

HYMN TO ATHENA

Παλλάδ' Ἀθηναίην πολεμοκλόνον ἄρχομ' αἰεῖδεν,
PALLAD' ATHĒNAIĒN POLEMOKLONON ARKHOM' AEIDEIN,
I begin to sing of Pallas Athena, who raises the din of battle,

παρθένον αἰδοίην, ἄρσην μὲν καὶ θῆλυς, δεινήν,
PARTHENON AIDOIĒN, ARSĒN MEN KAI THĒLUS, DEINĒN,
Reverend virgin, feminine and masculine, fearsome,

γλαυκῶπιν, πολύμητιν, ἀμείλιχον ἧτορ ἔχουσαν.
GLAUKŌPIN, POLUMĒTIN, AMEILIKHON ĒTOR EKHOUSAN,
Grey-eyed, of many counsels, having an implacable heart.

ATHENA * ATHENA * ATHENA

O raptor queen! Like lightning thrown
From god's own fist, you plummet down
to snatch and strike, and break the crown
Of he who fights or cowers:
Of he who dares sit on a throne
Beyond his Fate-appointed hour!

Τριτογένεια, λύτεира κακῶν, νικηφόρε δαῖμον,
TRITOGENEIA, LUTEIRA KAKŌN NIKĒPHORE DAIMON,
Tritogeneia, you release us from evils, victory-bearing goddess

Formless, fluid, in flux, enfleshed
As woman now, and then a man
Heron, darkness, vulture, mist
None can hold you, or resist
Your quick approach. Eternal rest:

Your gift. For none who would wait, can –
Beyond their Fate-appointed hour!

κούρη, εύρεσίτεχνε, πολυλλίστη βασίλεια
KOURĒ, EURESITEKHNE, POLULLISTĒ BASILEIA
Maiden, inventive one, much prayed-to queen

Your falcon-cry spears through each heart
And un-arms armies. Queen of Strife

Your gift, the falcon-strike, unstarts

The engine of the hero's life,

And unhusbands the hero's wife:

O holy soul shaped like a knife

Cut all bonds that bind me twice

To that which holds my hidden heart

Beyond its Fate-appointed hour!

αιολόμορφε, δράκαινα, Διὸς τέκος αἰγιόχοιο
AIOLOMORPHE, DRAKAINA, DIOS TEKOS AIGIOKHOIO
Shape-changer, dragon, child of aegis-bearing Zeus

Artist who, as Fate unfolds

Uses blood as Klimt used gold:

Slowly gild our lives. Make bold

The contrast between life and death.

Quicken, Daimon, every breath

Illuminate what lies beneath:

Make us flare and flash and seethe

Until the blood within us flowers!

Let us live in hope and hunger

And let neither ever wither;

O make our human hearts your art

Until our Fate-appointed hour!

χαῖρε, θεά, δὸς δ' ἄμμι τύχην εὐδαιμονίην τε.

KHAIRE, THEA, DOS D'AMMI TUKHĒN EUDAIMONIĒN TE.

Hail, goddess, grant us good luck and fortune

κλῦθί μευ εὐχομένου, δὸς δ' ἀγαθοῖς δὲ φρόνησιν.

KLUTHI MEU EUKHOMENOU, DOS D'AGATHOIS DE PHRONĒSIN

Hear my prayer and grant wisdom to the good.

Greek phrasing drawn from Orphic Hymn 32 to Athene, Homeric Hymn 11 to Athene, and Homeric Hymn 28 to Athene. Transliterated and translated by T. Susan Chang. All other verses written by Jack Grayle.

