweet wine and now honor you in last place with a libation of honey sweet wine:**

“Blessed Hestia, Goddess of home and hearth, to you, we offer last of all a libation of honey sweet wine, as a pious mortal should. Tend to those whom we love and guard the houses of the pious. As the Gods will it, so shall it be!”

- ◆ **Libation of wine to Hestia**
- ◆ **Extinguishing of the lamp**



Ritual for the Eleusinian Mysteries (General rite to Demeter and Persephone) September 29, daytime

- ◆ **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 – khnerips (holy water) sprinkled from a bay branch – Be gone all corruption and evil” (three times).**

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

- ◆ **Euphemia sto, euphemia sto, eukhomai tois Theois pasi kai pasais.**
(Let there be words of good omen, Let there be words of good omen, pray to the Gods and Goddesses.)
- ◆ **Who is present? Those attending answer: All good people!**
- ◆ **Lighting of the lamp for Hestia with invocation: Daughter of Kronos, You whose eternal flame illumines all our worship, come to this oikos with blessings . . .**
- ◆ **Lighting of the sacrificial fire**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine to Hestia**
- ◆ **Homeric Hymn 24 to Hestia**

To Hestia

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.

- ◆ **Strewing of barley groats around the altar (circling clockwise three times)**
- ◆ **Invocation, prayers, and Orphic Hymn 26 to Gaia**
- ◆ **To Gaia**

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

- ◆ **Invocation and offering of khernips poured out to Gaia: Gaia, to you who nurtures us into being, who nurtures us through life, and who accepts us unto once again unto Thee, blessed Kourotropos, I honor you with khernips**
- ◆ **Orphic Hymn 26 To Earth**

Ges

[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.

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis

- ◆ **Invocations and prayers to Themis: To you who sits leaning against Zeus, who consults closely with Zeus, and who are the just order of all things**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine**

Leap for goodly Themis

From the Hymn of the Kouretes

- ◆ **Invocation to Demeter: Of Demeter, ruler of corn-rich Sikelia, and of the violet-garlanded Persephone sing...**

Bacchylides, Fragment 3

- ◆ **Libation of a kykeon (barley meal, water, ground goat cheese, mint) to Demeter**
- ◆ **Kallimachos, Hymn 6 to Demeter**

To Demeter

As the Basket comes, greet it, ye women, saying 'Demeter, greatly hail! Lady of much bounty, of many measures of corn.' As the Basket comes, from the ground shall ye behold it, ye uninitiated, and gaze not from the roof or from aloft--child nor wife nor maid hath shed her hair--neither then nor when we spit from parched mouths fasting. Hesperos from the clouds marks the time of its coming: Hesperos, who alone persuaded Demeter to drink, what time she pursued the unknown tracks of her stolen daughter.

Hail, Goddess, and save this people in harmony and in prosperity, and in the fields bring us all pleasant things! Feed our kine, bring us flocks, bring us the corn-ear, bring us harvest! And nurse peace, that he who sows may also reap. Be gracious, O thrice-prayed for, great Queen of Goddesses!"

- ◆ **Invocation to Persephone: Khaire Persephone, maiden Goddess of spring's bounty...**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine to Kore**
- ◆ **(Part of) Orphic Hymn 29**

To Persephone

Radiant and luminous playmate of the Seasons, august, almighty,
Maiden rich in fruits, you alone are beloved of mortals.
In spring you rejoice in the meadow breezes,
And you show your holy figure in shoots and green fruits.
O Persephone, for you always nourish all and kill them too.
Hearken, O blessed Goddess, and send forth the earth's fruits.

- ◆ **Invocation to Hestia: Daughter of Kronos, You whose eternal flame illumines all our worship, we have honored You in first place with a libation of honey sweet wine and now honor you in last place with a libation of honey sweet wine:**

“Blessed Hestia, Goddess of home and hearth, to you, we offer last of all a libation of honey sweet wine, as a pious mortal should. Tend to those whom we love and guard the houses of the pious. As the Gods will it, so shall it be!”

- ◆ **Libation of wine to Hestia**
- ◆ **Extinguishing of the lamp**



Ritual for the Eleusinian Mysteries (Mysteries of Asklepios, Hygieia, Hypnos and Morpheus) September 29, nighttime

- ◆ **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 – khnerips (holy water) sprinkled from a bay branch – Be gone all corruption and evil” (three times).**

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

- ◆ **Euphemia sto, euphemia sto, eukhomai tois Theois pasi kai pasais.**
(Let there be words of good omen, Let there be words of good omen, pray to the Gods and Goddesses.)
- ◆ **Who is present? Those attending answer: All good people!**
- ◆ **Lighting of the lamp for Hestia with invocation: Daughter of Kronos, You whose eternal flame illumines all our worship, come to this oikos with blessings . . .**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine to Hestia**
- ◆ **Homeric Hymn 24 to Hestia**

To Hestia

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.

- ◆ **Strewing of barley groats around the altar (circling clockwise three times)**
- ◆ **Invocation, prayers, and Orphic Hymn 26 to Gaia**
- ◆ **To Gaia**

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

- ◆ **Invocation and offering of khernips poured out to Gaia: Gaia, to you who nurtures us into being, who nurtures us through life, and who accepts us unto once again unto Thee, blessed Kourotropos, I honor you with khernips**
- ◆ **Orphic Hymn 26 To Earth**

Ges

[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.

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis

- ◆ **Invocations and prayers to Themis: To you who sits leaning against Zeus, who consults closely with Zeus, and who are the just order of all things**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine**

Leap for goodly Themis

From the Hymn of the Kouretes

- ◆ **Invocation to Asklepios: Khaire Asklepios, master healer, You who guards over a mortal's health...**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine to Asklepios**
- ◆ **Paean of Erythrae**

To Asklepios

Sing, youths, of Paian, skill-famed, Leto's son, Far-shooter--ie Paian!--who fathered a great joy for mortals when he mingled in love with Koronis (Coronis) in the land of the Phlegyai--ie Paian!--, Asklepios, the most famous God--ie Paian!
 By him were fathered Makhaon and Podaleirios and Iaso--ie Paian!--and fair-eyed Aigle and Panakea, children of Epione, along with Hygieia, all-glorious, undefiled; ie Paian!
 Asklepios, the most famous God--ie Paian!
 Greetings I give you: graciously visit our widespaced city--ie Paian!--and grant that we look on the sun's light in joy, approved with the help of Hygieia, all-glorious, undefiled : ie Paian!--Asklepios, the most famous God--ie Paian!

