

# The Bacchae Dramaturgy Packet

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# Glossary and Pronunciation

## Page 1

**Thebes**: Our setting, “**theebs**”, one syllable

Kadmos: The grandfather of Dionysus and Pentheus, king and founder of Thebes. “**KAD-mos**”

**Semele**: Dionysus’ mother “**sem-i-lee**”, short e, short i, long e. three syllables, Dirke and Ismenus: refers to river god and nymph. The Dirke is also a spring sacred to Dionysus located near Thebes. Ismenus is a river near Thebes in Boeotia.

“**Is-mean-ohs**” three syllables. “**Der-kay**”

**Lydia**: ancient kingdom in modern day Turkey, “**LID-ee-ah**”

**Phrygia**: ancient kingdom in modern day Turkey, “**FRIJ-ee-uh**”

**Persia**: refers to the empire of Cyrus the Great, and it derives from the word Parsa, the name of the group Cyrus the Great ruled. “**Pur-zhuh**”

**Bactria**: Ancient kingdom “Bach-tree-uh” (as in the composer, bach)

**Medes**: A non-Greek tribe governed by a king westward to modern Iran. “Meeds” rhymes with needs

## Page 2

**Thyrsus**: “(Greek: the branch or wand carried by followers of Dionysos). A wand or staff of giant fennel (*Ferula communis*) covered with ivy vines and leaves, sometimes wound with taeniae and topped with a pine cone, artichoke. The thyrsus is typically associated with the Greek god Dionysos, and represents a symbol of prosperity, fertility, and hedonism.” (“Greek and Roman Theatre Glossary”) “**ther-sus**”

### Page 3

**Tmolus**: A mountain god, the spirit of Mount Tmolus (currently Bozdağ) in Lydia, known for its gold-dust rivers. **“MOH-lus”**

**Retainers**: Those loyal and devoted to a leader or god, such as Dionysus. **“Re-tain-ers”**

**Phrygian**: What the people of Phrygia (where the worship of Dionysus began) were called. **“FRIJ-ee-uhn”**

Rhea: Goddess of motherhood and fertility, and was frequently called the "Great Mother." She gave birth to Hera, Demeter, Hestia, Hades, Poseidon, and Zeus, and was the grandmother of Dionysus, having raised him. She is the Greek equivalent of Cybele.

**“REE-uh”**

**Mount Kithairon**: A mountain outside of Thebes. Location where the followers of Dionysus' performed the rites and killed Pentheus. **“Mount Kith-ai-RON”**

**Kithairon** (page 55): “A mountain on the border of Attica and Boeotia in Greek myth, known as a place of abandonment, denial, and brutal truth. Infants and secrets left there don't stay buried. Cithaeron is where suppressed problems come back with consequences.” **Kith-EYE-ron (KITH-ai-ron)** (Wesołowska)

### Page 4

**Bromios**: An epithet for Dionysus, which means "roaring" or "noisy." It refers to the thunderstorm that occurred during Dionysus' birth. **“BRO-mee-oss”**

**Bacchic**: Relates to Bacchus (Dionysus) and forms of worship to the God. **“BAH-kick”**

**Cybele**: A Mother Goddess, associated with nature and fertility, who is worshiped with

music and numerous rites. She is the Phrygian equivalent of Rhea. “**Sih-buh-lee**”

#### Page 5

**Cretan**: Relating to the Greek island or people and culture of Crete found in the Mediterranean. “**KREE-tuhn**”

**Korybantes**: Armed priests of Cybele who dance and utilize loud music in their rituals. “**kor-uh-BAN-tees**”

#### Page 6

**Syrian**: Relating to the region or people and culture of Syria, located in the Mediterranean. “**SIRR-ee-uhn**”

#### Page 7

**Agenor**: A figure in Greek Mythology, known for being a Phoenician king and ancestor of Theban royalty, the father to Cadmus and Europa. “**AH-gen-or**”

