

0. Gaia / Kybele / Rhea

Friday, December 28, 2018 4:17 AM



In the center of the patera is the Great Mother Goddess who births, nurtures and sustains all life. She is the source all that exists, and is the axis which the cycles of life revolve around.

The patera describes a journey through life with sixteen stations, each one representing a distinct stage in the intellectual and spiritual growth of a Mystes (an initiate into the Eleusinian Mysteries). The world in which the journey takes place, and everything in it, is the Great Mother Goddess herself. She is the world, and the Mystes is an actor within it.

Keywords: The statuette is surrounded by a frieze on which are represented a shepherd with his dog and several other animals.

1. Divine Parent

Sunday, December 23, 2018 12:13 AM



The first station is that of the Divine Parent acting as a mystagogue. He is the accumulation and unification of all the knowledge, understanding, wisdom, experience, expertise, and capabilities of his ancestors. This divine ancestor holds an ancient royal scepter that signifies superiority and authority. The cloak he wears, his clothing, and his hair style indicate that he is a person of great importance, refinement and power. This is an honorable person of great merit and worthiness. He is surrounded by the riches of nature indicating that great resources are available for him to use.

We see a fish within an ocean, symbolizing the vast amount of information available within the mind. The divine ancestor holds a net he uses to bring anything that exists in the unconscious and subconscious into the conscious mind. He has the power to retrieve all that is there.

The Divine Parent draws from his own life and heritage to provide guidance, leadership, support, and love to future generation that he is devoting himself to. Everything that he has, and all that he is, he is passing on for the benefit of the newly born generation.

This station is the beginning of a new cycle, a continuation of the life force of the previous cycle, from which new life comes forth. (A red dot shows the marker within the rhythmic pattern on the patera).

Keywords: Ancestry, Heritage, Worthiness, Merit, Guidance, Leadership, Support, Devotion, Love

2. Newborn Child

Sunday, December 23, 2018 11:46 PM



In this station is a child born from the parent seen in the previous stage. The child's existence comes from the mind, body and soul of the parent, and everything the parent has to offer is given to the child. The parent becomes the child, reborn as a completely new individual with a fresh un-lived life of its own. He has regained his innocence and has returned to his pure, natural state.

On his head he is carrying a cista mystica (basket of secrets) used to hold [hiera](#) (sacred objects) which are revealed only to initiates. In the basket is a pine cone containing a potent seed from which tremendous growth is possible. It symbolizes the vast potential within the newborn child.

It's worth noting that a budding pine cone will open to let pollen into it, and after being fertilized it then closes to protect its seed. It then develops until the seed is ready to germinate, at which time it opens again, releasing its seed so it can take root. A new tree grows and a new pine cone is produced.

The child is also seen carrying a palm branch, like one that is carried by a pilgrim, indicating that he is about to embark on a spiritual journey. This is a new beginning for the Mystes who is fully present, open and receptive to the opportunities ahead.

Keywords: Rebirth, New Beginnings, Potency, Potentiality, Opportunity, Presence, Openness, Receptivity, Innocence, Naturalness,

Hiera Kalathos Kistai

3. Young Seeker

Monday, December 24, 2018 1:00 AM



The child has grown to become an adolescent who understands and appreciates the potential he was endowed with as a newborn child. He accepts responsibility for his own life, and recognizes that his destiny will be affected by the choices he makes and how he uses his free will. He bravely commits to his journey through life with the goal of using his potential wisely and with the best possible results. This is symbolized by him taking the pine cone from the basket. The seed is free from the pinecone that produced it to begin a new life.

The young seeker carries a torch that helps guide him on his journey, illuminating the truth, showing him what is real, and helping him find his path when it is not clear. The torch also a symbolic emblem of the divine spark that is within him. He now has the freedom and independence to pursue his ideals and aspirations.

The raven of death on his shoulder reminds the young seeker of his mortality and that he has a limited amount to time to live his life. He begins his journey with an awareness of both the spark of eternal life and of the death that comes to all mortal beings.

Keywords: Freedom, Independence, Aspiration, Intention, Idealism

4. Youth and Vitality

Monday, December 24, 2018

1:02 AM



This is the station of Hebe, goddess of youth and vitality, daughter of Hera and Zeus. She possesses the rejuvenative powers that can overcome death, restore vigor, and promote longevity. In one hand Hebe carries a pitcher filled with the nectar of eternal youth. In her other hand is a bowl for offering libations and sharing nectar from her pitcher. Hebe's gift allows the recipient to fully participate in life and benefit from all that the world has to offer.