- ◆ **Invocation to Hygieia: Khaire daughter of Asklepios, Goddess most revered. You who prevents illness and makes us clean...**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine to Hygieia**
- ◆ **Paean to Hygieia (by Ariphron of Sicyon)**

To Hygieia

Hygieia, most revered of the blessed ones among mortals,
may I dwell with you for what is left of my life,
and may you graciously keep company with me:
for any joy in wealth or in children or in a king's
godlike rule over men or in the desires which we
hunt with the hidden nets of Aphrodite, any other
delight or respite from toils that has been revealed
by the Gods to men, with you, blessed Hygieia, it
flourishes and shines in the converse of the Graces;
and without you no man is happy.

- ◆ **Invocation to Hypnos: Khaire soft-eyed Hypnos, come, embracing all as a mother on seeing her dear son after a long absence folds him with her wings to her loving breast...**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine to Hypnos**
- ◆ **Homeric Hymn 85 to Sleep**

To Hypnos

Sleep, you are lord of all the blessed Gods and mortal men,
And of every living creature the broad earth nurtures,
For you alone are master of all and you visit all,
Binding their bodies with fetters unforged.
You free us of cares, and, offering sweet respite from toil,
You grant holy solace to our every sorrow.
You save souls by easing them into the thought of death,
Since to Death and Oblivion you are a true brother.
But, O blessed one, I beseech you to come, sweet-tempered,
And kindly save the initiates that they may serve the Gods.

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis

- ◆ **Invocation to Morpheus: Khaire Morpheus, bringer of dreams who travels on noiseless wings...**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine to Morpheus**
- ◆ **Homeric Hymn 86 to Dream**

To Morpheus

I call upon you, blessed, long-winged and baneful dream,
Messenger of things to come, greatest prophet to mortals.
In the quiet of sweet sleep you come silently, and, speaking to the soul,
You rouse men's minds and in their sleep you whisper to them
The will of the blessed ones.
Silent you come to show the future to silent souls,
That walk the noble path of piety to the Gods,
So that always good wins the race to people's minds,
And leads their lives to pleasures enjoyed before evil arrives,
And to respite from suffering.
The end to which the pious come is always sweeter,

But to the impious never does a dreamy phantom, a prophet of evil deeds,
Reveal future necessity, so that they find deliverance from pain to come.
But, blessed one, I beg you to show me the behests of the Gods,
And in all things bring me close to the straight path.
Do not show me evil signs which conduce monstrous deeds.
But, O blessed one, I beseech you to come, sweet-tempered,
And kindly save the initiates that they may serve the Gods.

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis

- ◆ **Offering (amongst the recorded sacrifices are black goats or sheep, gold, silver, or marble sculptures of the body part that required healing, and coins)**
- ◆ **Prayers**

“Blessed Asklepios and all Your fair daughters. Blessed Hypnos and Morpheus. Gather around me in haste. Listen to my plea for clarity of mind. As I lay me to rest, bring me kind sleep and knowledge divine. You who brings prophetic dreams for my future alone, let me wake rested and with clear health.”

- ◆ **Invocation to Hestia: Daughter of Kronos, You whose eternal flame illumines all our worship, we have honored You in first place with a libation of honey sweet wine and now honor you in last place with a libation of honey sweet wine:**

“Blessed Hestia, Goddess of home and hearth, to you, we offer last of all a libation of honey sweet wine, as a pious mortal should. Tend to those whom we love and guard the houses of the pious. As the Gods will it, so shall it be!”

- ◆ **Libation of wine to Hestia**
- ◆ **Extinguishing of the lamp**



Ritual for the Eleusinian Mysteries (Epidauria) September 30, daytime

- ◆ **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 – khnerips (holy water) sprinkled from a bay branch – Be gone all corruption and evil” (three times).**

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

- ◆ **Euphemia sto, euphemia sto, eukhomai tois Theois pasi kai pasais.**
(Let there be words of good omen, Let there be words of good omen, pray to the Gods and Goddesses.)
- ◆ **Who is present? Those attending answer: All good people!**
- ◆ **Lighting of the lamp for Hestia with invocation: Daughter of Kronos, You whose eternal flame illumines all our worship, come to this oikos with blessings . . .**
- ◆ **Lighting of the sacrificial fire**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine to Hestia**
- ◆ **Homeric Hymn 24 to Hestia**

To Hestia

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.

- ◆ **Strewing of barley groats around the altar (circling clockwise three times)**
- ◆ **Invocation, prayers, and Orphic Hymn 26 to Gaia**
- ◆ **To Gaia**

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

Aeschylus – Eumenides (opening lines)

- ◆ **Invocation and offering of khernips poured out to Gaia: Gaia, to you who nurtures us into being, who nurtures us through life, and who accepts us unto once again unto Thee, blessed Kourotrophos, I honor you with khernips**
- ◆ **Khoes of Khernips poured out**
- ◆ **Orphic Hymn 26 To Earth**

Ges

[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.

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis

- ◆ **Invocations and prayers to Themis: To you who sits leaning against Zeus, who consults closely with Zeus, and who are the just order of all things**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine**

Leap for goodly Themis

From the Hymn of the Kouretes

- ◆ **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 Asklepios: Khaire Asklepios, master healer, You who guards over a mortal's health...**
- ◆ **Libation to Asklepios**
- ◆ **Homeric Hymn 16**

To Asklepios

I begin to sing of Asklepios, son of Apollon and healer of sicknesses. In the Dotian plain fair Koronis, daughter of King Phlegyas, bare him, a great joy to men, a soother of cruel pangs. And so hail to you, lord: in my song I make my prayer to thee!