#### Page 8

**Livery**: A distinguishing uniform worn by servants or followers to identify who that person is affiliated with or serves. “**LIV-er-ee**”

#### Page 9

**Echion**: A well-known Theban hero in Greek Mythology, who came from the dragon's teeth sown by Cadmus when he established Thebes. Additionally, he was Pentheus' father and Agave's husband. “**EH-kee-on**”

#### Page 10

**Maenad**: A female devoted and supported priestess of Dionysus, known for her euphoric worship and ritual meant to honor him. “**MEE-nad**”

**Autonoe** [Autonoë on page 53]: A Theban princess in Greek Mythology. She is the daughter of Cadmus, sister to Agave, mother to Actaeon, and wife to Aristaeus.

“aw-TON-oh-ee”

### Page 12

**Demeter**: A goddess in Greek and Roman mythology, one of the Twelve Olympian gods. Known as the goddess of agriculture, harvest, and fertility. She is the daughter of Cronus and Rhea, sister of Zeus, and mother to Persephone. “deh-MEE-ter”

### Page 13

**Homeros**: The original name of Homer, a poet from ancient Greece who wrote the "Iliad" and the "Odyssey" in Ionic and Aeolic Greek. “HOH-meh-ross”

**Meros**: The word derives from Ancient Greece and means thigh, notably the upper part of the leg between the hip and knee. “MEH-ros”

**Delphi**: An ancient sacred archaeological site in central Greece. It was recognized as the epicenter of religion in the Hellenic world. It was notably the sanctuary of Apollo, the Greek god of music, prophecy, and poetry. People traveled here to see the Oracle of Apollo, who provided guidance and made predictions. “DEL-fee”

## Page 14

**Actaeon**: Theban hunter and hero in Greek Mythology. His father was Aristaeus, the god of beekeeping and cheesemaking, and his mother was Autonoe. Actaeon is notable for having seen Artemis, the goddess of wild animals, the wilderness, and the hunt, nude while she was bathing. The goddess chose to transform him into a stag, and Actaeon's hunting dogs turned on him, attacking and ripping him apart. **"Ak-tee-uhn"**.

**Artemis**: She is the goddess of wild animals, the wilderness, chastity, and the hunt in Greek Mythology. Her mother was Leto, the Titan goddess, and her father was Zeus, king of the gods. Apollo was her twin brother. She is known for aiding midwives and being defensive of her privacy and chastity. She is not against punishing those who violate her boundaries. **"AR-tuh-miss"**

## Page 15

**Bacchant**: A worshiper of the Greek god Bacchus, aka Dionysus. **"BAK-ant"**

## Page 17

**Cyprus**: An island located in the eastern Mediterranean Sea. **"SY-prus"**

**Paphos**: An ancient city in Cyprus known for being a sanctuary of Aphrodite.

**"PAH-foss"**

**Pieria**: An ancient region that lies on the north side of Greece, close to Macedonia, that is associated with poetry and the muses. **"pie-EER-ee-uh"**

**Daimon**: An Ancient Greek word that refers to a divine power or spirit that has the power to sway a human's destiny, including how their choices and actions are influenced. The spirits are not inherently evil; sometimes they guide and are protective, other times they are troublesome. **“Dy-mon”**

#### **Page 19**

**Sardis**: The capital city of Lydia, known for being wealthy and powerful. **“SAR-dis”**

#### **Page 23**

**Achelous**: A river god in Greek Mythology and personification of the River Achelous in Greece. He has the power to change forms and is the leader of his 3,000 brothers, the other river gods. He is father to the sirens, nymphs, and springs. His father was Oceanus, but the identity of his mother varies; in some stories, his mother is Tethys, while in others, she is Gaea. **“a-kee-LOH-us”**

**Dithyrambus**: “An ancient hymn or poem sung and danced honoring Dionysos; competitive dancing chorus, performed by 50 men or boys; one of the competitive elements in the Festival of Dionysos; the origin of drama according to Aristotle; can refer to the poem as well as the performance.” (“Greek and Roman Theatre Glossary”)  
**“DITH-i-ram-bus”**