Hebe accompanies and aids the young seeker as he begins his journey through life. She is cheerful, generous and giving, receptive and accepting. Hebe is a young maiden who promotes energy, enthusiasm, and daring in the young seeker as he continues on his life's adventure.

Keywords: Vitality, Vigor, Energy, Enthusiasm, Cheerfulness, Adventure, Daring

Oinochoe and phiale

From <<https://www.theoi.com/Daimon/Nike.html>>

5. Demeter

Monday, December 31, 2018 2:34 AM



Next is the station of Demeter, the goddess of fertility, growth, maturation and harvest. She is the earth goddess who rules over agriculture, the seasons, and the cycles of life and death. She nurtures and protects, and ensures the fertility, of life in the world.

She is seated on a throne within her temple, her foot resting on the foundation of her sanctuary. The wings on Demeter's head indicate her divinity. Demeter holds a scepter in her right hand signifying her authority and power to uphold the sacred law.

In her left hand is a shear with which she harvests and reaps. The raven of death in the background is a reminder of the cycle of life and death.

This station is about development and growth, of flourishing and thriving, of nourishing and supporting new life during its process of maturation so that it can reach its full potential. At this stage, Demeter provides aid and support to the Mystes as he grows and matures. Life provides the Mystes with an abundance of opportunities and possibilities, manifesting in endless forms and experiences. He has the power to choose what he will do with everything he is presented with. As long as he is alive, he has free will and the power of choice.

Keywords: Growth, Development, Progress, Empowerment, Willpower, Security, Power, Capability, Experience, Patience, Nurturing, Nourishment, Health, Fitness, Hardiness,

6. Persephone

Monday, December 31, 2018

2:37 AM



Persephone, mistress of the underworld, is the goddess of renewal and regeneration. She is seen carrying a torch which allows her to clearly see her way forward and to know the truth. Also, the torch burns with the eternal spark of life that revitalizes and renews anything it touches, a regenerative spiritual fire. Her posture indicates that she is full of life, and willing and able to bring new life to others and share it.

Persephone offers the spark of life to the Mystes for his benefit and to help him move past the challenges he encounters. She also provides clarity, insight, and inspiration to the Mystes as he continues on his journey through life.

Keywords: Renewal, Regeneration, Restoration, Revival, Endurance, Resilience, Health, Patience, Persistence, Faith, Trust, Hope, Optimism, Tolerance,

7. Mature Devotee

Monday, December 31, 2018 2:38 AM



The Mystes has grown and has become strong, healthy, and well developed. His stance is that of a confident, mature man who is fully self-aware and radiates the presence of honorable character.

His clothing suggests that he is a noble or a monk. In his right hand are prayer beads, showing that he has been following a spiritual practice. He has no other material possessions or adornments. His wealth is his experiences of life and the knowledge and wisdom he has gained.

The Mystes has reach the stage where he is ready to progress to the next level of initiation.

Keywords: Virtue, Impeccability, Determination, Perseverance, Focus, Clarity, Comprehension, Learning, Strength,

8. Tyche (Fortuna)

Monday, December 31, 2018 2:41 AM



Tyche is the Greek goddess of luck and circumstances, a guardian deity who influences a person's destiny. She holds a bountiful cornucopia from which she distributes wealth and the benefits of success. She can bless a recipient with prosperity and good fortune, or withhold her gifts and curse the recipient with bad luck. Tyche can be unpredictable and capricious, but can be persuaded to act amicably by performing the correct actions that will win her favor.

We see Tyche holding a wand over the Mystes head to bestow her blessing on him. She is pleased seeing how he has lived his life so far and provides her support to him as he continues his journey. Her intention is to be helpful, kind and caring, to provide protection, to preserve what has been gained, and to give the Mystes everything he needs to succeed in life.

The Mystes fully recognizes the benefits that he has received in life and feels a deep sense of appreciation and gratitude.

Keywords: Luck, Generosity, Kindness, Benevolence, Goodwill, Gratitude, Appreciation, Recognition, Protection, Preservation, Love, Compassion, Fate, Fortune,

9. Committed Pilgrim

Monday, December 31, 2018 2:42 AM



Agathodaemon is a benevolent guardian spirit and the companion of Tyche, the goddess of luck and good fortune. His role is to ensure that good luck, well-being and wisdom comes to the initiate, and to also provide guidance, security and aid. As the Mystes continues his journey, Agathodaemon will be with him as a protector and guide.