- ◆ **Orphic Hymn 67 To Asklepios**
- ◆ **Offerings of honey sweet wine to Asklepeios**

To Asklepios

Asklepios, lord Paian, healer of all,
 you charm away the suffering of men in pain.
 Come, mighty and soothing, bring health,
 and put an end to sickness and the harsh fate of death.
 Helper, blessed spirit of growth and blossoming, you ward evil off,
 honored and mighty scion of Phoibos Apollon.
 Enemy of disease, whose blameless consort is Hygieia,
 come, O blessed one, as savior and bring life to a good end.

- ◆ **Prayers**

“Blessed Asklepios, you who tends to the sick and heals all ailments. You who alleviates the suffering of all. Cleanse me of my pains and troubles and heal my weary mind and soul. May all worries fall from me under the gentle touch of Your strong hand. May all my wounds be healed and my journey light.”

- ◆ **Invocation to Hygieia: To you who makes life the most pleasant, who allows us to accomplish the most in life and, who allows us to do the most good in like**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine to Hygieia**
- ◆ **Paean to Hygieia (by Ariphron of Sicyon)**

To Hygieia

Hygieia, most revered of the blessed ones among mortals,
 may I dwell with you for what is left of my life,
 and may you graciously keep company with me:
 for any joy in wealth or in children or in a king’s
 godlike rule over men or in the desires which we
 hunt with the hidden nets of Aphrodite, any other
 delight or respite from toils that has been revealed
 by the Gods to men, with you, blessed Hygieia, it
 flourishes and shines in the converse of the Graces;
 and without you no man is happy.

- ◆ **Prayers of purification and cleansing**

“Blessed Hygieia, daughter of the healing God. You who brings us purity and cleanliness. Lay your soft hand on me and lift all that weights me down. Your hand on my forehead to sooth my mind, Your hand on my heart to sooth my aches. Lift all uncleanliness from me and prepare me for the rite to come.”

- ◆ **Invocation to Apollon: Radiant god who grants all that is good to mortals, far-shooter, healer...**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine to Apollon**
- ◆ **Orphic hymn 34 to Apollon**

To Apollon

Come, O blessed Paian, O slayer of Tityos, O Phoibos, O Lykoreus.
A giver of riches are you and an illustrious dweller in Memphis,
O god to whom one cries "ie".
To you, O Titan and Pythian god belong the lyre and seeds and plows.
Grynean, Sminthian, slayer of Pytho, Delphic diviner,
You are a wild, light-bringing and lovable god, O glorious youth.
You shoot your arrows from afar, you lead the Muses into dance,
And, O holy one, you are Bacchos, Didymeus, and Loxias too.
Lord of Delos, eye that sees all and brings light to mortals,
Golden is your hair and clear your oracular utterances.
Hear me with kindly heart as I pray for people.
You gaze upon all the ethereal vastness,
And upon the rich earth you look through the twilight.
In the quiet darkness of night lit with stars you see earth's roots below,
And you hold the bounds of the whole world.
Yours too are the beginning and the end to come.
You make everything bloom, and with your versatile lyre you harmonize the poles,
Now reaching the highest pitch, now the lowest and now again with the Doric mode,
Balancing the poles harmoniously, as you keep the living races distinct.
You have infused harmony into all men's lot,
Giving them equal measure of summer and winter.
The lowest notes you strike in the winter, the highest in summer,
And your mode is Doric for spring's lovely and blooming season.
Wherefore mortals call you lord, and Pan, the two-horned god,
Who sends the whistling winds.
For this too, you have the master seal of the entire cosmos.
O, blessed one, hear the supplicant voice of the initiates and save them.

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis

◆ Prayers of healing and purification

“Blessed Apollon, averter of evil, cleanser, healer. Prepare us for the rites ahead. Make us clean, lift our burdens, shine light on our darkness. It is to You whom we turn when we need illumination most.”

- ◆ **Take a moment to contemplate old pains and aches you have been holding onto, be they physical, emotional or spiritual. This is the time to let go of them. Especially if they have been holding you back, it is now time to let the burden of them fall away. Once you are ready to move on, cleansed and purified, finish the rite.**

- ◆ **Invocation to Hestia: Daughter of Kronos, You whose eternal flame illumines all our worship, we have honored You in first place with a libation of honey sweet wine and now honor you in last place with a libation of honey sweet wine:**

“Blessed Goddess Hestia, Goddess of home and hearth. To you, I offer last of all, as a pious mortal should. Tend to those whom I love, and guard the houses of the pious. As the Gods will it, so shall it be.”

- ◆ Libation of wine to Hestia
- ◆ Extinguishing of the lamp



Ritual for the Eleusinian Mysteries (To Demeter) Oktober 1, nighttime

- ◆ **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 – khnerips (holy water) sprinkled from a bay branch – Be gone all corruption and evil” (three times).**

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

- ◆ **Euphemia sto, euphemia sto, eukhomai tois Theois pasi kai pasais.**
(Let there be words of good omen, Let there be words of good omen, pray to the Gods and Goddesses.)
- ◆ **Who is present? Those attending answer: All good people!**
- ◆ **Lighting of the lamp for Hestia with invocation: Daughter of Kronos, You whose eternal flame illumines all our worship, come to this oikos with blessings . . .**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine to Hestia**
- ◆ **Homeric Hymn 24 to Hestia**

To Hestia

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.

- ◆ **Strewing of barley groats around the altar (circling clockwise three times)**
- ◆ **Invocation, prayers, and Orphic Hymn 26 to Gaia**
- ◆ **To Gaia**

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

- ◆ **Invocation and offering of khernips poured out to Gaia: Gaia, to you who nurtures us into being, who nurtures us through life, and who accepts us unto once again unto Thee, blessed Kourotrophos, I honor you with khernips**
- ◆ **Orphic Hymn 26 To Earth**

Ges

[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.

