



# Ritual for the Poseidonia (Poseidea)

## 8 Poseideon

- ◆ **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

- ◆ **Homeric Hymn 30 To Earth the Mother of All**

### **To Earth the Mother of All**

Of Earth the universal mother I will sing, the firmly-grounded, the eldest, who nourishes everything there is on the land, both all that moves on the holy land and in the sea and all that flies: they are nourished from your bounty. From you they become fertile in children and in crops, mistress, and it depends on you to give livelihood or take it away from mortal men. He is fortunate whom your heart favors and privileges, and everything is his in abundance. His plowland is weighed down with its vital produce, in the fields he is prosperous with livestock, and his house is filled with commodities. Such men are lords in communities where law and order prevail and the women are fair, and much fortune and wealth attends them; their sons exult in youthful vigor and good cheer, and their girls in flower-decked dances delight to frolic happily through the soft meadow flowers—so it is with those whom you privilege, august goddess, bounteous deity.

I salute you, mother of the gods, consort of starry Heaven: be favorable, and grant comfortable livelihood in return for my singing. And I will take heed both for you and for other singing.

Translated by Martin L. West

- ◆ **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

- ◆ **Lighting of the bonfire (if you have one)**

- ◆ **Incense: myrrh**
- ◆ **Invocation to Poseidon**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine**
- ◆ **Homeric Hymn 22 To Poseidon**

#### **To Poseidon**

I begin to sing about Poseidon, the great god, mover of the earth and fruitless sea, god of the deep who is also lord of Helicon and wide Aegae. A two-fold office the gods allotted you, O Shaker of the Earth, to be a tamer of horses and a saviour of ships!

Hail, Poseidon, Holder of the Earth, dark-haired lord! O blessed one, be kindly in heart and help those who voyage in ships!

Translated by Hugh G. Evelyn White

- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine**
- ◆ **Orphic Hymn 17 To Poseidon**

#### **To Poseidon**

Hearken, dark-maned Poseidon, holder of the earth,  
 equestrian, carved in bronze is the trident in your hand,  
 and you dwell in the foundations of the full-bosomed sea.  
 Deep roaring ruler of the sea and shaker of the earth,  
 your blossoms are waves, O gracious one, as you urge horses and chariot on,  
 rushing on the sea and splashing through the rippling brine.  
 To your lot fell the third portion, the unfathomable sea,  
 and you delight in waves and in their wild dwellers, O spirit of the deep.

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis

“Gray-maned Poseidon, Lord of the lapping waters and the great unfathomable sea, progenitor of all life, O Poseidon Pater, may you be favorable to us this coming season.”

- ◆ **Dedication and placing of offering**
- ◆ **Prayers (for His blessings and protection for seafarers and those in need, etc.)**
- ◆ **Presenting of gifts under the decorated tree (silver fir or spruce)**

- ◆ **Incense: frankincense**
- ◆ **Invocation to Helios**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine**
- ◆ **Homeric Hymn 31 To Helios**

#### **To Helios**

And now, O Muse Calliope, daughter of Zeus, begin to sing of glowing Helios whom mild-eyed Euryphaessa, the far-shining one, bare to the Son of Earth and starry Heaven. For Hyperion wedded glorious Euryphaessa, his own sister, who bare him lovely children, rosy-armed Eos and rich-tressed Selene and tireless Helios who is like the deathless gods. As he rides in his chariot, he shines upon men and deathless gods, and piercingly he gazes with his eyes from his golden helmet. Bright rays beam dazzlingly from him, and his bright locks streaming from the temples of his head gracefully enclose

his far-seen face: a rich, fine-spun garment glows upon his body and flutters in the wind: and stallions carry him. Then, when he has stayed his golden-yoked chariot and horses, he rests there upon the highest point of heaven, until he marvelously drives them down again through heaven to Ocean.

Hail to you, lord! Freely bestow on me substance that cheers the heart. And now that I have begun with you, I will celebrate the race of mortal men half-divine whose deeds the Muses have showed to mankind.

Translated by Hugh G. Evelyn White

*O Helios, giver of life-giving light, may Thy bright gleam cause blessings that give happiness to life to spring from the earth, in plenty.*

Adapted from Aeschylus – Eumenides – Chorus

- ◆ **Dedication and placing of offerings**
- ◆ **Prayers (for His blessings, etc.)**

- ◆ **Incense: aromatic herbs**
- ◆ **Libation of pure water**
- ◆ **Orphic Hymn 43 To the Horai**

#### **To the Horai**

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

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis

- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine**

“May Poseidon bring blessings in abundance and may Zeus Teleios, Hera Teleia, and Hygieia 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