

HYMN TO HERMES

Ἑρμῆν αἰίδω, Διὸς ἄγγελε, Μαιάδος υἱέ
HERMĒN AEIDŌ, DIOS ANGELE, MAIADOS HUIE
I sing of Hermes, messenger of Zeus, son of Maia

γλώσσης δεινὸν ὄπλον, φίλανδρε, πτηνοπέδιλε,
GLŌSSĒS DEINON HOPLON, PHILANDRE, PTĒNOPEDILE,
Wielding the fearsome weapon of speech, human-loving, winged-sandaled

εὐφρων, ποικιλόμυθε, φίλε θνητοῖς ἐν ἀνάγκαις·
EUPHRŌN, POIKILOMUTHE, PHILE THNĒTOIS EN ANANKAIS
Great-hearted, various of discourse, friend to all mortals in need

ἐρμηνεῦ πάντων, κερδέμπορε, λυσιμέριμνε·
HERMĒNEU PANTŌN, KERDEMPORE, LUSIMERIMNE
Interpreter of all, who increases profit and frees from care,

γυμνάσιν ὃς χαίρεις, δολίαις τ' ἀπάταις, ἐριούνιε,
GYMNASIN HOS CHAIREIS, DOLIAIS T'APATAIS, ERIOUNIE
Delighter in games, trickery, and deceit, luck-bringer,

HERMES * HERMES * HERMES

Mountain-born! You split the nymph
That Zeus had sown you in.
Your mother Maia wept to see
You breathe: she knew her sin
Would soon awaken wrath that slept
In Hera like the wind
And that the Queen would never rest
'til she achieved her end
(Which was of course revenge
For the crime that was your birth).

AKH

AKH KHEMEN

Joyous God! Born of Earth!
You raced out of the cave
And laughingly proclaimed your worth;
Facing north, you chanted charms
Toward the sky-king which alarmed
The upper air. *I will be there.*
You knew you were the subtle son
of Thunder, of almighty Jove:
Jubilant, you knew:
I will be welcomed, will be loved.
Will be welcomed, will be loved.
Will be welcomed, will be loved.

AKH

AKH KHEMEN

AKH KHEMEN ESTROPH

PHARNATHA BARAKHĒL KHTHA

Above all else, a thief: you never cease
To take the things not your own:
Cash and cattle, wisdom, wives:
You don't deny that it's well-known
You can't be trusted! Double-lived,

You laugh at those who try to cling
To the unclaimable. You steal and sing
Of your right to all good things.

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E

As you were sewn into the nymph
And by the sky so well received:
So all mortals and immortals
You delight and you deceive;
So all mortals and immortals
You impregnate and bereave;
So all mortals and immortals
You scatter and receive.

*Behold my son, your father said,
In whom I am well pleased.*

PHARNATHA

PHARNATHA BARAKHEL

PHARNATHA BARAKHEL KHTHA

AKH KHEMEN ESTROPH

Bloodless, Ever-Living,
Intersect of Earth and Air:
You ravished Aphrodite

To make a child defying category
Male and female, transitory,
That caused both sexes to despair.
Thus, always, everywhere
You expose the hidden vein
Until each secret is laid bare
(Nothing *sub rosa* shall remain).

OSER

OSER GARIAKH

OSER GARIAKH NOMAPHI

LAMPHTHEN OUQTHI

Friend of mankind, sit beside me:
Set aside your wide-brimmed hat.
Let us split this humble fair:
You take this and I'll take that.
See the powers ranged before me,
Bent to strip me of my glory;
Be the hero of my story,
And I will sing you more and more: *He*
Is my god, and I'm his child:
For in his joy do I rejoice.
Son of god, behold my form,
Take my hand and hear my voice,
And hold me high as you were held
By endless and eternal Jove

For like you, Hermes, I too
Would be welcomed, would be loved.
Would be welcomed, would be loved.
Would be welcomed, would be loved.

LAMPHTHEN ΟΥΘΗ
ΟΥASTHEN ΟΥΘΗ
ΟΑΜΕΝΘΗ ΕΝΘΟ ΜΟΥΚΗ

HERMES * HERMES * HERMES

εὐιέρω ράβδω θέλγων ὑπνοδώτιδι πάντα,
EUIERŌI RABDŌ THELGŌN HUPNODŌTIDI PANTA
Charming souls to sleep with your magic wand

καὶ πάλιν ὑπνώοντας ἐγείρεις, Ἄργειφόντα,
KAI PALIN HUPNŌONTAS EGEIREIS, ARGEIPHONTA
And rousing them again, Slayer of Argos

χαῖρ', Ἑρμῆ χαριδῶτα, διάκτορε, δῶτορ ἐάων.
CHAIR' HERMĒ CHARIDŌTA, DIAKTORE, DŌTOR EAŌN.
I salute you, Hermes, guide and giver of all things graceful and good!

*Greek lines drawn from Orphic Hymn 28 to Hermes, Orphic Hymn 57 to Chthonic Hermes, and Homeric Hymn 18 to Hermes. Transliterated and translated by T. Susan Chang.
Verse by Jack Grayle.*

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