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis

- ◆ **Invocations and prayers to Themis: To you who sits leaning against Zeus, who consults closely with Zeus, and who are the just order of all things**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine**

Leap for goodly Themis

From the Hymn of the Kouretes

- ◆ **Invocation to Demeter: Of Demeter, ruler of corn-rich Sikelia sing...**
- ◆ **Libation of a kykeon (barley meal, water, ground goat cheese, mint) to Demeter**
- ◆ **(Part of) Homeric Hymn 2**

To Demeter

Golden-haired Demeter sat a Eleusis, apart from all the blessed Gods and stayed, wasting with yearning for her deep-bosomed daughter. Then she caused a most dreadful and cruel year for mankind over the all-nourishing earth: the ground would not make the seed sprout, for rich-crowned Demeter kept it hid. In the fields the oxen drew many a curved plough in vain, and much white barley was cast upon the land without avail. So she would have destroyed the whole race of man with cruel famine and have robbed them who dwell on Olympos of their glorious right of gifts and sacrifices, had not Zeus perceived and marked this in his heart.

- ◆ **Homeric Hymn 40**

To Demeter

Deo, divine mother of all, goddess of many names, august Demeter,
 Nurturer of youths, and giver of prosperity and wealth.

You nourish the ears of corn, O giver of all, and you delight in peace and in toilsome labor.

Present at sowing, reaping and threshing, O spirit of unripe fruit,
You dwell in the sacred valley of Eleusis.

Charming and lovely, you give sustenance to all mortals,
And you were the first to yoke the plowing ox and to send up from below,
A rich and lovely harvest for mortals.

Through you there is growth and blooming, O illustrious companion of Bromios,
And, torch-bearing and pure one, you delight in the summer's yield.

From beneath the earth you appear and to all you are gentle,
O holy and youth-nurturing lover of children and of fair offspring.

You yoke your chariot to bridled dragons,
And round your throne you whirl and howl in ecstasy.

Only daughter with many children and many powers over mortals,
You manifest your myriad faces to the variety of flowers and sacred blossoms.

Come, blessed and pure one, and, laden with the fruits of summer,
Bring peace, together with the welcome rule of law, riches too,
And prosperity, and health that governs all.

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis

◆ **Homeric Hymn 41 to Demeter**

To Demeter

Queen Antaia, Goddess and many-named mother of immortal Gods and mortal men,
Weary from searching and wandering far and wide,
Once you ended your fast in the valley of Eleusis and came to Hades for noble
Persephone.

Your guide was the guileless child of Dysaules,
Who brought the news of pure chthonic Zeus' holy union.

Yielding to human need you bore divine Euboulos.

But, O Goddess and Queen to whom many pray, I beseech you,
Come graciously to your pious initiates.

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis

“Blessed Demeter, whose road we travel in these days. Accept this offer illuminated by torchlight and guide us safely through Your rites.”

◆ **Invocation to Hestia: Daughter of Kronos, You whose eternal flame illumines all our worship, we have honored You in first place with a libation of honey sweet wine and now honor you in last place with a libation of honey sweet wine:**

“Blessed Hestia, Goddess of home and hearth, to you, we offer last of all a libation of honey sweet wine, as a pious mortal should. Tend to those whom we love and guard the houses of the pious. As the Gods will it, so shall it be!”

◆ **Libation of wine to Hestia**

◆ **Extinguishing of the lamp**



Ritual for the Eleusinian Mysteries (Initiatory rite) Oktober 2, nighttime

- ◆ **This is a night time ritual, so carry a torch (or candle) on your way to your altar. Preferably, the rest of the space is completely dark, or lit with small lights/candles. Make the journey as long as you can. With every step, remember how you started on this journey six days ago, with all of us, and with the spirits of the ancient Hellenes walking with you. Now you are alone, just you and the Theoi. The Mysteries can only be experienced alone, after all, and never shared afterwards. Asklepios and His daughters have cleaned, healed, and blessed you. Your body is pure. Your mind is pure. It's time to enter the rite and meet the Gods.**

- ◆ **Ritual washing followed 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 corruption and evil” (three times).**

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

- ◆ **Who is present? Those attending answer: All good people!**
- ◆ **Lighting of the lamp for Hestia with invocation: Daughter of Kronos, You whose eternal flame illumines all our worship, come to this oikos with blessings . . .**
- ◆ **Libation of wine to Hestia**
- ◆ **Homeric Hymn 24 to Hestia**

To Hestia

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.

- ◆ **Strewing of barley groats around the altar (circling clockwise three times)**
- ◆ **Lighting of the sacrificial fire**
- ◆ **Lighting of the incense burner with frankincense**

- ◆ **Invocation to Demeter: Khaire Demeter, Lady of much bounty, of many measures of corn...**
- ◆ **Libation of a kykeon (barley meal, water, ground goat cheese, mint) to Demeter**
- ◆ **(Parts of) Homeric Hymn 2**

To Demeter

Golden-haired Demeter sat at Eleusis, apart from all the blessed Gods and stayed, wasting with yearning for her deep-bosomed daughter. Then she caused a most dreadful and cruel year for mankind over the all-nourishing earth: the ground would not make the seed sprout, for rich-crowned Demeter kept it hid. In the fields the oxen drew many a curved plough in vain, and much white barley was cast upon the land without avail. So she would have destroyed the whole race of man with cruel famine and have robbed them who dwell on Olympos of their glorious right of gifts and sacrifices, had not Zeus perceived and marked this in his heart.

But the Goddess walked to the threshold of the house of heaven-nurtured Celeus and her head reached the roof and she filled the doorway with a heavenly radiance. Then Metaneira filled a cup with sweet wine and offered it to her; but she refused it, for she said it was not lawful for her to drink red wine, but bade them mix meal and water with soft mint and give her to drink. And Metaneira mixed the draught and gave it to the Goddess as she bade. So the great queen Deo received it to observe the sacrament.

