

# THEOS

5 ILLUSTRATED ORPHIC HYMNS



illustrations by  
Red Moth

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θεός

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Αφροδιτη  
**APHRODITE**



Kimberly Goss & Red Moon

Art mom & Kimberly Goss



Heavenly, happy Aphrodite, praised in countless hymns,  
born of the sea, revered goddess of generation, lover of night revels,  
coupler of lovers at night, crafty mother of Necessity.  
Joiner of the world in harmony, all things spring from you,  
The triple Fates abide your decree, birther of all, to all in heaven, earth and sea,  
Everything comes from you, O venerable attendant of Bacchos.  
Delighter in festivities, O bridelike mother of Loves,  
O Persuasion whose joy is in the bed of love, secretive, giver of grace,  
visible and invisible, lovely-tressed daughter of a noble father,  
bridal feast companion of the gods, sceptered she-wolf,  
beloved and man-loving giver of birth and of life,  
with your maddening love-charms you binder of mortals and all savage beasts  
in mad passion.  
Come, O goddess born in Cyprus, whether you are on Olympos,  
O queen, exulting in the beauty of your face,  
or you wander in Syria's temple,  
or, yet, driving your golden chariot in the plain, over Egypt's fertile river bed.  
Come, Rider of your swan-drawn chariot over the sea's billows,  
joying in the creatures of the deep as they dance in circles,  
delighter in the company of beauteous land nymphs,  
Come, lady, even if you are in Cyprus that cherishes you,  
where fair maidens and chaste nymphs throughout the year  
sing of you, O blessed one, and of immortal, pure Adonis.  
Come, O beautiful and comely goddess;  
I summon you with holy reverent mind.

Άρης  
ARES





Indestructible, unconquered, mighty, valiant divinity,  
Delighting in arms, fierce, untamed, man-killing, stormer of cities:

Lord Áris, rattling in armor, destroyer of mortals,  
always defiled with the blood slaughter of war,

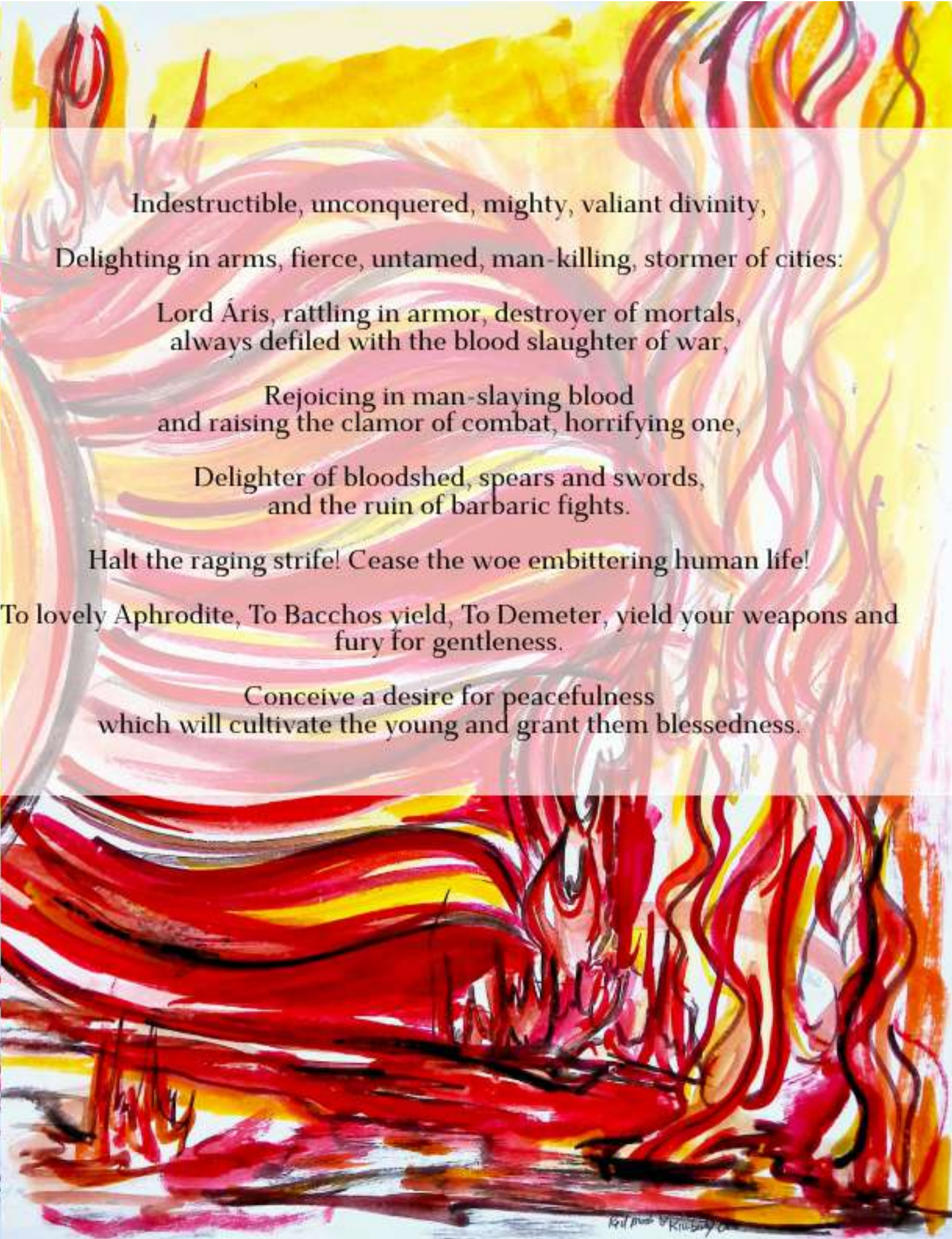
Rejoicing in man-slaying blood  
and raising the clamor of combat, horrifying one,