The Mystes is ready to explore the depths of the psyche, the unconscious world where powerful and primeval forces exist. He is prepared to encounter the Shadow of Jungian psychology. In one hand he carries a palm frond, signifying that he is a pilgrim on a spiritual path, and his intention is to gain knowledge and understanding. In the other hand is a poppy flower, an emblem of Demeter, which represents sleep and dreams and visions.

The quest for discovering deeper truths and to experience profound revelations will require courage, openness, and astute observation. He trusts himself, and is confident in his abilities. He has committed himself to honest and insightful introspection.

"Know Thyself" ~ Delphic Maxim

Keywords: Introspection, Observation, Boundaries, Courage, Commitment, Dedication, Confidence, Trust, Spirituality, Exploration, Openness,

10. Hades (The Depths of Consciousness)

Monday, December 31, 2018 2:45 AM



We have reached the crucial stage, where Hades, the god of the underworld, rules. Hades is a powerful and virile god who has complete control over everything within the underworld. He is holding a cornucopia filled with the rewards and benefits of life. Hades is the gatherer and keeper of the riches of the living world, who has the power to possess the wealth of life, and do with it as he wishes. In his other hand is a mace that he uses to rule the underworld. He has the power to destroy anything in his possession with his mace, or use it as an instrument of transformation. Hades also uses his mace to destroy illusion and our misunderstanding of reality to reveal the fundamental truths of the world.

Hades is sitting on Ningizzida, the snake-dragon lord the underworld. Ningizzida represents the primitive impulses, unsuppressed urges, uninhibited emotions, and uncontrolled thoughts within the human psyche. These include the violent, destructive, malevolent and egotistical urges within the conscious and unconscious mind, and also the humane, creative, altruistic and compassionate urges. By asserting the power of his higher self, Hades is seen here mastering and controlling the primal psychological energies which reside within the mind.

The Mystery is now revealed to the Mystes; the god of the underworld is within himself. And like Hades, the Mystes has the same power over the urges, impulses, and psychological energies within his own mind. Each individual has free will and the sacred right to choose how they want live their own life. How the Mystes responds to the possibilities and opportunities that life presents to him is his choice to make.

Keywords: Spirt/Soul, Dreams, Mystery, Imagination, Introspection, Awareness, Acceptance, Desire, Impulse, Control,

11. Hermes

Monday, December 31, 2018

2:46 AM



The Mystes is now fully initiated and is more youthful and vibrant. His posture suggests that he is full of new life. In the Mystes' hand is an empty bowl, symbolic of his increased capacity and openness to gaining knowledge and experience. He is fully aware of the vast possibilities in life and the variety of experiences that he is able to participate in. He knows that he has the ability to control himself and that he is capable of choosing how he will live his life.

The Mystes has become a cultivated synthesis of all of his life experiences, with the dualities of the world combining together in harmony. He is many things existing at once, his many selves acting as one person, the totality of who he is emerging as a new and vibrant human being. Within the Mystes the male and female psyche have combined to form a singular persona.

Above the Mystes head are wings, symbolizing spiritual enlightenment, transcendence, and a connection to the divine. This is the station of Hermes, the emissary and messenger of the gods. Hermes can move freely between the spirit world and material world, and acts as a spirit guide that helps the Mystes with the transition to the afterlife. Hermes is the Spirit of Crossing Over, a psychopomp. For him, there is no distinction between Time and Eternity, and Life and Death are experienced simultaneously. One of his roles is to bring dreams to living mortals.

Hermes is involved in transitions, transcendence, traversals, transfers, transit, travel, boundaries, crossings, interchanges, exchanges, commerce, and transgressions. He is the protector and patron of roads and travelers. Hermes is the god of boundaries, trade, merchants, athletes, invention, oration, poetry, and literature. He is creative, ingenious, astute, shrewd, and cunning. He is eloquent and witty, demonstrating acumen and a deep understanding of secret knowledge and hidden meanings.