Then rich-haired Demeter answered her: "And to you, also, lady, all hail, and may the Gods give you good! Gladly will I take your boy to my breast and will nurse him." When she had so spoken, she took the child in her fragrant bosom with her divine hands: and his mother was glad in her heart. So the Goddess nursed in the palace Demophoon, wise Celeus' goodly son whom well-girded Metaneira bore. And the child grew like some immortal being, not fed with food nor nourished at the breast: for by day rich-crowned Demeter would anoint him with ambrosia as if he were the offspring of a God and breathe sweetly upon him as she held him in her bosom. But at night she would hide him like a brand in the hearth of the fire, unknown to his dear parents. And she would have made him deathless and unageing, had not well-girded Metaneira in her heedlessness kept watch by night from her sweet-smelling chamber and spied. But she wailed and smote her two hips, because she feared for her son and was greatly distraught in her heart; so she lamented and uttered winged words: "Demophoon, my son, the strange woman buries you deep in fire and works grief and bitter sorrow for me."

Thus she spoke, mourning. And the bright Goddess, lovely-crowned Demeter, heard her, and was wroth with her. So with her divine hands she snatched from the fire the dear son whom Metaneira had born unhoped-for in the palace, and cast him from her to the ground; for she was terribly angry in her heart. Forthwith she said to well-girded Metaneira: "Witless are you mortals and dull to foresee your lot, whether of good or evil, that comes upon you. For now in your heedlessness you have wrought folly past healing; for -- be witness the oath of the Gods, the relentless water of Styx -- I would have made your dear son deathless and unaging all his days and would have bestowed on him everlasting honour, but now he can in no way escape death and the fates. Yet shall unfailing honour always rest upon him, because he lay upon my knees and slept in my arms. But, as the years move round and when he is in his prime, the sons of the Eleusinians shall ever wage war and dread strife with one another continually. Lo! I am that Demeter who has share of honour and is the greatest help and cause of joy to the

undying Gods and mortal men. But now, let all the people build be a great temple and an altar below it and beneath the city and its sheer wall upon a rising hillock above Callichorus. And I myself will teach my rites, that hereafter you may reverently perform them and so win the favour of my heart.

◆ **Prayers**

“Thus is the tale of the Mysteries and with this knowledge I walk upon Your altar, Blessed Demeter of the corn. Watch over me tonight as I submit to Your will and Your knowledge. Entrust me with Your secrets and your blessings.”

- ◆ **Invocation to Persephone: Khaire Persephone, spouse of Hades, host of many...**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine to Persephone**
- ◆ **Theognis, Fragment 1**

To Persephone

Persephone who impairs the mind of mortals and brings them forgetfulness. No one else has ever contrived this, once death's dark cloud has enveloped him and he has come to the shadowy place of the dead and passed the black gates which hold back the souls of the dead, for all their protestations.

◆ **Prayers**

“Blessed Persephone, dread Goddess who journeys to and from the underworld where we shall all depart to once the Theoi deem it is time. As you depart, so we suffer and as you rise, so we thrive. You who rules over our lives and whose Mother provides us with all means for our survival. Once I come to You, and the Judges judge over my life, whisper kindly in their ears. Lay your hand on me once my time comes and accept me unto you.”

- ◆ **Invocation to Plouton: Khaire Plouton who sows of the earth and lays all to rest...**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine to Plouton**
- ◆ **Statius, Thebaid, 4 / Hesiod, Works and Days**

To Plouton

Lord Plouton I behold, all pale upon the throne, with Erinyes ministering to his fell deeds about him, and the remorseless chambers and gloomy couch of Persephone. Thanatos sits upon an eminence, and numbers the silent peoples for their lord; yet the greater part of the troop remains. Minos] shakes them [the ghosts of the dead] in his inexorable urn, demanding the truth with threats, and constrains them to speak out their whole lives' story and at last confess their extorted gains.

◆ **Prayers**

“They say that the entire bulk and substance of the earth is dedicated to father Dis, because all things fall back into the earth and also arise from the earth. So as I fall and arise, may You look upon me kindly. May you bestow upon me fruition and blessings both in life and after. When I come to you, accept me with open arms.”

- ◆ **Invocation to Asklepios: Khaire Asklepios, healer divine, born twice, guard of men...**
- ◆ **Offerings of honey sweet wine to Asklepeios**
- ◆ **Orphic Hymn 67 To Asklepios**

To Asklepios

Asklepios, lord Paian, healer of all,
 you charm away the suffering of men in pain.
 Come, mighty and soothing, bring health,
 and put an end to sickness and the harsh fate of death.
 Helper, blessed spirit of growth and blossoming, you ward evil off,
 honored and mighty scion of Phoibos Apollon.
 Enemy of disease, whose blameless consort is Hygieia,
 come, O blessed one, as savior and bring life to a good end.

◆ **Prayers**

“Blessed Asklepios, you who kindly guides us towards the end of life, You who makes the transition into the Underworld a bearable one by handing us over to Hermes Kthonios in gentle repose, hear my prayer. Once the time may come that the Blessed Gods deem my time above the ground to be done, may it be You that is with me at the very end, gentle and with mercy.”

- ◆ **Invocation to Hermes: Khaire Hermes, who swiftly carries the dead to the river...**
- ◆ **Offerings of honey sweet wine to Hermes Khthonios**
- ◆ **Orphic Hymn 57 to Hermes Khthonios**

To Hermes

Hermes, I call, whom fate decrees to dwell near to Kokytos, the famed stream of Haidēs, and in necessity's (Ananke's) dread path, whose bourn to none that reach it ever permits return. O Bakkheios (Bacchian) Hermes, progeny divine of Dionysos, parent of the vine, and of celestial Aphrodite, Paphian queen, dark-eyelashed Goddess, of a lovely mien: who constant wanderest through the sacred seats where Haidēs' dread empress, Persephone, retreats; to wretched souls the leader of the way, when fate decrees, to regions void of day. Thine is the wand which causes sleep to fly, or lulls to slumberous rest the weary eye; for Persephone, through Tartaros dark and wide, gave thee for ever flowing souls to guide. Come, blessed power, the sacrifice attend, and grant thy mystics' works a happy end.

