



Ritual for the Pandia

17 Elaphebolion

- ◆ **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: myrrh**
- ◆ **Invocation to Zeus: Khaire Zeus, Councilor, fulfiller, Savior, to you King of all who rules with Hera Queen of heaven . . .**
- ◆ **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

He does not sit upon his throne by mandate of another and hold his dominion beneath a
 mightier. No one sits above him whose power he holds in awe. He speaks, and it is done
 – he hastens to execute whatever his counseling mind conceives.

Aeschylus – Suppliant Maidens, Chorus

- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine**

- ◆ **Offering**
- ◆ **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, protection, family, and those in need, etc.)**

- ◆ **Incense: aromatic herbs**
- ◆ **Invocation to Selene and Pandia: Khaire rich-tressed Selene, circle of gleaming gold, daughter of radiant-belted Helios, and thy blessed daughter Pandia...**
- ◆ **Libation of pure water**
- ◆ **Homeric Hymns 32 To Selene**

To Selene

Tell of the fair, spread-winged Moon, O Muses, sweet-versing
 daughters of Kronos' son Zeus, expert in song: of her whose brightness
 displayed in heaven encircles the earth from her immortal head,
 and a rich beauty emerges where the brightness shines.
 The unlit air gleams from her golden circlet, and her rays
 disport themselves in it, when from Ocean's stream,
 where she has bathed her fair body and put on her far-beaming raiment,
 the lady Selene yokes her proud-necked, shining colts and speedily drives
 those fair-maned steeds onwards on the evening of full moon,
 when the great orbit is complete, and with her waxing her rays then
 shine from heaven at their brightest; it is a marker and a sign for mankind.

With her the son of Kronos once united in the bed of love; and she conceived,
 and bore the maiden Pandia, whose beauty is outstanding among the immortals.

I salute you, Mistress, goddess of white arms, lady Selene, propitious,
 lovely-tressed. Beginning from you, I will sing of famous tales of heroes,
 whose deeds are celebrated by singers, the Muses' servants, from their
 enchanting mouths.

Translated by Martin L. West

- ◆ **Offering of crescent moon shaped honey cake left out in the moonlight**
- ◆ **Prayers (for blessings, inspiration, and beauty and rhythm in our lives)**

◆ **Orphic Hymn 9 To Selene**

To Selene

Hear me, O divine queen, O light-bringing and splendid Selene,
O bull-horned Moon, crossing the air as you race with night.
Nocturnal, torch-bearing, maiden of beautiful stars, O Moon,
waxing and waning, feminine and masculine,
luminous, lover of horses, mother of time, bearer of fruit,
amber-colored, moody, shining in the night,
all-seeing and vigilant, surrounded by beautiful stars,
you delight in the quiet and in the richness of the night,
you grant fulfillment and favor as, like a jewel, you shine in the night.
Long-cloaked marshal of the stars, wise maiden whose motion is circular,
Come, O blessed and gentle lady, lady of the stars, through your own light
shine and save, O maiden, your new initiates.

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis (revised edition)

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

“May Selene light our way and along with Pandia watch benevolently over 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**