Hymn to Hades

Pluto's symbol

Greek God of the dead and King of the Underworld, referred to as *Plouton* (from the Greek word for wealth) and then Pluto.

Symbols: Sceptre or bident, keys, cypress, mint, jewels, gemstones, multiple-headed dog.

Offerings: Pomegranate, red wine,bay leaf, mint, coins and money, stones, tobacco, incense.

Plouton, magnanimous, whose realms profound
are fixed beneath the firm and solid ground,
in the Tartarean plains remote from sight,
and wrapt for ever in the depths of night.

Zeus of the Underworld, thy sacred ear incline,
and pleased accept these sacred rites 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, all sovereign earth assigned,
the seat of gods and basis of mankind.

Thy throne is fixed in Haides' dismal plains,
distant, unknown to the rest, where darkness reigns;
where, destitute of breath, pale spectres dwell,
in endless, dire, inexorable hell.

And in dread Akheron, whose depths obscure,
earth's stable roots eternally secure.
O mighty Daimon, whose decision dread,
the future fate determines of the dead.

With Demeter's girl captive, through grassy plains,
drawn in a four-yoked car with loosened reins,
rapt over the deep, impelled by love,
you flew till Eleusinia's city rose to view.

There, in a wondrous 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 works unseen and seen thy power alone
to be the great dispending source is known.
All-ruling, holy God, with glory bright,
thee sacred poets and their rhymes delight,

Propitious to thy mystics' works incline,
rejoicing come, for holy rites are thine.

There were no temples dedicated to Hades, perhaps with the exception of the Necromanteion of Ackeron, a necromancy temple devoted to Hades and his wife Persephone, who he famously kidnapped from her mother Demeter. This site was believed by devotees to be the door to Hades, the realm of the dead.

Hades is usually not invited into the home. Instead temporary altars are set up outside. Libations are poured in a pit and offerings placed inside and burned along with candles as the invocations are chanted.