**Bacchus**: Another name for Dionysus, the Greek god of wine, madness, fertility, and theatre. **“BAK-us”**

#### **Page 24**

**Corcyrian**: Relating to the ancient Greek city-state and the inhabitants and culture of Corcyra, located in what is now Corfu, in the Ionian Sea. **“core-SIGH-rian”**

**Orpheus:** “Orpheus is a prominent figure in Greek mythology, known for his extraordinary musical talents as a musician and poet. He is the son of Oeagrus, the king of Thrace, and Calliope, a muse associated with epic poetry.” “**OR-fee-us**” (Jacob et. al.)

## Page 25

**Axion:** “major river in North Macedonia and in Greece.” “**AK-see-on**” (Britannica Editors)

**ιώ,**

**κλύετ' ἑμᾶς κλύετ' αὐδᾶς.**

**ιώ βάκχαι, ἰώ βάκχαι.** Io! Hear me, hear me as I call you. Io! Bacchae! Io Bacchae  
(Faenum Publishing)

**ἰώ ἰώ, πάλιν αὐδῶ,**

**ὁ Σεμέλας, ὁ Διὸς παῖς!ο!** Io! I'm calling out again —the son of Semele, a child of Zeus  
(faenum publishing)

**σεῖε πέδον χθονὸς** Ἔννοσι πότνια Sacred lord of earthquakes, shake this ground  
(faenum publishing)

**ἄπτε κεραύνιον αἶθοπα λαμπάδα—**

**[Beat. Power gathers.]**

**σύμφλεγε σύμφλεγε δώματα Πενθέος!** Let fiery lightning strike right now —  
burn Pentheus' palace — consume it all

(faenum publishing)

### Page 28

**Simulacrum**: "An image formed in the likeness of a thing, a likeness, image, form, representation, semblance" "**SIM-yuh-LAK-rum**" ("Simulacrum.")

### Page 31

**Agave**: "A daughter of Cadmus and Harmonia, wife of Echion, king of Thebes, who tore in pieces with her own hands her son Pentheus, because he cast contempt upon the orgies of Bacchus" "**uh-GAH-vee**" ("Agave")

**Ino**: "Ino is a princess of Thebes and the wife of King Athamas of Boeotia in Greek mythology. She helped to raise Dionysos, the god of wine, but the most famous myth associated with her is her descent into madness and the tragic fate of her family. After being driven insane and jumping off a cliff with her son Melicertes, Ino and her son were rescued by her grandmother Aphrodite and the sea god Poseidon, who transformed them both into the sea goddess Leucothea and the sea god Palaemon." "**EYE-noh**" (Miate)

### Page 33

**thyrsos**: "A wand or staff of giant fennel (*Ferula communis*) covered with ivy vines and leaves, sometimes wound with taeniae and topped with a pine cone, artichoke. The thyrsus is typically associated with the Greek god Dionysos, and represents a symbol of prosperity, fertility, and hedonism." ("Greek and Roman Theatre Glossary") It is the plural form of thyrsus "**THIR-soy**"

### Page 34

**Asopus:** "River god. Several of his daughters of Asopus were carried off by gods, most notably Aegina, who was carried off by Zeus. Asopus revolted against Zeus but Zeus defeated him with a lightning bolt." **"Ah-So-Pus"** ("Asopus")

**Hysiae and Erythrae:** Two small towns near Mount Kithairon in central Greece, also where Thebes can be found. **"hiss-ee-eye"** and **"EH-rith-righ" (AIR-ith-ray)**

### Page 35

**Electran gate:** "These were the main gates of ancient Thebes, as it was through them that the road coming from Athens via Plataea passed. The ruins seen today are from the Hellenistic period. The gates had a large circular tower at each side, between which the road to Thebes passed, as it does today. They got their name from Elektra, the daughter of Atlas, whom various mythologies present as the mother-in-law of Kadmos, the mother of Harmonia by Zeus." **"ih-LEK-tran gate"** ("Thebes of the seven gates")

### Page 44

**Pan:** "Pan is a significant figure in Greek mythology known as the god of shepherds, flocks, nature, and wilderness. Often depicted with the upper body of a man and the lower body of a goat, Pan is recognized for playing the syrinx, or pan-pipes, made from marsh reeds. His character embodies the spirit of the wild and is traditionally associated with rustic music and the untamed aspects of nature. The name "Pan" is believed to inspire the term "panic," which relates to his ability to instill fear in those who encounter him in the forest." (Rudy et. al.)

