



Ritual for Hera Khalkeia

29 Pyanepsion

- ◆ **Ritual washing**
- ◆ **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 – khernips (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**
- ◆ **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.

Translated by Martin L. West

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

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

Aeschylus – Eumenides (opening lines)

- ◆ **Invocation to Gaia: Gaia, to you who nurtures us into being, who nurtures us through life, and who accepts us once again unto Thee, blessed Kourotrophos, I honor you with khernips**
- ◆ **Offering 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

- ◆ **Incense: aromatic herbs or frankincense**
- ◆ **Invocation to Hera: Goddess of beginnings, Goddess of marriages, Goddess of light, most holy and puissant Goddess Queen of Heaven who rules with Almighty Zeus, mother of Hephaistos**
- ◆ **Libations of honey sweet wine**
- ◆ **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.

Translated by Martin L. West

- ◆ **Orphic Hymn 16 To Hera**

To Hera

You lodge yourself in dark hollows, and your form is airy,

O Hera, blessed queen of all, consort of Zeus.
The soft breezes you send to mortals nourish the soul,
O mother of rains, mother of the winds, you give birth to all.
Life does not exist without you, growth does not exist without you.
You are in everything, even in the air we venerate,
you are queen, and you are mistress.
You toss and turn when the rushing wind tosses and turns.
O blessed goddess, many-named queen of all,
may you come with kindness on your joyous face.

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis (revised edition)

- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine**
- ◆ **Offering**
- ◆ **Prayers to Hera:**

“Divine mother who bore without union with Zeus who holds the aegis a glorious son,
Hephaistos, who excelled all the sons of Heaven in crafts. Look kindly upon crafters and
artisans alike.”

- ◆ **Incense – frankincense**
- ◆ **Invocation for Hephaistos: Hephaistos who dwells within us and inspires us in perfecting arts and crafts, who gently guides and teaches us in arts and crafts**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine**
- ◆ **Homeric Hymn 20 to Hephaistos**

To Hephaistos

Of Hephaestus famous for contrivance you shall sing, clear-voiced Muse,
of him who with steely-eyed Athena has taught splendid crafts to mankind on earth,
that previously used to live in caves in the mountains like animals.
But now that they have learned crafts through Hephaestus the famously skilled,
they pass their lives at ease in their own houses the whole year through.
So be favorable, Hephaestus: grant me status and fortune.

Translated by Martin L. West

- ◆ **Orphic Hymn 66 To Hephaistos**

To Hephaistos

Hephaistos, powerful and strong-spirited, unwearying fire,
shining in the gleam of flames, a god bringing light to mortals,
mighty-handed, eternal artisan,
worker, part of the cosmos, blameless element,
most sublime, all-eating, all-taming, all-haunting –
ether, sun, stars, moon, pure light:
all these parts of Hephaistos are revealed to mortals.
All homes, all cities, all nations are yours.
O mighty giver of many blessings, you dwell in human bodies.
Hear me, lord, as I summon you to this holy libation,
that you may always come gentle to joyful deeds,

end the savage rage of untiring fire
as nature itself burns in our own bodies.

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis (revised edition)

- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine**
- ◆ **Offering**
- ◆ **Prayers to Hephaistos:**

“Divine lame one who possesses skills of perfection, may we honour those whom you have inspired, may perfection spring from imperfection.”

- ◆ **Incense: frankincense or myrrh**
- ◆ **Invocation to Zeus: To you Almighty Zeus, King of all, you who rules with Hera Queen of Heaven, Councilor, Fulfiller, and Savior, who gave us Athena from your illustrious head**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine**
- ◆ **Homeric Hymn 23 To Zeus**

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.

Translated by Martin L. West

- ◆ **Prayers to Zeus:**

“Blessed Zeus who gave birth from His own head to Athena, bright-eyed Tritogeneia, may you always give us strength in wielding our hammer and molding our clay.”

- ◆ **Incense: aromatic herbs**
- ◆ **Invocation for Athena: Grey-eyed Athena, who inspires and empowers all men and women to strive for perfection, Goddess of wisdom and of the arts, inventive, teacher of crafts**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine**
- ◆ **Orphic Hymn 32 To Athena**

To Athena

Revered Pallas, great Zeus bore by himself,
noble and blessed goddess, brave in the din of war.
Renowned and cave-haunting, spoken of and then ineffable,
your domain is on wind-swept hilltops,
shaded mountains, dells that charm your heart.
Arms please you, and you strike men’s souls with frenzy,
O vigorous maiden, O horrid-tempered one,
slayer of Gorgo, O blessed mother of the arts, you shun the bed of love,

you bring madness to the wicked, you bring prudence to the virtuous, O impetuous one.
Male and female, shrewd begetter of war,
she-dragon of many shapes, frenzy-loving, illustrious,
destroyer of the Phlegraian Giants, driver of horses,
victorious Tritogeneia, O goddess, you free us of suffering,
day and night, ever into the small hours.
Hear my prayer and give me a full measure of peace,
of riches, and of health, accompanied by happy seasons,
O gray-eyed and inventive queen, to whom many offer their prayers.

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis (revised edition)

◆ **Prayers to Athena:**

“Gray-eyed Goddess of wisdom and skill, instil creativity in our minds and hearts and guide us in perfecting our skills and in recognizing and honouring the skills of others.”

◆ **Anacreon – Anacreontea**

‘Instructions to a Painter’

Come, finest of painters,
listen to the lyric Muse:
paint first the cities,
happy and laughing,
and the playful Bacchants
(with their double pipes);
and if the wax is able,
paint too the customs of lovers.

‘On a Silver Drinking Cup’

Skilled Hephaestus, matchless wright,
Carve me from this silver bright
Neither arms nor panoply;
Battles, wars, are naught to me.
Fashion me a hollow bowl,
Deep so that my thirsty soul
In its depths my cares may sink
When the grateful juice I drink.
Grave me no fantastic forms.
Nor Orion, star of storms;
Neither let Bootes rise
Glittering in the mimic skies;
Nor the Wain nor Pleiades ;
What have I to do with these!
Master, on the goblet shape
Purple clusters of the grape;
Let the wine-press, too, be trod
By love's naked gold-tressed god,
And let fair Lyaeus be
Present at the revelry.

From Anacreon – Anacreontea

◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine**

“May we be creative, learn arts and crafts, and perfect our skills. May we give due honor to the Goddesses and Gods who inspire and guide us. May blessings go with us, and may the Theoi watch benevolently over us and guide us with favorable fortunes!”

Adapted from Aeschylus – Libation Bearers – Chorus

◆ **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 will honor you in last place with a libation of honey sweet wine:**

◆ **Homeric Hymn 29 to Hestia**

To Hestia

Hestia, you that in the high dwellings of all, both immortal gods and men who walk on earth, have been assigned an everlasting seat as the privilege of seniority, and enjoy a fine honor and privilege, for mortals have no feasts without you where the libation-pourer does not begin by offering honey-sweet wine to Hestia in first place and last: and you, Argus-slayer, son of Zeus and Maia, messenger of the blessed ones, gold-wand, giver of blessings, be favorable and assist together with Hestia whom you love and revere. For both of you dwell in the fine houses of men on earth, in friendship towards each other, fine supports (of the house), and you attend intelligence and youth.

I salute you, daughter of Kronos, and you too, gold-wand Hermes. And I will take heed both for you and for other singing.

Translated by Martin L. West

◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine to Hestia**

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

◆ **Extinguishing of the lamp**