Delighter of bloodshed, spears and swords,  
and the ruin of barbaric fights.

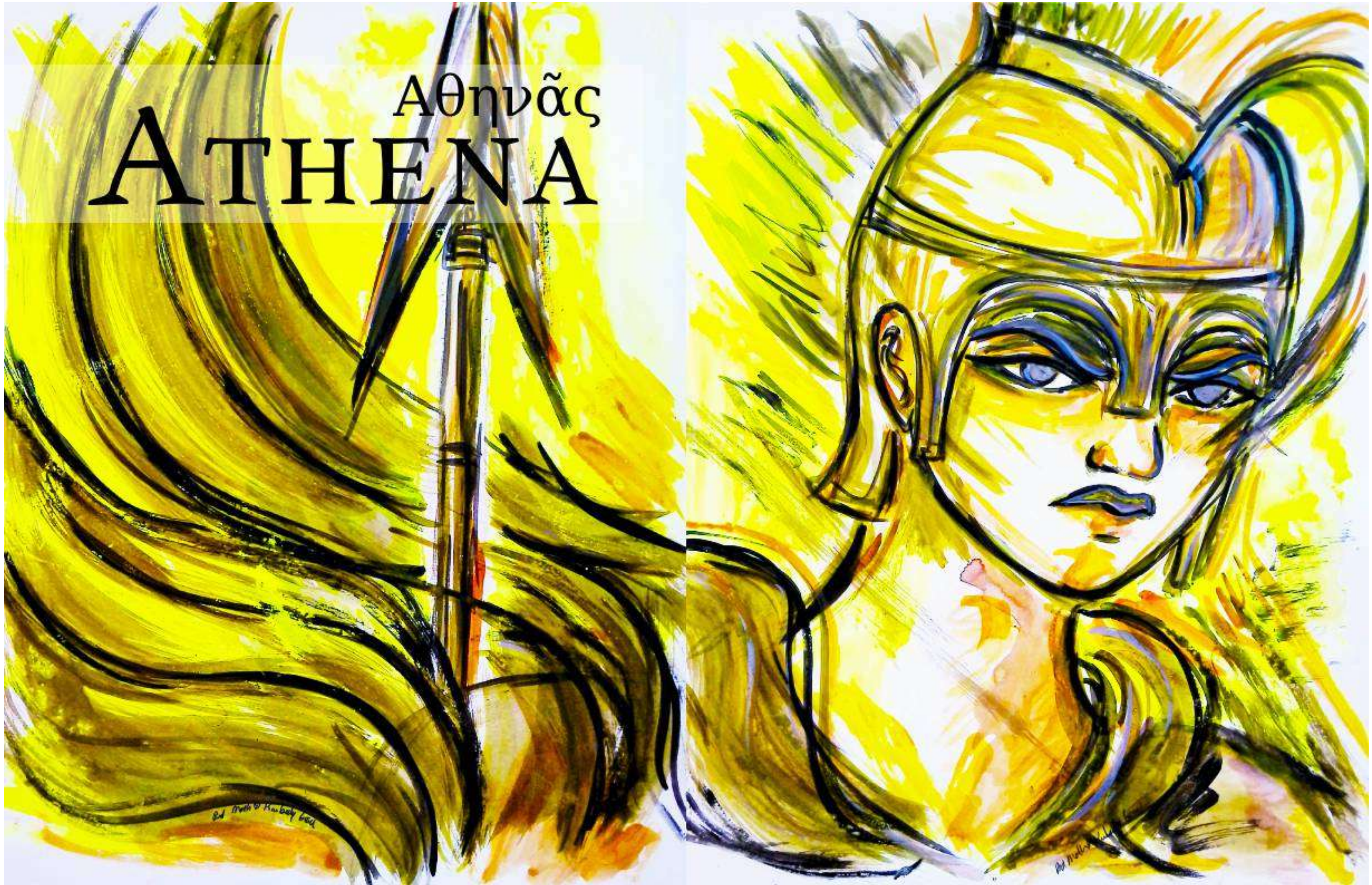
Halt the raging strife! Cease the woe embittering human life!

