



# Erkhian Ritual for the sacrifice to Leukaspis

20 Mounukhion

- ◆ **Ritual washing**
- ◆ **Ritual washing with invocation: Orphic Hymn 83 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.

Translation by Thomas Taylor

- ◆ **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: frankincense**
- ◆ **Invocation to Leukaspis: Like the mighty Sican hero of Sicily, one of six killed by Heracles, you the white-shielded, untiring, unrelenting, bringer of warm moist winds that nourish the crops . . .**
- ◆ **Libation of water**
- ◆ **Orphic Hymn 81 To Zephyros**

**To Zephyros**

Western breezesborn of the open sea, ethereal wonders,  
 as you blow gently, your whisper brings rest from toil.  
 Vernal, meadow-haunting, you are loved by harbors  
 because to ships you bring a gentle passage, soft light wind.  
 Come in a generous spirit, blow in unblemished ways,  
 O airy, O invisible, O light-winged ones.

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis (revised edition)

- ◆ **Invocation to Leukaspis: Untiring Leukaspis, bringer of winds that harbor rain . . .**
- ◆ **Libation of water**
- ◆ **Offering of barley cake (shaped like a sheep)**
- ◆ **Prayers for favorable winds and rain that nourish the crops . . .**

◆ **Orphic Hymn 82 To Notos**

**To Notos**

Quickly leaping through the moist air,  
as both of your swift wings vibrate, O father of rain, come,  
riding the southern clouds. Zeus did grant you  
this lofty prerogative: to send the rain-giving clouds  
from sky to earth. For this we pray to you, O blessed one,  
take delight in our sacrifice, do send fruit-nourishing rains to mother Earth.

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis (revised edition)

◆ **Incense – myrrh**

◆ **Invocation to Zeus: Khaire Zeus, King of all, fulfiller, savior, bringer of life-giving rain that nourish the crops . . .**

◆ **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)

◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine**

“Then may blessings go with us, and may the winds blow benevolently over us and bring 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**