Keywords: Enlightenment, Knowledge, Awakening, Understanding, Transcendence, Metamorphosis, Creativity, Ingenuity, Magic, Boundaries, Frontiers,

12. Castor

Monday, December 31, 2018

2:47 AM



Castor is one of the twin half-brothers of Greek mythology, one mortal and one immortal. They are the twins of the constellation Gemini. Castor and Pollux are the helpers of mankind and the patrons of travelers and sailors, and typically intervene during moments of crisis. They are spirit guides that help navigate the ocean of the conscious and unconscious mind.

We see Castor holding a small torch, symbolic of the flame of life. His other hand is on his chest in a gesture acknowledging his own mortality. He looks at his immortal twin, knowing that they are one and the same, and carry the same flame. Castor and Pollux share knowledge of the mortal and immortal worlds together, and share a bond that unites them forever.

At this station the Mystes acknowledges his mortal self and realizes that the spark of life he carries can be carried into immortality by a person who shares the same flame. He chooses what will be left behind in the mortal world and what will carry forward into the immortal world. He undergoes a process of change and release, liberating himself and allowing himself to transform into an improved being.

Keywords: Choice, Change, Transformation, Release, Liberation, Cleansing, Cooperation, Symbiosis, Synergy, Mortality

13. Pollux

Monday, December 31, 2018 2:48 AM



Pollux is the immortal half-brother twin of Castor. Together they represent the connection between the material world and the divine. We see the raven of death between them, separating the mortal from the immortal.

Pollux carries a torch in both hands, showing that he possesses the flame of life from both the mortal world and the immortal world. He is able to convey the spark of life from Castor's world to the realm of the immortals.

The life of the Mystes continues on into the future.

Keywords: Purification, Refinement, Ascension, Healing, Purpose, Destiny, Spirituality, Immortality,

14. The Sage (Sophos)

Monday, December 31, 2018 2:48 AM



The Mystes is fully initiated and knows the secrets of the Mysteries. He possesses knowledge of the universal truths. His basket, which at the beginning of his journey contained only potentiality, is now full of wisdom, experience, and the results of his life's work.

The Mystes holds the staff of the sage, which signifies that he is worthy of the reverence, esteem and veneration he has earned. His actions distinguish him as a wise person, an inspiration and an example of someone who has pursued and obtained a worthy ideal.

The wisdom of the sages of the past, and the wisdom present age that the Mystes has gained, have combined together into a unified and harmonious whole, is present and alive in him. The sage carries this living wisdom into the future.

Keywords: Wisdom, Sagacity, Deep Understanding, Sound Judgement, Insight, Identity, Character, Wholeness, Completeness, Harmony, Agreement, Balance, Autonomy, Sophistication, Confidence,

15. Maturation, Fruition and Fulfillment

Monday, December 31, 2018 2:49 AM



In this station the fully initiated Mystes receives renewed vigor and youthful energy from the fully grown and mature counterpart of Hebe. This goddess is a synthesis of the aspects of all the goddesses, and she is fully endowed with the fullness and richness of life. Open and giving, her pitcher of nectar is larger than before and her bowl has a greater capacity for receiving the bounty of life. She raises it to welcome the favors of the heavens.

All around her we see the fruits of life ready for harvest. The great richness of life is there available to the Mystes. Here are the physical, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual rewards that are the results of pursuing his ideal. Now is the time for enjoying and appreciating what life has to offer.

Keywords: Fulfillment, Success, Attainment, Contemplation, Meditation, Reflection, Happiness, Contentment, Peace, Tranquility, Calm, Completeness, Composure, Rest

16. Apollo

Monday, December 31, 2018 2:53 AM



The last station is that of Apollo, the solar deity of light, truth, knowledge, prophesy, music, poetry and healing. He is the oracular god worshiped at the Sanctuary of Delphi, where Greeks came to hear the prophecies of the Oracle. Apollo is a healer and his son is Asclepius, god of medicine, who's symbol is a staff with a single snake coiled around it. He is a youthful and athletic god who appears as the ideal young man of noble status.

We see the cithara on which he plays the Music of The Spheres, the rich and beautiful harmony of the universe. Apollo is also the leader and director of the muses.

Apollo is seated on a throne holding a scepter, signifying that he is one of the most supreme gods. Below we see a griffin, symbol of wisdom, courage, strength, and power.

It is the goal of all Mystes to create and manifest Apollo, the embodiment of all that is sacred.

Keywords: Inspiration, Conception, Radiance, Brilliance, Magnificence, Sanctity, Sacredness, Truth, Integrity, Art, Sanctuary ,Objective, Goal, Art, Order,