To lovely Aphrodite, To Bacchos yield, To Demeter, yield your weapons and  
fury for gentleness.

Conceive a desire for peacefulness  
which will cultivate the young and grant them blessedness.

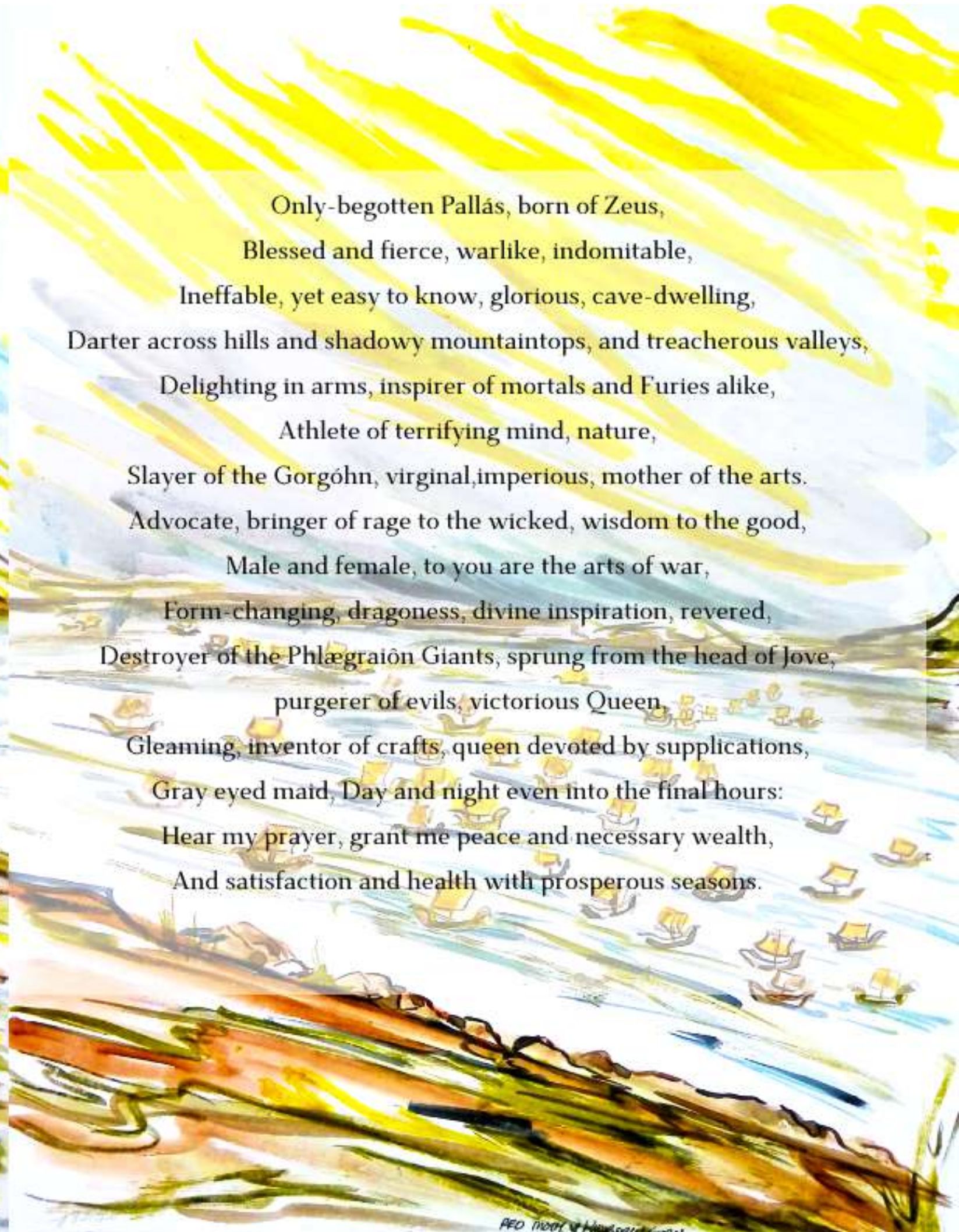


Αθηνᾶς  
ATHENA



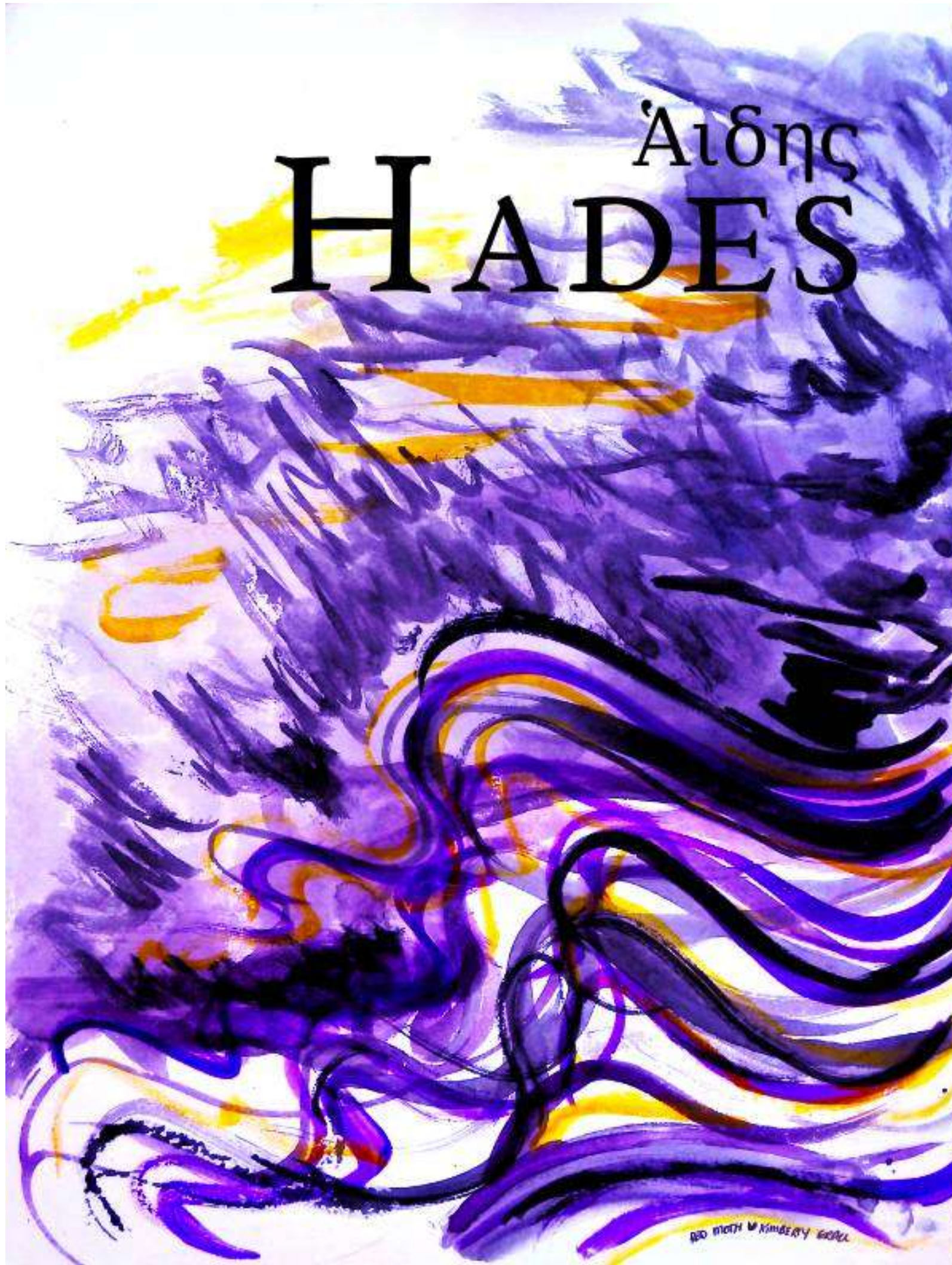


Only-begotten Pallás, born of Zeus,  
Blessed and fierce, warlike, indomitable,  
Ineffable, yet easy to know, glorious, cave-dwelling,  
Darter across hills and shadowy mountaintops, and treacherous valleys,  
Delighting in arms, inspirer of mortals and Furies alike,  
Athlete of terrifying mind, nature,  
Slayer of the Gorgóhn, virginal, imperious, mother of the arts.  