### Page 47

**Gorgon:** "three monstrous sisters in Greek mythology, the most famous of whom was Medusa. They had snakes for hair, and anyone who looked directly at them was immediately turned to stone. Medusa herself was finally beheaded by the hero Perseus, who avoided looking straight at her by instead watching her reflection in his mirrorlike shield." "**Gore-gun**" (Merriam-Webster)

**Atheon, Anomon, Adikon:** Three Greek words meaning Godless (Atheon), Lawless (Anomon), and Unjust (Adikon). It is a grave insult to criticize a person and declare their shortcomings. Someone who ignores the authority of divine figures is meant to suggest they disregarded both laws and morals. "**ATH-ee-on**", "**AN-oh-mon**", "**ah-di-kon**"

#### **Page 48**

**Sidon:** One of the ancient Phoenician port cities known for its wealth, located on the Mediterranean coast, in what is now Lebanon. "**SY-don**"

#### **Page 58**

**Aristaeus:** "A minor Greek god associated with beekeeping, agriculture, animal husbandry, and practical survival skills. Aristaeus is a culture hero, the kind of god who teaches humans how to do things that keep them alive." "**a-ris-TAY-us**" (Aristaeus)

#### **Page 59**

**Penthos:** "PENTHOS was the personified spirit (daimon) of grief and lamentation."

"PEN-thos" (Atsma, Penthos)

**Theban:** "An inhabitant of Thebes, or something associated with the city. In Greek myth and tragedy, "Theban" usually signals stories of fate, cursed bloodlines, and civic collapse. Thebes is the setting for major myth cycles involving Oedipus, Pentheus, Dionysus, and the fallout when authority, denial, or prophecy collide with reality."

"THEE-bun" (Collins English Dictionary)

#### **Page 64**

**Harmonia:** "A goddess associated with harmony, balance, and social order, famously embodying the uneasy reconciliation of opposites. She is the daughter of Ares (war) and Aphrodite (desire), making her very existence a paradox." "har-MOH-nee-uh" (Atsma, Harmonia)

#### **Page 66**

**Acheron:** "A river of the Underworld in Greek myth, associated with pain, sorrow, and the boundary between life and death. Souls of the dead must cross Acheron to enter Hades, often ferried by Charon. In some traditions, Acheron is not just a river but a broader zone of lamentation, where the newly dead gather before judgment or passage." "AK-eh-ron" also heard as "ah-KAIR-on" (Atsma, Acheron)

