

HYMN TO HEPHAISTOS

Ἥφαιστ' ἐργαστήρ, αἰώνιε, τεχνοδίαιτε,  
HĒPHAIST' ERGASTĒR, AIŌNIE, TEKHNODIAITE  
**Hephaistos, craftsman, eternal, dwelling in art**

λαμπόμενε φλογέαις ἀυγαῖς, φαεσίμβροτε δαῖμον,  
LAMPOMENE PHLOGEAIΣ AUGAIΣ PHAESIMBROTE DAIMON  
**Shining with brilliant flame, spirit illuminating mortals,**

φωσφόρε, καρτερόχειρ, μεγασθενές, ἀκάματον πῦρ,  
PHŌSPHORE, KARTEROKHEIR, MEGASTHENES, AKAMATON PUR  
**Light-bearer, strong-handed, powerful, tireless fire**

ἀγλαὰ ἔργ' ἀνθρώπους ἐπὶ χθονός ὃς ἐδίδαξεν  
AGLAA ERG' ANTHRŌPOUS EPI KHTHONOS HOS EDIDAXEN  
**Who taught bright works to men on earth**

πάντα δὲ οἶκον ἔχεις, πᾶσαν πόλιν, ἔθνεα πάντα·  
PANTA DE OIKON EKHEIS, PASAN POLIN, ETHNEA PANTA  
**All homes, all cities, all nations are yours!**

**HEPHAISTOS \* HEPHAISTOS \* HEPHAISTOS**

When your mother's need grew great  
To birth into this world a flame  
Unsullied by the Thunderer  
She uttered words so wonderful  
That they unfolded under her  
In a form that some call lame.

**EPHAIE**

And for this so-called lameness  
You were flung from heaven's face  
streaking earthward like a star  
Shrieking like a meteor  
Falling from the atmosphere  
And from your mother's grace.

***EPHAIE ANANQKHA***

Unmothered, you smoldered  
Beneath the seething sea  
Until the nymph who bore Akhilles  
Bound your brow in kelp and lilies  
And having woven your green fillets  
Beheld your orphan state, and grieved.

***EPHAIE ANANQKHA AMARZA***

Nine years, nine years, nine years  
You hammered, bellowed, honed and wept:  
Nine years, nine years, nine years  
Forging silver girls with golden clefts  
Swords that swung without a fist  
Winged sandals that could fly  
Helms of invisibility  
Shields graven with theogony  
And a cage to hold your mother.

***EPHAIE ANANQKHA AMARZA MARMARAMQ***

And when nine years had finally passed  
The outcast in the chasm  
Ascended to the waking world  
Shedding kelp and jetsam  
Bearing nine years of inventions  
Each made to yield a sort of spasm  
In both mortal organisms  
And the Bloodless Ones of Heaven  
And a cage to hold your mother.

***EPHAIE ANANQKHA AMARZA***

Mother-absence, Mother-hunger,  
Mother-wrath and Mother-fury  
Are the meat that feed the king  
Who fathered the Kaberoi  
Who sired the dogfaced iron-smiths  
Whose hammers make the anvils ring  
Who clash their shields and shout their songs  
To hide the Hunted Child, and sing  
Loud praises to their fiery lord  
Who dwells in smoke and rules in flame  
whose voice is hammer's clink-clink-clink  
And who bears a deep and secret name.

***EPHAIE ANANQKHA***

When your mother's need grew great  
To birth into this world a flame  
Unsullied by the Thunderer  
She uttered words so wonderful  
That they unfolded under her  
In a form that some call lame.

***EPHAIE***

And for this so-called lameness  
You were flung from heaven's grace  
But rose again to claim your own  
And stride the halls of Hera's home  
And sit upon your fiery throne  
And gaze upon your mother's face.

**HEPHAISTOS \* HEPHAISTOS \* HEPHAISTOS**

παμφάγε, πανδαμάτωρ, πανυπέρτατε, παντοδίατε,  
PAMPHAGE, PANDAMATŌR, PANUPERTATE, PANTODIAITE  
**All-consuming, all-mastering, highest, dwelling everywhere**

κλῦθι, μάκαρ, αἰεὶ χαίρουσιν ἡμερος ἔλθοις.  
KLUTHI MAKAR, AIEI KHAIROUSIN HĒMEROS ELTHOIS  
**Come, blessed one, always rejoicing and gentle.**

[παῦσον λυσσῶσαν μανίην πυρὸς ἀκαμάτοιο,  
PAUSON LUSSŌSAN MANIĒN PUROS AKAMATOIO  
**End the raging madness of ceaseless fire**

καῦσιν ἔχων φύσεως ἐν σώμασιν ἡμετέροισιν.  
KAUSIN EKHŌN PHUSEŌS EN SŌMASIN HĒMETEROISIN  
**And sustain the natural fires of our bodies.]**

*Greek lines drawn from Orphic Hymn 66 to Hephaistos and Homeric Hymn 20 to Hephaistos, transliterated and translated by T. Susan Chang. Verse by Jack Grayle. Voces magicae from PGM XII. 160-78 . .*

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