

Thargelia Ritual for Hyperborean Proto Demos 2008

Our Ritual Today

Thargelia is in honor of Apollon; it takes its name from the sacrifice of the first fruits loaf, thargelos. It is preceded by a purification ritual, normally the day before, but we will hold that before the Thargelia festival. The focus of the festival is on the community, and the renewal of community connections as well as asking for a bounteous harvest.

The offering for this festival are the *thargelos* loaf, flowers, incense, poems, songs or any other gifts for Apollon.

Purification ritual before in two parts

This first part is somewhat traditional. The second part, the prayer, is our own innovation (I am thinking that we each write a list of those things we want our communities rid of, which we can burn while we recite the prayer below.)

A portion of our festival is our own innovation and not reconstructionist.

We will gather together outside the Temenos and ritually cast out the *pharmakoi* and pray to Apollon that He lift from our community, city, state, country, and world those things that are evil.

“Apollon Apotropaïos, Apollon Akesios, Phoibos Apollon, You of the golden bow, we come together to ask that You bring Your guidance, Your light, Your enlightenment to our community, our state, and our world. That You purify these places of the evils which afflict them. The evil of greed, injustice, hatred and cruelty. That You bring to those who would lead us Your light and the just words and laws of Your father Zeus, that these men and women will once more lead us in ways which give all people the chance to be happy and to achieve as much as they can. That our leaders make the choice to protect Gaia the mother to us all and heal Her from the wounds which we have inflicted. That we put aside greed so that no child goes hungry, no man, woman or child goes with out a home, without medicine and mostly without hope. As You purified Herakles from his miasma, may You purify our community, our city, our country and our world. If it be Thy will, may You look upon us with a healing and pure light.”

Thargelia

Purification of the People

While the lustral water is poured over your hands say:
“Far off, Far off; Even unto the profane.”

Purification of the Temenos

The priest/priestess will call for “solemn silence” and then walk around the area sprinkling it with nator.

After this the fire tender will light the fire saying, “I conjure you sacred fire whose mother is Hestia and whose father is Hephaestos.” After this each person will take a small amount of barley, (or other grain) and toss it into the fire.

Libations and Hymnodia

Hymnodia to Hestia

Participant: Hestia, You who obtained as Your lot in the lofty abodes
Of all the immortal Gods and of humans who walk on the earth
A seat that forever endures as the honor due to Your age,
Possessing a beautiful portion and honor – for not without You
Are banquets held by mortals, where he who begins pours out
No wine as sweet as honey for Hestia first and last.
– Homeric Hymn 29: Hymn to Hestia

Libation to Hestia

“Sponde Hestia, Guardian of Hearth’s fire. Yours is always the first and the last.”

Hymnodia

“Let there be solemn silence”

(Participant will read Orphic Hymn XXXIII to Apollon)

BLEST Pæan, come, propitious to my pray'r,
Illustrious pow'r, whom Memphian tribes revere,
Slayer of Tityus, and the God of health,
Lycorian Phœbus, fruitful source of wealth .
Spermatie, golden-lyr'd, the field from thee
Receives it's constant, rich fertility.
Titanic, Grunian, Smynthian, thee I sing,
Python-destroying, hallow'd, Delphian king:
Rural, light-bearer, and the Muse's head,
Noble and lovely, arm'd with arrows dread:
Far-darting, Bacchian, two-fold, and divine,
Pow'r far diffused, and course oblique is thine.
O, Delian king, whose light-producing eye
Views all within, and all beneath the sky:
Whose locks are gold, whose oracles are sure,
Who, omens good reveal'st, and precepts pure:
Hear me entreating for the human kind,
Hear, and be present with benignant mind;
For thou survey'st this boundless æther all,
And ev'ry part of this terrestrial ball
Abundant, blessed; and thy piercing sight,
Extends beneath the gloomy, silent night;
Beyond the darkness, starry-ey'd, profound,

The stable roots, deep fix'd by thee are found.
The world's wide bounds, all-flourishing are thine,
Thyself all the source and end divine:
'Tis thine all Nature's music to inspire,
With various-sounding, harmonising lyre;
Now the last string thou tun'ft to sweet accord,
Divinely warbling now the highest chord;
Th' immortal golden lyre, now touch'd by thee,
Responsive yields a Dorian melody.
All Nature's tribes to thee their difference owe,
And changing seasons from thy music flow
Hence, mix'd by thee in equal parts, advance
Summer and Winter in alternate dance;
This claims the highest, that the lowest string,
The Dorian measure tunes the lovely spring .
Hence by mankind, Pan-royal, two-horn'd nam'd,
Emitting whistling winds thro' Syrinx fam'd;
Since to thy care, the figur'd seal's consign'd,
Which stamps the world with forms of ev'ry kind.
Hear me, blest pow'r, and in these rites rejoice,
And save thy mystics with a suppliant voice.