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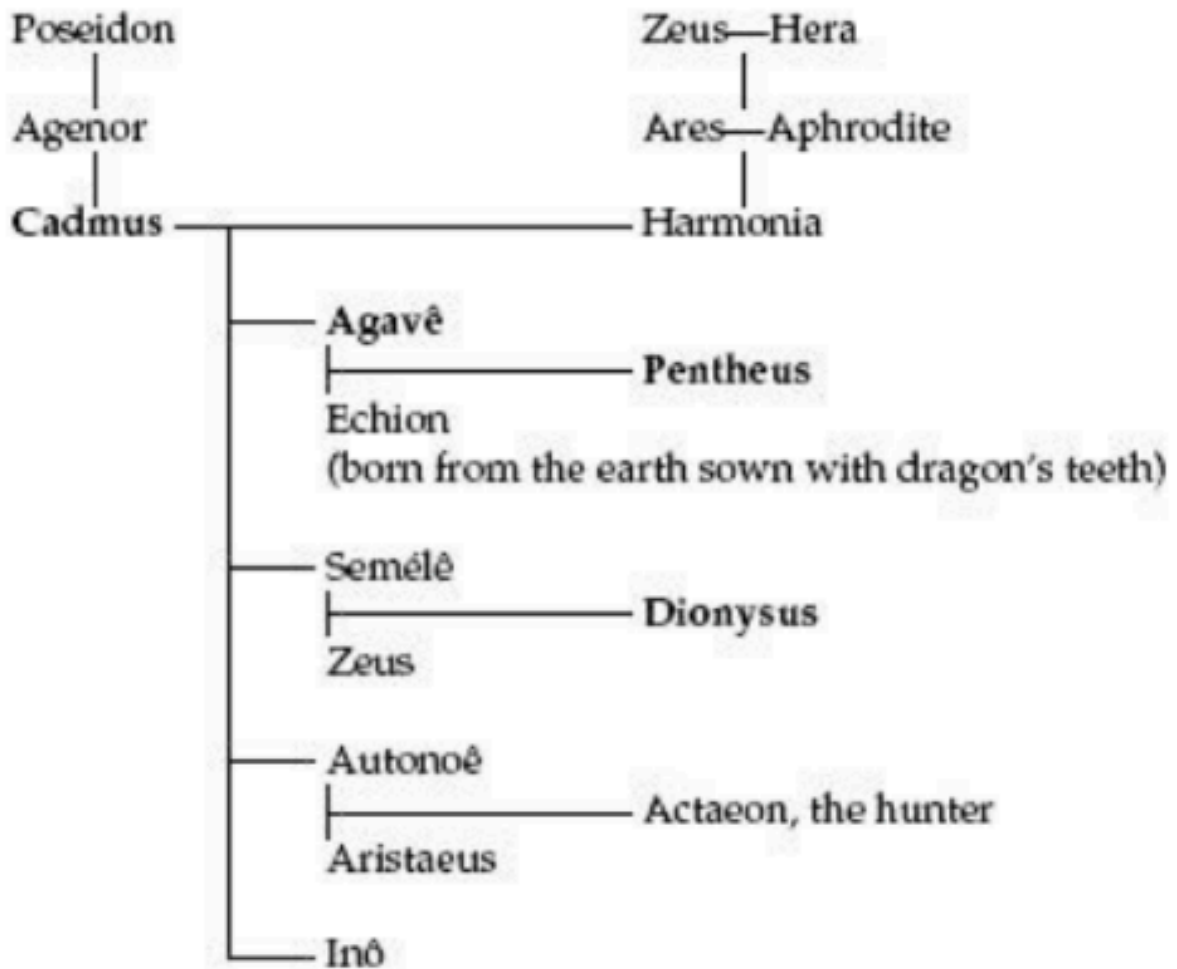
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# Family Tree

## The Daughters of Cadmus



### Harmonia's Line

**Zeus:** “ZEUS was the King of the Gods and the god of the sky, weather, law and order, destiny and fate, and kingship. He was depicted as a regal, mature man with a sturdy figure and dark beard. His usual attributes were a lightning bolt, a royal sceptre and an eagle.” (<https://www.theoi.com/Olympios/Zeus.html>)

**Hera:** “HERA was the Olympian queen of the gods, and the goddess of marriage, women, the sky and the stars of heaven. She was usually depicted as a beautiful woman wearing a crown and holding a royal, lotus-tipped sceptre, and sometimes accompanied by a lion, cuckoo or hawk.” (<https://www.theoi.com/Olympios/Hera.html>)



**Ares:** “ARES was the Olympian god of war, battlelust, courage and civil order. In ancient Greek art he was depicted as either a mature, bearded warrior armed for battle, or a nude, beardless youth with a helm and spear.” (<https://www.theoi.com/Olympios/Ares.html>)

**Aphrodite:** “APHRODITE was the Olympian goddess of love, beauty, pleasure and procreation. She was depicted as a beautiful woman often accompanied by the winged godling Eros (Love). Her attributes included a dove, apple, scallop shell and mirror. In classical sculpture and fresco she was usually depicted nude.”