Advocate, bringer of rage to the wicked, wisdom to the good,  
Male and female, to you are the arts of war,  
Form-changing, dragoness, divine inspiration, revered,  
Destroyer of the Phlægraiôn Giants, sprung from the head of Jove,  
purgerer of evils, victorious Queen,  
Gleaming, inventor of crafts, queen devoted by supplications,  
Gray eyed maid, Day and night even into the final hours:  
Hear my prayer, grant me peace and necessary wealth,  
And satisfaction and health with prosperous seasons.





Άιδης  
**H A D E S**



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O, Dweller of the chthonic underworld hall,  
brave-hearted, lightless meadow of Tartarus wrapped in unending night,  
A chthonic Zeus, bearer of sceptre, willingly accept these offerings,

To you, Earth's keys belong, unlocker of gates,  
making mankind prosperous with yearly fruit.

You, the one who earned the all-reigning earth,  
the home of the immortals, solid pillar of the mortals.

Cold Hades, Affixer of your throne under the bleak place,  
distant, unfathomable,  
where breathless spectres dwell in inescapable hell,

In dread, the black Acheron river, who holds the pedestals of earth.

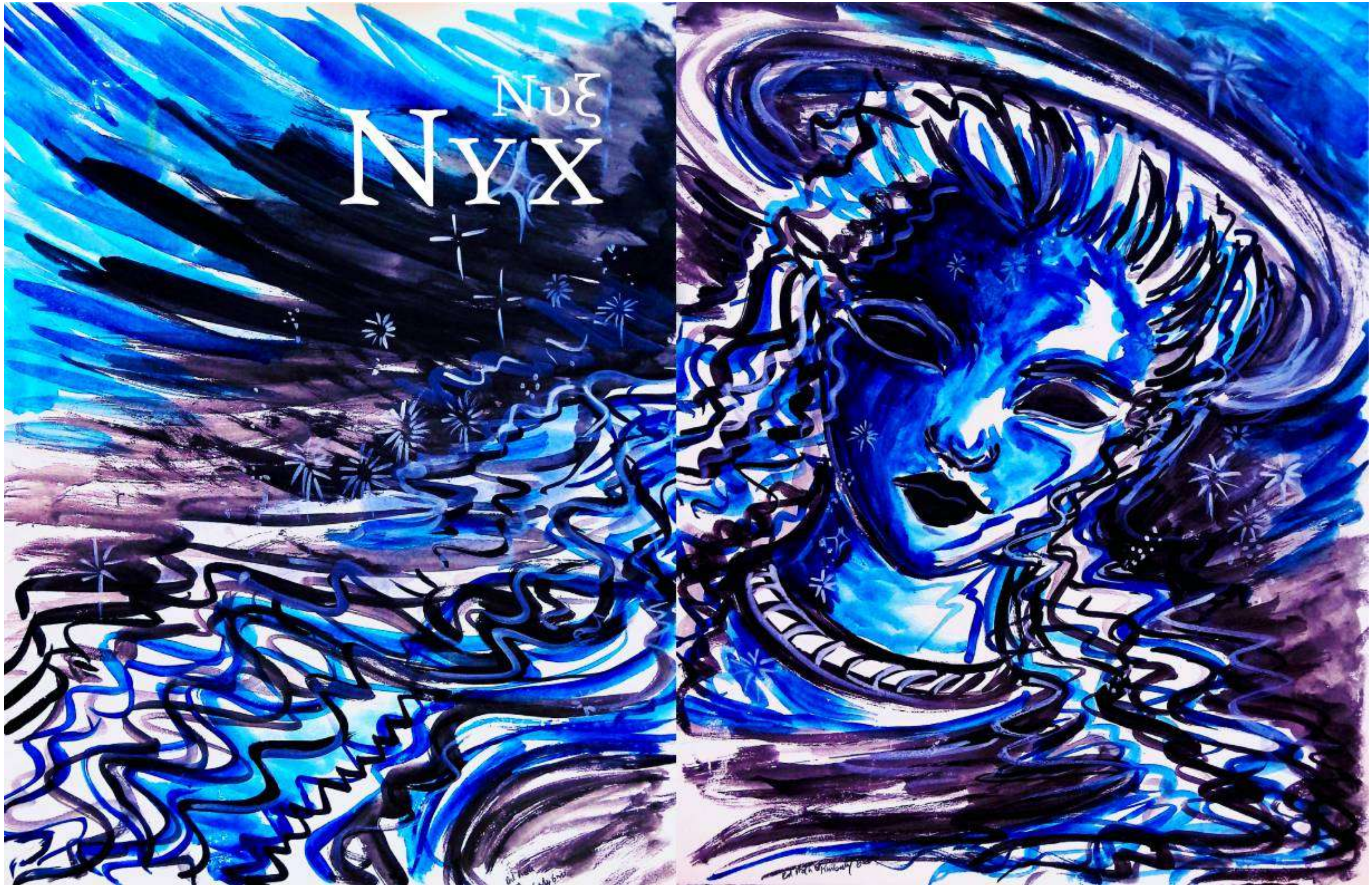
O mighty daemon, determiner of the dead,  
oh, you who accepts many offerings, Ovules,