Litany for Apollon

Apollon – Guardian of the streets
May you protect our cities and citizens.

We praise you, we honor you!

Apollon – Healer of bodies and spirits
May you lend us Your Grace and keep us whole

We praise you, we honor you!

Apollon – You who wander the groves of Cyprus
Your light shines brightly where ever You've been.

We praise you, we honor you!

Apollon – You who ward off evil
Protect our neighborhoods and our neighbors

We praise you, we honor you!

Apollon – Averter of Evil

Help us to remain free of evil in our lives

We praise you, we honor you!

Apollon – of the Dolphins

Like them may we find the time to frolic and experience joy

We praise you, we honor you!

Apollon – Helper and Ally of humankind

May we remain worthy of Your regard.

We praise you, we honor you!

Apollon – Far Darter, with Your golden bow

You bring justice to those who offend.

We praise you, we honor you!

Apollon – Divine child of Zeus and Leto

Most comely, much revered.

We praise you, we honor you!

Apollon – Who spends the cold months in

Mystical Hyperborean

We praise you, we honor you!

Apollon – Your golden voice accompanies the lyre

Bringing rapture to all who are blessed to hear it.

We praise you, we honor you!

Apollon – Protector of youth please keep the little ones safe

In Your mighty hands and save those You can.

We praise you, we honor you!

Apollon – Leader of the Muses, You bring us so many gifts

Music, poetry, art, astronomy, dance and song.

We praise you, we honor you!

Apollon – of the brightest light, lead us

That we do not know too much darkness.

We praise you, we honor you!

Libation to Apollon

“Sponde! Apollon Apotropaios, Paian, Apollon Kourotrophos, Phoibos, Apollon Akesios, we call upon You by which ever name pleases You. On this sacred day may you hear our prayers and accept our gifts. We thank You for Your gifts of music, dance, art, healing, prophecy and all the other things You have blessed us with. May we be forever under Your protection O Phoibos and may we gather again to give honor unto You.”

Libation to Olympians as a group

“Sponde! Immortal Theoi, Come and join our host.”

Activities and Sacrifice

Now the gifts are given to the God, a portion of the Thargeles loaf, incense, flowers, readings of poems, songs and special prayers.

Feast

Our feast today will be; Beef, Rice, fruits, and Thargeles loaf and desert

Closing libations

Libation to Olympians as a group

Sponde! Immortal Theoi, thank you for being with us today.

Libation to Apollon

“Sponde! Apollon Apotropaios, Paian, Apollon Kourotrophos, Phoibos, Apollon Akesios, we call upon You by which ever name pleases You. On this sacred day may you hear our prayers and accept our gifts. We thank You for Your gifts of music, dance, art, healing, prophecy and all the other things You have blessed us with. May we be forever under Your protection O Phoibos and may we gather again to give honor unto You.”

Libation to Hestia

“Sponde Hestia, Guardian of Hearth’s fire. Yours is always the first and the last.”

Closing:

Participants will clean the area so that it is the same as when we arrived. After the clean up the

Herald will lead us saying: “Be brave for all good things have come to pass!”

Glossary

temenos: ritual area

khernips: spring water and sea salt

nator: baking soda and salt

theoxenia: a feast where mortals and the Gods eat together

Thargelios: a special stew or bread made with corn and other vegetables

Pharmakoi: scapegoats, historically a poor man & woman chosen to represent the men & women of the city, they were feasted and then driven from the city.

Supplies for this ritual

Khernips

charcoal, matches,

& lighter fluid for fire

poem to the Olympians

drinking goblets for each participant

loose incense or aromatic herbs

Thargelos stew or loaf

nator

grill or fire-pit

drink for libations

basket of barley

celebratory feast

eating utensils

flowers, poems, songs or music

Some of Apollon's epithets

Apollon Apotropaïos, averter of evil

Apollon Akesios, the healer

Apollon Daphnephoros, the bay bearer

Apollon Epikourios, the helper

Phoibos Apollon, the bright one

Apollon Puthios, slayer of Pytho

Apollon Kourotrophos, protector of youth

Apollon Hekatos, striking from afar

Apollon Iatros, the doctor

Apollon Patros, of our ancestors

Apollon Hersos, the divine child