

The Elegiac Mysteries: Initiation Symbolism in Propertius 1.3

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Handout 1:

Qualis Thesea iacuit cedente carina languida desertis Cnosia litoribus; qualis et accubuit primo Cepheia <i>somno</i>	4
libera iam duris cotibus Andromede; nec minus assiduis Edonis fessa choreis qualis in herboso concidit Apidano: talis visa mihi <i>mollē spirare quietem</i>	8
Cynthia consertis nixa caput manibus, ebria cum multo traherem <i>vestigia Baccho</i> , et quaterent sera nocte facem pueri.	12
hanc ego, nondum etiam sensus deperditus omnis , molliter impresso conor adire toro; et quamvis duplici correptum ardore iuberent	16
hac Amor hac Liber, durus uterque deus , subiecto leviter positam temptare lacerto osculaque admota sumere tarda manu, non tamen ausus eram dominae turbare <i>quietem</i> , expertae metuens iurgia saevitiae;	20
sed sic intentis haerebam fixus ocellis, Argus ut ignotis cornibus Inachidos. et modo solvebam nostra de fronte corollas	24
ponebamque tuis, Cynthia, temporibus; et modo gaudebam lapsos formare capillos; nunc furtiva cavis poma dabam manibus: omnia quae ingrato largibar munera <i>somno</i> ,	28
munera de prono saepe voluta sinu; et quotiens raro duxti suspiria motu, obstupui vano credulus auspicio, ne qua tibi insolitos portarent <i>visa</i> timores,	32
neve quis invitam cogeret esse suam: donec diversas praecurrentis luna fenestras, luna moraturis sedula luminibus, compositos levibus radiis patefecit ocellos.	36
sic ait in molli fixa toro cubitum: 'tandem te nostro referens iniuria lecto alterius clausis expulit e foribus? namque ubi longa meae consumpsi tempora <i>noctis</i> ,	40
languidus exactis, ei mihi, sideribus? o utinam talis perducas, improbe, <i>noctes</i> ,	44
me miseram qualis semper habere iubes! nam modo purpureo fallebam stamine somnum ,	
rursus et Orpheae carmine, fessa, lyrae; interdum leviter tecum deserta querebar externo longas saepe in amore moras:	
dum me iucundis lassam Sopor impulit alis. illa fuit lacrimis ultima cura meis!	

(Propertius *Elegies*, 1.3)

Handout 2:

Passage 1:

"Ἐγωγε, καὶ δάδων γέ με αὔρα τις εἰσέπνευσε μυστικωτάτη. (Aristophanes *Frogs*, 313-314).

Passage 2:

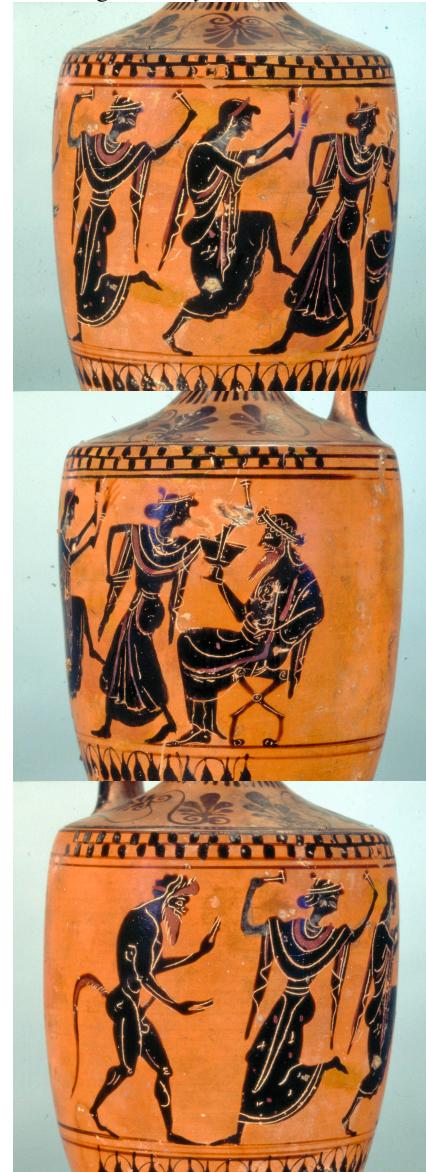
Χορός:

"Ἐγειρε· φλογέας ἐν χερσὶ γὰρ ἥκει **τινάσσουν**,
"Ιαχ", ὁ "Ιαχε,
νυκτέρου τελετῆς φωσφόρος ἀστήρ.

(Aristophanes *Frogs*, 340-343)

Handout 3:

Maenads brandishing torches and approached by a satyr. (Amsterdam, Allard Pierson Museum 14107, 6th c. black-figured *lekythos*.)



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