(<https://www.theoi.com/Olympios/Aphrodite.html>)



**Harmonia:** “A goddess associated with harmony, balance, and social order, famously embodying the uneasy reconciliation of opposites. She is the daughter of Ares (war) and Aphrodite (desire), making her very existence a paradox.”

([www.theoi.com/Ouranios/Harmonia.html](http://www.theoi.com/Ouranios/Harmonia.html))

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## Cadmus' Line

**Poseidon:** “POSEIDON was the Olympian god of the sea, sources of fresh water, horses and earthquakes. He was widely worshipped with numerous temples and shrines throughout ancient Greece. The foremost of these were his sanctuary near Korinthos (Corinth), site of the Isthmian Games, and the shrines of Helike (Helice) in Akhaia and Onkhestos (Onchestus) in Boiotia. Poseidon was depicted as a mature, muscular bearded god in ancient Greek sculpture. He was virtually identical to Zeus except for his attributes--a trident and dolphin.”

(<https://www.theoi.com/Cult/PoseidonCult.html>)



**Agenor:** A Phoenician king and ancestor of Theban royalty. Son of Poseidon and Libya. Father to Cadmus and Europa.



**Cadmus:** “Son of Agenor and Telephassa, brother of Europa (q.v.), and legendary founder of Thebes; followed a cow which led him to the location of the future Thebes; as Cadmus and his men went to a spring in order to fetch water to prepare the sacrifice of the cow, they were attacked by a dragon; Cadmus slained it and sowed its teeth, which turned into armed men (the Spartes); Cadmus vanquished them by throwing stones at them and only five of them survived; as the dragon was sacred to Mars/Ares (q.v.), Cadmus had to spend eight years in servitude to the god. After that he married Harmonia, daughter of Mars and Aphrodite/Venus (q.v.). They had several children, including Polydorus, Ino (q.v.), Autonoe, Agave, and Semele. Later abdicated in favour of his grandson Pentheus, and settled in Illyria. He and Harmonia were eventually turned into snakes.” (<https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/term/BIOG57580>)

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## Union

**Cadmus + Harmonia**

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## Their Children

**Agavē:** “A daughter of Cadmus and Harmonia, wife of Echion, king of Thebes, who tore in pieces with her own hands her son Pentheus, because he cast contempt upon the orgies of Bacchus.” (<https://logeion.uchicago.edu/Agave>)

**Semelē:** “SEMELE THYONE was the mother of Dionysos and the goddess of the Bacchic frenzy which seized female devotees of the god during the Orgies. Thyone's mortal name was Semele. She was a Theban princess loved by the god Zeus. When his wife Hera learned of their affair, she tricked the girl into having Zeus swear an oath to appear before her in his full glory. Bound by his pledge the god did so and Semele was consumed by the fire of his lightning-bolts. Zeus recovered their son Dionysos from her womb and upon reaching adulthood he fetched her from the underworld to join the gods on Olympos.” (<https://www.theoi.com/Georgikos/Thyone.html>)

**Autonoë:** A Theban princess in Greek Mythology. She is the daughter of Cadmus, sister to Agave, mother to Actaeon, and wife to Aristaeus.

**Inō:** "Ino is a princess of Thebes and the wife of King Athamas of Boeotia in Greek mythology. She helped to raise Dionysos, the god of wine, but the most famous myth associated with her is her descent into madness and the tragic fate of her family. After being driven insane and jumping off a cliff with her son Melicertes, Ino and her son were rescued by her grandmother Aphrodite and the sea god Poseidon, who transformed them both into the sea goddess Leucothea and the sea god Palaemon."

(<https://www.worldhistory.org/Ino/>)

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**Next Generation**

## Agavē

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**Echion:** A well-known Theban hero in Greek Mythology, who came from the dragon's teeth sown by Cadmus when he established Thebes. Additionally, he was Pentheus' father and Agave's husband.

