



# Ritual for the Boedromia

7 Boedromion

(For Apollon Boedromios, Zeus, Athena, Nike, and Hestia to end war and watch over the warriors, the fleeing, and the wounded)

- ◆ **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.

- ◆ **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.

- ◆ **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 Apollon: Khaire Apollon, healer, teacher, averter of evil...**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine to Apollon**
- ◆ **Orphic Hymn 34 To Apollon**

### To Apollon

Come, O blessed Paian, O slayer of Tityos, O Phoibos, O Lykoreus,  
 giver of riches, illustrious dweller of Memphis, O god to whom we cry "Ie",  
 O Titan and Pythian god, yours are  
 the golden lyre, the seeds, and the plows. Grynean, Sminthian, slayer of Python,  
 Delphic diviner, wild, light-bringing, lovable god you are, O glorious youth.  
 You shoot your arrows from afar, you lead the Muses into dance,  
 O holy one, you are Bacchos, Didymeus, Loxias, too,  
 lord of Delos, you are the eye that sees all, you bring light to mortals,  
 your hair is golden, your oracular utterance is clear.  
 Hear me with kindly heart as I pray for people.  
 You gaze upon all the ethereal vastness,  
 upon the rich earth you look through the twilight.  
 In the quiet darkness of a night lit with stars  
 you see earth's roots below, you hold the bounds

of the whole world; the beginning and the end to come are yours.  
You make everything bloom with your versatile lyre,  
you harmonize the poles, now reaching the highest pitch,  
now the lowest, now again with a Doric mode,  
harmoniously balancing the poles, you keep the living races distinct.  
You have infused harmony into the lot of all men,  
giving them an equal measure of winter and summer:  
the lowest notes you strike in the winter, the highest notes you make distinct in the  
summer,  
your mode is Doric for spring's lovely and blooming season.  
This is why mortals call you lord and Pan,  
the two-horned god who sends the whistling winds;  
it is for this you have the master seal of the entire cosmos.  
O blessed one, hear the suppliant voice of the initiates and save them.

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis (revised edition)

- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine**
- ◆ **Sacrificial Offering to Apollon Boedromios**
- ◆ **Prayers to Apollon Boedromios**

“Blessed Apollon Boudromios, you who comes to the aid of all. Rush forth and alleviate the suffering of all who struggle in and of battle.”

“May you assist all who are helping those who are suffering for lack of medical care around the world.”

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

Translation 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 counselling mind conceives.

Aeschylus – Suppliant Maidens, Chorus

- ◆ **Prayers to Zeus**

“Almighty Zeus, may You be with innocent people everywhere who are enslaved and those who are deliberately harmed by the willful and violent acts of others. May those who have been killed

have a special place with Thee and may those who suffer have hope that good people shall rise up and put a stop to it, that those who oppress, enslave, and harm them shall be held accountable for their heinous acts and pay for their crimes, and that people around the world shall recognize and respect the sanctity of human life and of all life. So let it be.”

- ◆ **Incense: aromatic herbs**
- ◆ **Invocation for Athena: To bright eyed Athena, who inspires and empowers all men and women to strive for greatness, Goddess of wisdom and battle . . . .**
- ◆ **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)

- ◆ **Incense: frankincense**
- ◆ **Invocation to Athena: To you who sprang from the very head of Zeus who bears the Argis, and who leads us in wisdom and strength . . .**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine**
- ◆ **Prayers to Athena**

“Gray-eyed Goddess of wisdom and battle, install courage in the hearts of the worthy. Give strength to the warriors and courage to those fleeing their homes. Reach down and guide all in need of safety and saving.”

- ◆ **Invocation for Nike: You who judged the deeds of the army and gave the prize, you who brought glory . . . .**
- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine to Nike**
- ◆ **Orphic Hymn 33 to Nike**

#### **To Nike**

I call upon mighty Nike, beloved of mortals,  
she alone frees man from the eagerness of contest,

from dissent, when men face each other in battle.  
In war you are the judge of deeds deserving prizes;  
sweet is the boast you grant after the onslaught.  
Nike, mistress of all, on your good name depends noble glory,  
glory that comes from the strife and teems with festivities.  
O blessed and beloved one, come with joy in your eyes,  
come for works of renown, bring me noble glory.

Translation by Apostolos N. Athanassakis (revised edition)

- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine**
- ◆ **Prayers to Nike**

“Blessed Nike, to whom the Blessed Gods have given the power to judge the worthy victor in war. Reach down and pass judgement swiftly.”

- ◆ **Libation of honey sweet wine**

“May blessings go with us, may we be mindful of the sacrifices for freedom, 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 Daughter of Kronos, you who keeps the home fires burning and accepts all into your warm embrace, extend your arms to all those whose home is threatened by the destructive force*

*of war. Extend your arms to all those displaced, searching for safety and refuge. Soften the hearts of all who oppose them in their quest. May xenia triumph under Your watchful gaze and benevolent heart.”*

*“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**