you, the one who took captive the daughter of Demeter the chaste,  
and led her through the sea on a vehicle with four steeds in the cave of Atthis in  
Eleusina, until the gates of Hades were visible,

Only you were born the praiser of deeds sung and unsung,  
godly, king of all, holy, honoured in gold,

delighted by those who commit pure acts and pious worship.  
It is you I call upon, come merciful and jovial to your worshippers.

ΝΥΞ  
NYX





Night, primordial goddess, source of sweet rest,  
the origin of both Gods and man,

Hear, blessed Kypris,  
lit by stars, clothed in deepest darkness,

Your dusky train brings dreams  
of gloom and happiness,

Dissolving anxious care, the friend of Mirth,  
with darkling coursers riding round the earth.

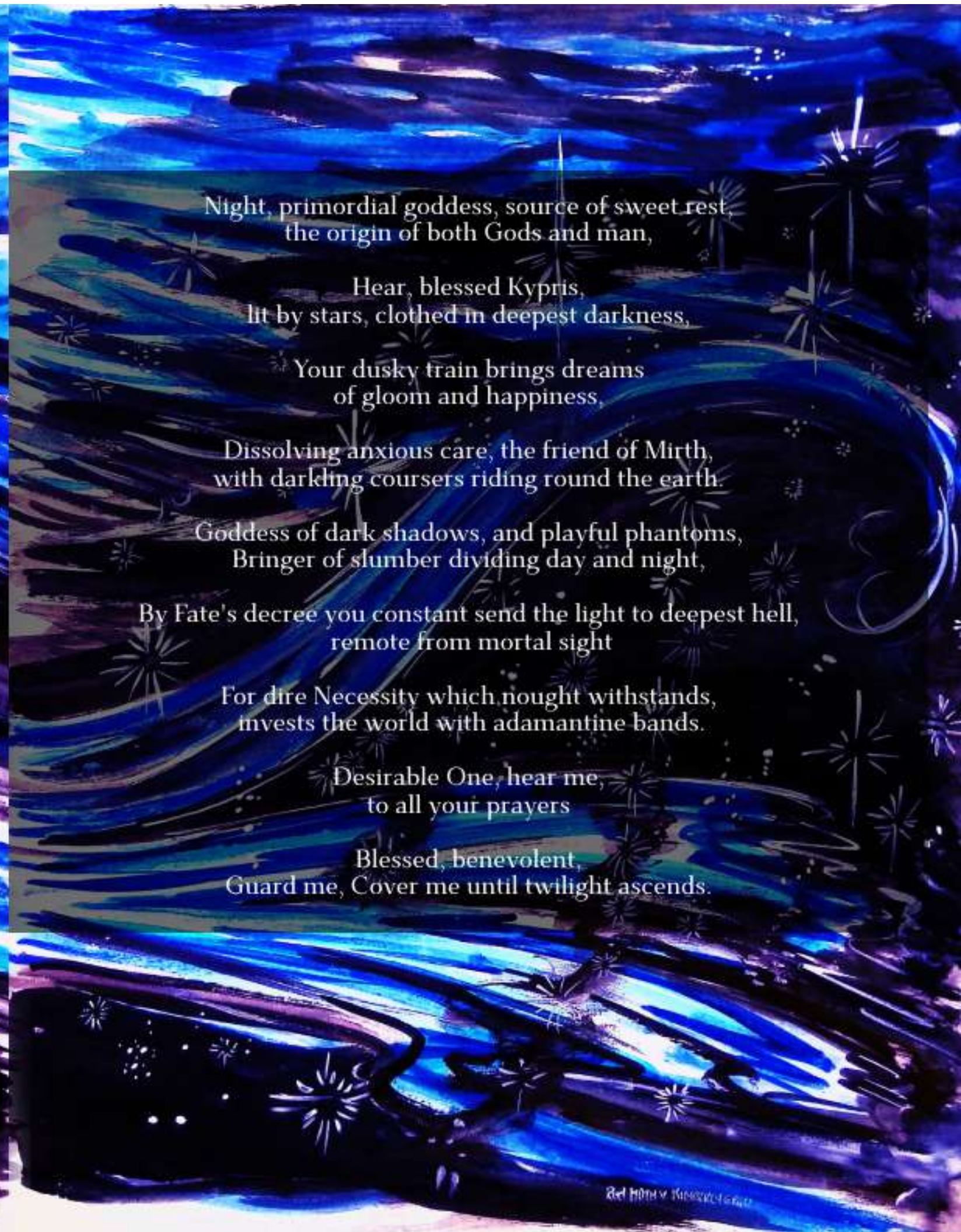
Goddess of dark shadows, and playful phantoms,  
Bringer of slumber dividing day and night,