◆ **Prayers**

“Blessed Hermes, who guides the souls of the dead into the Afterlife. You who is our final companion. Once I come to You, stripped of all, take mercy upon me. Do not strand me on the banks of the river but carry me swift and true to the realm of Hades.”

◆ **Prayers**

“Blessed is he who hath seen these things before he goes beneath the hollow earth; for he understands the end of mortal life, and the beginning of a new life given of God.”

- ◆ **Sit and meditate for long moments and let your mind wander towards the cycle of life, as governed by Plouton and Demeter, and Persephone in-between. Count the many blessings in your life and focus on goals you hope to achieve with the aid of the Gods. If there is one thing you could ask for right now, what would it be? And how would you best be helped by the Theoi. Then set out your path towards it and ask for the Theoi to walk with you on that path. The Mysteries are the first step towards the rest of your life. Once you feel ready to take the next step, end the ritual and get to it, once day at a time.**

- ◆ **Invocation to Hestia: Daughter of Kronos, You whose eternal flame illumines all our worship, we have honored You in first place with a libation of honey sweet wine and now honor you in last place with a libation of honey sweet wine:**

“Blessed Hestia, Goddess of home and hearth, to you, we offer last of all a libation of honey sweet wine, as a pious mortal should. Tend to those whom we love and guard the houses of the pious. As the Gods will it, so shall it be!”

- ◆ **Libation of wine to Hestia**
- ◆ **Extinguishing of the lamp**



Ritual for the Eleusinian Mysteries (Rite of gratitude) October 3, daytime

◆ **Ritual washing followed 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 corruption and evil” (three times).**

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

◆ **Who is present? Those attending answer: All good people!**

◆ **Lighting of the lamp for Hestia with invocation: Daughter of Kronos, You whose eternal flame illumines all our worship, come to this oikos with blessings . . .**

◆ **Libation of wine to Hestia**

◆ **Homeric Hymn 24 to Hestia**

To Hestia

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.

◆ **Strewing of barley groats around the altar (circling clockwise three times)**

◆ **Lighting of the incense burner with frankincense**

◆ **Invocation to Demeter: Khaire Demeter, you who taught us to work the earth and provides for us so bountifully...**

◆ **Ovid, Metamorphoses 5**

To Demeter

Demeter first turned the earth with the curved plough; She first gave corn and crops to bless the land; She first gave laws; all things are Demeter's gift. Of Demeter I must sing.

Oh that my song may hymn the Goddess' praise as She deserves, a Goddess who deserved high hymns of praise.

- ◆ **Invocation to Persephone: Khaire Persephone, maiden Goddess of spring's bounty...**
- ◆ **Orphic Hymn 43 to the Horae**

To Persephone

Horai, daughters of Themis and lord Zeus, Eumonie and Dike and thrice-blessed Eirene,
Pure spirits of spring and of the blossoming meadow,
You are found in every color and in all the scents wafted by the breezes.
Ever-blooming, revolving and sweet-faced, O Horia,
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 to the new initiates and their reverent and holy rites,
And bring seasons perfect for growth of goodly fruit.

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis

- ◆ **Tipping out of two jugs of water**
- ◆ **Prayers**

“To you, golden-haired Demeter, and to you, bright-eyed Persephone, libations of thanks. That after all darkness may come the light and that You may always guide me to it.”

- ◆ **Invocation to Hestia: Daughter of Kronos, You whose eternal flame illumines all our worship, we have honored You in first place with a libation of honey sweet wine and now honor you in last place with a libation of honey sweet wine:**

“Blessed Hestia, Goddess of home and hearth, to you, we offer last of all a libation of honey sweet wine, as a pious mortal should. Tend to those whom we love and guard the houses of the pious. As the Gods will it, so shall it be!”

- ◆ **Libation of wine to Hestia**
- ◆ **Extinguishing of the lamp**



Ritual for the Eleusinian Mysteries (General rite to Demeter and Persephone) October 4, daytime

- ◆ **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 – khnerips (holy water) sprinkled from a bay branch – Be gone all corruption and evil” (three times).**

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

- ◆ **Euphemia sto, euphemia sto, eukhomai tois Theois pasi kai pasais.**
(Let there be words of good omen, Let there be words of good omen, pray to the Gods and Goddesses.)
- ◆ **Who is present? Those attending answer: All good people!**
- ◆ **Lighting of the lamp for Hestia with invocation: Daughter of Kronos, You whose eternal flame illumines all our worship, come to this oikos with blessings . . .**
- ◆ **Lighting of the sacrificial fire**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine to Hestia**
- ◆ **Homeric Hymn 24 to Hestia**

To Hestia

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.

- ◆ **Strewing of barley groats around the altar (circling clockwise three times)**
- ◆ **Invocation, prayers, and Orphic Hymn 26 to Gaia**
- ◆ **To Gaia**

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

- ◆ **Invocation and offering of khernips poured out to Gaia: Gaia, to you who nurtures us into being, who nurtures us through life, and who accepts us unto once again unto Thee, blessed Kourotropos, I honor you with khernips**
- ◆ **Orphic Hymn 26 To Earth**

Ges

[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.

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis

- ◆ **Invocations and prayers to Themis: To you who sits leaning against Zeus, who consults closely with Zeus, and who are the just order of all things**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine**

Leap for goodly Themis

From the Hymn of the Kouretes

- ◆ **Invocation to Demeter: Of Demeter, ruler of corn-rich Sikelia, and of the violet-garlanded Persephone sing...**

Bacchylides, Fragment 3

- ◆ **Libation of a kykeon (barley meal, water, ground goat cheese, mint) to Demeter**
- ◆ **Kallimachos, Hymn 6 to Demeter**

To Demeter

As the Basket comes, greet it, ye women, saying 'Demeter, greatly hail! Lady of much bounty, of many measures of corn.' As the Basket comes, from the ground shall ye behold it, ye uninitiated, and gaze not from the roof or from aloft--child nor wife nor maid hath shed her hair--neither then nor when we spit from parched mouths fasting. Hesperos from the clouds marks the time of its coming: Hesperos, who alone persuaded Demeter to drink, what time she pursued the unknown tracks of her stolen daughter.

