DEMETER/Deo/Ceres and PERSEPHONE/Kore/Proserpina

Key words:
- Eleusis (place)
- Hades/Plutus/Dis
- Persephone/Kore/Proserpina
- Eleusinian Mysteries
- _hieros gamos_ (sacred marriage)
- _Thesmophoria_ (sowing ritual)
- _epiphany_

**Interruption**

We interrupt the work of the gods, hasty and inexperienced beings of the moment. In the palaces of Eleusis and Phthia Demeter and Thetis start good works amid high flames and dense smoke. But always Metaneira rushes from the king's chambers, disheveled and scared, and always Peleus is fearful and interferes.

*Constantine P. Cavafy (1901)*

Characteristics:
- Great Goddess Mother equal to Gaia (except _parthenogenesis_)

**Eleusinian Mysteries**
- Agriculture/Fertility
- Giver of gifts (or rather 'handouts')

*Homeric Hymn to Demeter* (cf. Ovid, _Met_. Book V, pp. 174ff.)

1. Invocation: First Word = Demeter (importance of beginning)
2. Rape/abduction
3. Hades swallows (cf. Kronos/Saturn)
4. Visual/aural
5. Hekate
6. Helios (Sun god, son of Hyperion)
7. Demeter's wandering
8. Grief
9. Roaming 9 years
10. Tenth year arrives in Eleusis
11. Women at the spring
12. Gods are hard for mortals to recognize
13. Old woman from Crete who tells the whole "truth" (cf. _Th._ 27-8)
14. _Kallidike_ = 'Beautiful Justice'
15. Leaders in Eleusis
16. _Xenia_: do not leave a guest out of doors
17. First (incognito) _epiphany_ > divine radiance
18. Nursing immortality
19. Magic
20. _Demophoon_ = 'Shining for the People'
21. **See lines 255ff.: (cf. Cavafy's poem in epigraph)**
   - Humans are foolish and without the sense to know their destiny ahead of time, when good comes, or evil...
   - Now there is no way for him to avoid death and a mortal fate.
22. Second _epiphany_: beauty, fragrance, radiance
23. Nursing (however privileged) mortality
24. Temple and rites (aetiology)
25. Email: Iris
26. Bribing Demeter to stop famine
27. _Argeiphontes_ = _Hermes_ (threshold crosser)
28. _Pomegranate_ (magic)
29. Cortege of Oceanids; flowers (see p. 55)
30. Hekate