By Fate's decree you constant send the light to deepest hell,  
remote from mortal sight

For dire Necessity which nought withstands,  
invests the world with adamantine bands.

Desirable One, hear me,  
to all your prayers

Blessed, benevolent,  
Guard me, Cover me until twilight ascends.



Bibliography  
and  
Translation Notes



The previous hymns were my personal versions  
of existing English translations.

Credits to the original sources and texts that served as the basis :

The Hymns of Orpheus. Translated by Taylor, Thomas (1792).  
The Orphic Hymns Paperback -Apostolos N. Athanassakis July 31, 2013  
Hellenion® - Hellenion.org  
Hellenicgods.org

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# Aphrodite / Αφροδιτη



Heav'nly [Ourania], illustrious, laughter-loving queen, sea-born, night-loving, of an awful mien;  
Crafty, from whom necessity [Ananke] first came, producing, nightly, all-connecting dame:  
'Tis thine the world with harmony to join, for all things spring from thee, O pow'r divine.  
The triple Fates [Moirai] are rul'd by thy decree, and all productions yield alike to thee:  
Whate'er the heav'ns, encircling all contain, earth fruit-producing, and the stormy main,  
Thy sway confesses, and obeys thy nod, awful attendant of the brumal God [Bakkhos]:  
Goddess of marriage, charming to the sight, mother of Loves [Eortes], whom banquetings delight;  
Source of persuasion [Peitho], secret, fav'ring queen, illustrious born, apparent and unseen:  
Spousal, lupercal, and to men inclin'd, prolific, most-desir'd, life-giving, kind:  
Great sceptre-bearer of the Gods, 'tis thine, mortals in necessary bands to join,  
And ev'ry tribe of savage monsters dire in magic chains to bind, thro' mad desire.  
Come, Cyprus-born, and to my pray'r incline, whether exalted in the heav'ns you shine,  
Or pleas'd in Syria's temple to preside, or o'er th' Egyptian plains thy car to guide,  
Fashion'd of gold; and near its sacred flood, fertile and fam'd to fix thy blest abode;  
Or if rejoicing in the azure shores, near where the sea with foaming billows roars,  
The circling choirs of mortals, thy delight, or beauteous nymphs, with eyes cerulean bright,  
Pleas'd by the dusty banks renown'd of old, to drive thy rapid, two-yok'd car of gold;  
Or if in Cyprus with thy mother fair, where married females praise thee ev'ry year,  
And beauteous virgins in the chorus join, Adonis pure to sing and thee divine;  
Come, all-attractive to my pray'r inclin'd, for thee, I call, with holy, reverent mind.  
Or if rejoicing in the azure shores, near where the sea with foaming billows roars,  
The circling choirs of mortals, thy delight, or beauteous nymphs, with eyes cerulean bright,  
Pleas'd by the dusty banks renown'd of old, to drive thy rapid, two-yok'd car of gold;  
Or if in Cyprus with thy mother fair, where married females praise thee ev'ry year,  
And beauteous virgins in the chorus join, Adonis pure to sing and thee divine;  
Come, all-attractive to my pray'r inclin'd, for thee, I call, with holy, reverent mind.