Hail, Goddess, and save this people in harmony and in prosperity, and in the fields bring us all pleasant things! Feed our kine, bring us flocks, bring us the corn-ear, bring us harvest! And nurse peace, that he who sows may also reap. Be gracious, O thrice-prayed for, great Queen of Goddesses!"

- ◆ **Invocation to Persephone: Khaire Persephone, maiden Goddess of spring's bounty...**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine to Kore**
- ◆ **(Part of) Orphic Hymn 29**

To Persephone

Radiant and luminous playmate of the Seasons, august, almighty,
Maiden rich in fruits, you alone are beloved of mortals.
In spring you rejoice in the meadow breezes,
And you show your holy figure in shoots and green fruits.
O Persephone, for you always nourish all and kill them too.
Hearken, O blessed Goddess, and send forth the earth's fruits.

- ◆ **Invocation to Hestia: Daughter of Kronos, You whose eternal flame illumines all our worship, we have honored You in first place with a libation of honey sweet wine and now honor you in last place with a libation of honey sweet wine:**

“Blessed Hestia, Goddess of home and hearth, to you, we offer last of all a libation of honey sweet wine, as a pious mortal should. Tend to those whom we love and guard the houses of the pious. As the Gods will it, so shall it be!”

- ◆ **Libation of wine to Hestia**
- ◆ **Extinguishing of the lamp**



Ritual for the Eleusinian Mysteries (General rite to Demeter and Persephone + Personal sacrifice to the Theoi) October 5, daytime

- ◆ **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 – khnerips (holy water) sprinkled from a bay branch – Be gone all corruption and evil” (three times).**

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

- ◆ **Euphemia sto, euphemia sto, eukhomai tois Theois pasi kai pasais.**
(Let there be words of good omen, Let there be words of good omen, pray to the Gods and Goddesses.)
- ◆ **Who is present? Those attending answer: All good people!**
- ◆ **Lighting of the lamp for Hestia with invocation: Daughter of Kronos, You whose eternal flame illumines all our worship, come to this oikos with blessings . . .**
- ◆ **Lighting of the sacrificial fire**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine to Hestia**
- ◆ **Homeric Hymn 24 to Hestia**

To Hestia

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.

- ◆ **Strewing of barley groats around the altar (circling clockwise three times)**
- ◆ **Invocation, prayers, and Orphic Hymn 26 to Gaia**
- ◆ **To Gaia**

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

- ◆ **Invocation and offering of khernips poured out to Gaia: Gaia, to you who nurtures us into being, who nurtures us through life, and who accepts us unto once again unto Thee, blessed Kourotropos, I honor you with khernips**
- ◆ **Orphic Hymn 26 To Earth**

Ges

[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.

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis

- ◆ **Invocations and prayers to Themis: To you who sits leaning against Zeus, who consults closely with Zeus, and who are the just order of all things**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine**

Leap for goodly Themis

From the Hymn of the Kouretes

- ◆ **Invocation to Demeter: Of Demeter, ruler of corn-rich Sikelia, and of the violet-garlanded Persephone sing...**

Bacchylides, Fragment 3

- ◆ **Libation of a kykeon (barley meal, water, ground goat cheese, mint) to Demeter**
- ◆ **Kallimachos, Hymn 6 to Demeter**

To Demeter

As the Basket comes, greet it, ye women, saying 'Demeter, greatly hail! Lady of much bounty, of many measures of corn.' As the Basket comes, from the ground shall ye behold it, ye uninitiated, and gaze not from the roof or from aloft--child nor wife nor maid hath shed her hair--neither then nor when we spit from parched mouths fasting. Hesperos from the clouds marks the time of its coming: Hesperos, who alone persuaded Demeter to drink, what time she pursued the unknown tracks of her stolen daughter.

Hail, Goddess, and save this people in harmony and in prosperity, and in the fields bring us all pleasant things! Feed our kine, bring us flocks, bring us the corn-ear, bring us harvest! And nurse peace, that he who sows may also reap. Be gracious, O thrice-prayed for, great Queen of Goddesses!"

- ◆ **Invocation to Persephone: Khaire Persephone, maiden Goddess of spring's bounty...**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine to Kore**
- ◆ **(Part of) Orphic Hymn 29**

To Persephone

Radiant and luminous playmate of the Seasons, august, almighty,
 Maiden rich in fruits, you alone are beloved of mortals.
 In spring you rejoice in the meadow breezes,
 And you show your holy figure in shoots and green fruits.
 O Persephone, for you always nourish all and kill them too.
 Hearken, O blessed Goddess, and send forth the earth's fruits.

- ◆ **Add libations, hymns, and prayers to all Theoi you want to reconnect with after going through the Eleusinian Mysteries.**
- ◆ **Invocation to Hestia: Daughter of Kronos, You whose eternal flame illumines all our worship, we have honored You in first place with a libation of honey sweet wine and now honor you in last place with a libation of honey sweet wine:**

“Blessed Hestia, Goddess of home and hearth, to you, we offer last of all a libation of honey sweet wine, as a pious mortal should. Tend to those whom we love and guard the houses of the pious. As the Gods will it, so shall it be!”

