



The Kronia

12 Hekatombaion

- ◆ **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: storax**
- ◆ **Invocation to Kronos: You who are the ending and beginning again of all things, who governs the cycles of the Seasons, who accomplishes the harvest O Great Ruler and sire of Almighty Zeus**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine**
- ◆ **Orphic Hymn 13 to Kronos**

To Kronos

Everlasting father of blessed Gods and men,
 resourceful, pure and mighty, O 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 shifting stories,
 child of Earth, child of starry Sky.
 In you there is birth and decline, O revered and prudent lord of Rhea,
 You are the progenitor, you dwell in every part of the world.
 I am a suppliant, hear my voice, O wily and brave one,
 and to a good life bring a blameless end.

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis (revised edition)

- ◆ **Incense: various**
- ◆ **Invocation to Rhea: Mother of the Gods, the everlasting flow of nature, Queen of queens**
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- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine**
- ◆ **Orphic Hymn 27 To the Mother of the Gods**

To the Mother of the Gods

Divine are your honors, O mother of the Gods and nurturer of all.
 Yoke your swift-chariot drawn by bull slaying lions,
 and join our prayers, O mighty Goddess. You bring things to pass,
 O many-named and reverend one, you are queen of the sky;
 in the cosmos yours is the throne, the throne in the middle,
 because the earth is yours, and you give gentle nourishment to mortals.
 Of you were born Gods and men,
 you hold sway over the rivers and over all the sea.
 Hestia is one of your names, they call you giver of prosperity,
 because you bestow on men all manner of blessings.
 Come to this rite, queen whom the drum delights,
 all-taming savior of Phrygia, consort of Kronos,
 honored child of *Ouranos*, frenzy-loving nurturer of life,
 joyously and graciously visit our deeds of piety.

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis (revised)

- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine**
- ◆ **Offerings for Kronos and Rhea**
- ◆ **Prayers (blessings for the coming year, etc.)**

- ◆ **Lighting of the incense burner with myrrh**
- ◆ **Invocation to Zeus Ktesios and Zeus Teleios: Son of Kronos and Rhea, King of all, you who rules with Hera Queen of Heaven, fulfiller**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine**
- ◆ **Orphic Hymn 15 To Zeus**

To Zeus

Much-honored Zeus, great god, indestructible Zeus,
 we lay before you in prayer redeeming testimony.
 O king, you have brought to light divine works –
 earth, goddess and mother, the hills swept by the shrill winds,
 the sea, and the host of the stars, marshaled by the sky.
 Kronian Zeus, strong-spirited god, the thunderbolt is your scepter,
 father of all, beginning and end of all,
 earth-shaker, increaser and purifier, all-shaker,
 god of thunder and lightning, Zeus the sower.
 Hear me, god of many faces, grant me unblemished health,
 please grant me divine peace and riches, please grant me glory without blame.

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis (revised edition)

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

- ◆ **Incense: frankincense**
- ◆ **Invocation to Hera Teleia: Daughter of Kronos and Rhea, Queen of all, accomplisher, who rules with Almighty Zeus**
- ◆ **Libation 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

- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine**
- ◆ **Offerings for Zeus and Hera**
- ◆ **Prayers (for blessings for the coming year, etc.)**

- ◆ **Incense: aromatic herbs**
- ◆ **Invocation to the Horai (*Seasons*): Blessed Seasons who we receive with delight, who gladden our hearts, and bring the promise of bounty to come . . .**
- ◆ **Libation of pure water**
- ◆ **Orphic Hymn 43 to the Horai followed by libation and prayer**

Horai

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

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis (revised edition)

- ◆ **Libation of unmixed wine poured on the sacrificial fire to Hestia and all the Gods with prayers**

“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**