# Ares / Αρης



Magnanimous, unconquer'd, boistrous Mars,  
in darts rejoicing, and in bloody wars  
Fierce and untam'd,  
whose mighty pow'r can make the strongest walls  
from their foundations shake:  
Mortal destroying king, defil'd with gore,  
pleas'd with war's dreadful and tumultuous roar:  
Thee, human blood, and swords, and spears delight,  
and the dire ruin of mad savage fight.  
Stay, furious contests, and avenging strife,  
whose works with woe, embitter human life;  
To lovely Venus [Kypris], and to Bacchus [Lyaaios] yield,  
to Ceres [Deo] give the weapons of the field;  
Encourage peace, to gentle works inclin'd,  
and give abundance, with benignant mind.

# Athena / Αθηνη



Only-Begotten, noble race of Jove,  
blessed and fierce, who joy'st in caves to rove:  
O, warlike Pallas, whose illustrious kind, ineffable and effable we find:  
Magnanimous and fam'd,  
the rocky height, and groves, and shady mountains thee delight:  
In arms rejoicing,  
who with Furies dire and wild, the souls of mortals dost inspire.  
Gymnastic virgin of terrific mind,  
dire Gorgons bane, unmarried, blessed, kind:  
Mother of arts, imperious; understood,  
rage to the wicked., wisdom to the good:  
Female and male, the arts of war are thine,  
fanatic, much-form'd dragoness [Drakaina], divine:  
O'er the Phlegrean giants rous'd to ire,  
thy coursers driving, with destruction dire.  
Sprung from the head of Jove [Tritogeneia],  
of splendid mien, purger of evils, all-victorious queen.  
Hear me, O Goddess, when to thee I pray,  
with supplicating voice both night and day,  
And in my latest hour,  
peace and health, propitious times, and necessary wealth,  
And, ever present, be thy vot'ries aid,  
O, much implor'd, art's parent, blue eyed maid.

# Hades / Άϊδης



Pluto [Plouton], magnanimous,  
whose realms profound are fix'd beneath the firm and solid ground,  
In the Tartarian plains remote from fight, and wrapt forever in the depths of night;  
Terrestrial Jove [Zeus Khthonios], thy sacred ear incline, and,  
pleas'd, accept thy mystic's hymn divine.  
Earth's keys to thee, illustrious king belong, its secret gates unlocking, deep and strong.  
'Tis thine, abundant annual fruits to bear, for needy mortals are thy constant care.  
To thee, great king, Avernus is assign'd, the seat of Gods, and basis of mankind.  
Thy throne is fix'd in Hade's dismal plains, distant, unknown to rest, where darkness reigns;  
Where, destitute of breath, pale spectres dwell, in endless, dire, inexorable hell;  
And in dread Acheron, whose depths obscure, earth's stable roots eternally secure.  
O mighty dæmon, whose decision dread, the future fate determines of the dead,  
With captive Proserpine [Kore], thro' grassy plains,  
drawn in a four-yok'd car with loosen'd reins,  
Rapt o'er the deep, impell'd by love, you flew 'till Eleusina's city rose to view;  
There, in a wond'rous cave obscure and deep, the sacred maid secure from search you keep,  
The cave of Atthis, whose wide gates display an entrance to the kingdoms void of day.  
Of unapparent works, thou art alone the dispensator, visible and known.  
O pow'r all-ruling, holy, honor'd light, thee sacred poets and their hymns delight:  
Propitious to thy mystic's works incline, rejoicing come, for holy rites are thine.

# Nyx / Νυξ



Night [Nyx], parent goddess, source of sweet repose,  
from whom at first both Gods and men arose,  
Hear, blessed Venus [Kypris], deck'd with starry light,  
in sleep's deep silence dwelling Ebon night!  
Dreams and soft case attend thy dusky train,  
pleas'd with the length'ned gloom and feaftful strain.  
Dissolving anxious care, the friend of Mirth,  
with darkling coursers riding round the earth.  
Goddess of phantoms and of shadowy play,  
whose drowsy pow'r divides the nat'ral day:  
By Fate's decree you constant send the light to deepest hell,  
remote from mortal sight  
For dire Necessity which nought withstands,  
invests the world with adamantine bands.  
Be present, Goddess, to thy suppliant's pray'r,  
desir'd by all, whom all alike revere,  
Blessed, benevolent, with friendly aid  
dispell the fears of Twilight's dreadful shade.

θεός