- ◆ **Libation of wine to Hestia**
- ◆ **Extinguishing of the lamp**



Ritual for the Eleusinian Mysteries (Closing rite) October 6, daytime

- ◆ **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 – khnerips (holy water) sprinkled from a bay branch – Be gone all corruption and evil” (three times).**

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

- ◆ **Euphemia sto, euphemia sto, eukhomai tois Theois pasi kai pasais.**
(Let there be words of good omen, Let there be words of good omen, pray to the Gods and Goddesses.)
- ◆ **Who is present? Those attending answer: All good people!**
- ◆ **Lighting of the lamp for Hestia with invocation: Daughter of Kronos, You whose eternal flame illumines all our worship, come to this oikos with blessings . . .**
- ◆ **Lighting of the sacrificial fire**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine to Hestia**
- ◆ **Homeric Hymn 24 to Hestia**

To Hestia

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.

- ◆ **Strewing of barley groats around the altar (circling clockwise three times)**
- ◆ **Invocation, prayers, and Orphic Hymn 26 to Gaia**
- ◆ **To Gaia**

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

- ◆ **Invocation and offering of khernips poured out to Gaia: Gaia, to you who nurtures us into being, who nurtures us through life, and who accepts us unto once again unto Thee, blessed Kourotropos, I honor you with khernips**
- ◆ **Orphic Hymn 26 To Earth**

Ges

[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.

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis

- ◆ **Invocations and prayers to Themis: To you who sits leaning against Zeus, who consults closely with Zeus, and who are the just order of all things**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine**

Leap for goodly Themis

From the Hymn of the Kouretes

- ◆ **Invocation to Demeter: Khaire Demeter, you who taught us to work the earth and provides for us so bountifully...**

I begin to sing of rich-haired Demeter, awful Goddess, of her and of her daughter lovely
 Persephone. Hail, Goddess!

From Homeric Hymn 13 to Demeter

- ◆ **Libation of a kykeon (barley meal, water, ground goat cheese, mint) to Demeter**
- ◆ **(Part of) Homeric Hymn 2**

To Demeter

Golden-haired Demeter sat at Eleusis, apart from all the blessed Gods and stayed, wasting with yearning for her deep-bosomed daughter. Then she caused a most dreadful and cruel year for mankind over the all-nourishing earth: the ground would not make the seed sprout, for rich-crowned Demeter kept it hid. In the fields the oxen drew many a curved plough in vain, and much white barley was cast upon the land without avail. So she would have destroyed the whole race of man with cruel famine and have robbed them who dwell on Olympos of their glorious right of gifts and sacrifices, had not Zeus perceived and marked this in his heart.

◆ **Homeric Hymn 40**

To Demeter

Deo, divine mother of all, goddess of many names, august Demeter,
Nurturer of youths, and giver of prosperity and wealth.
You nourish the ears of corn, O giver of all, and you delight in peace and in toilsome
labor.
Present at sowing, reaping and threshing, O spirit of unripe fruit,
You dwell in the sacred valley of Eleusis.
Charming and lovely, you give sustenance to all mortals,
And you were the first to yoke the plowing ox and to send up from below,
A rich and lovely harvest for mortals.
Through you there is growth and blooming, O illustrious companion of Bromios,
And, torch-bearing and pure one, you delight in the summer's yield.
From beneath the earth you appear and to all you are gentle,
O holy and youth-nurturing lover of children and of fair offspring.
You yoke your chariot to bridled dragons,
And round your throne you whirl and howl in ecstasy.
Only daughter with many children and many powers over mortals,
You manifest your myriad faces to the variety of flowers and sacred blossoms.
Come, blessed and pure one, and, laden with the fruits of summer,
Bring peace, together with the welcome rule of law, riches too,
And prosperity, and health that governs all.

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis

- ◆ **Invocation to Persephone: Khaire Persephone, maiden Goddess of spring's bounty...**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine to Kore**
- ◆ **Orphic Hymn 29**

To Persephone

Persephone, blessed daughter of great Zeus, sole offspring of Demeter,
Come and accept this gracious sacrifice.
Much-honored spouse of Plouton, discreet and life-giving,
You command the gates of Hades in the bowels of the earth,
Lovely-tressed, Praxidike, pure bloom of Deo, mother of the Furies,
Queen of the netherworld whom Zeus sired in clandestine union.
Mother of loud-roaring and many shaped Eubouleus,
Radiant and luminous playmate of the Seasons, august, almighty,
Maiden rich in fruits, you alone are beloved of mortals.
In spring you rejoice in the meadow breezes,
And you show your holy figure in shoots and green fruits.
You were made a kidnapper's bride in the fall,
And you alone are life and death to toiling mortals,
O Persephone, for you always nourish all and kill them too.
Hearken, O blessed goddess, and send forth the earth's fruits.
You who blossom in peace, in soft-handed health,
And in a life of plenty that ferries old age in comfort to your realm,
O queen, and to that of mighty Plouton.

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis

- ◆ **You have come to the end of the Mysteries. You have made it through. The ancient Hellenes would have packed up, cleaned up, and prepared themselves for the return to their daily lives outside of the seclusion Eleusis offered. You, too, must now move forward, but not before overthinking your experiences. Take the time to meditate on what you have gone through, of how you felt, of how you feel now. Do you feel different? Thank the Theoi for bestowing this gift upon you.**

“Blessed Demeter and golden haired Persephone. I have walked the path of the ancients. As they walked the road to Eleusis, towards Your sanctuary, so have I. I came to You and You have given me a glimpse of the Mysteries You have taught others oh so many years. As the Mysteries come to an end, I pray that I may always carry Your blessings, Goddesses of abundance who watch kindly over the human race.”

- ◆ **Take a moment to mentally end this journey. Once you are ready, untie the króki from your left wrist. Then you may finish the rite.**
- ◆ **Invocation to Hestia: Daughter of Kronos, You whose eternal flame illumines all our worship, we have honored You in first place with a libation of honey sweet wine and now honor you in last place with a libation of honey sweet wine:**

“Blessed Hestia, Goddess of home and hearth, to you, we offer last of all a libation of honey sweet wine, as a pious mortal should. Tend to those whom we love and guard the houses of the pious. As the Gods will it, so shall it be!”

- ◆ **Libation of wine to Hestia**
- ◆ **Extinguishing of the lamp**