**(Child) Pentheus:** “son of Echion and Agave, grandson of Cadmus, and king of Thebes; having treated with contempt the rites of Bacchus, he was torn in pieces by his mother and her sisters when under the influence of the god”

(<https://logeion.uchicago.edu/Pentheus>)

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## Semelē

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## Zeus

**(Child) Dionysus:** "DIONYSOS (Dionysus) was the Olympian god of wine, vegetation, pleasure, festivity, madness and wild frenzy. He was depicted as either an older, bearded god or an effeminate, long-haired youth. His attributes included the thyrsos (a pine-cone tipped staff), a drinking cup and a crown of ivy. He was usually accompanied by a troop of Satyrs and Mainades (wild female devotees). Dionysos was a son of Zeus and the princess Semele of Thebes. During the course of her pregnancy, the god's jealous wife Hera tricked Semele into asking Zeus to appear before her in his full glory. Bound by oath, the god was forced to comply and she was consumed by the heat of his lightning-bolts. Zeus recovered their unborn child from her body, sewed him up in his own thigh, and carried him to term." (<https://www.theoi.com/Olympios/Dionysos.html>)

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## Autonoë

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**Aristaeus:** ARISTAIOS (Aristaeus) was the rustic god of shepherds and cheesemaking, beekeeping, honey and honey-mead, olive growing and oil milling, medicinal herbs, hunting, and the Etesian winds which provided some respite from the scorching heat of midsummer. His name was derived from the Greek word aristos, "most excellent" or "most useful." (<https://www.theoi.com/Georgikos/Aristaios.html>)

**(Child) Actaeon:** Theban hunter and hero in Greek Mythology. His father was Aristaeus, the god of beekeeping and cheesemaking, and his mother was Autonoe. Actaeon is notable for having seen Artemis, the goddess of wild animals, the wilderness, and the hunt, nude while she was bathing. The goddess chose to transform him into a stag, and Actaeon's hunting dogs turned on him, attacking and ripping him apart.

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# Key Locations

## Here (The World of the Play)

- **Thebes:** “Thebes, an ancient city located in Boeotia, central Greece, was a significant cultural and political center from the Bronze Age through to the Hellenistic period. It was strategically situated on fertile plains and key trade routes, which contributed to its prominence. The city is steeped in mythology, being associated with figures like Cadmus, who is credited with its founding, and the legendary hero Heracles. Thebes became famous for its epic narratives, particularly those surrounding the House of Oedipus and the Seven Against Thebes, which were immortalized by playwrights such as Sophocles and Aeschylus.”  
(<https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/history/thebes-ancient-world>)
- **Mount Kithairon:** “Cithaeron, mountain range in Greece, separating Boeotia from Megaris and Attica. Its western end reaches the Gulf of Corinth. The range has a maximum elevation of 4,623 feet. In ancient times, the road from Athens to Thebes crossed the range via the pass of Dryoscephalae (modern Dhríos Kefáli). On the north slope of Mount Cithaeron is Plataea, site of one of the major battles of the Greco-Persian Wars (479 bce). Cithaeron is famous in Greek mythology. There Actaeon was changed into a stag, Pentheus was torn into pieces by the Bacchantes, and the infant Oedipus was left to die. It was the scene of the mystic rites of Dionysus and of the festival of the Daedala in honor of Hera.”  
(<https://www.britannica.com/place/Cithaeron>)
- **Hysiae & Erythrae:** Two small towns near Mount Kithairon in central Greece, also where Thebes can be found.  

“Erythrae, located in Ionia on the western coast of Asia Minor, is a historic town known for its rich cultural heritage and strategic coastal position opposite the island of Chios. The town's origins trace back to various ancient peoples, including Lycians, Carians, and Pamphylians, with later colonization by Ionian settlers. Erythrae was notable for its abundant resources, including grazing land and fisheries, contributing to its prosperity in antiquity. It participated in significant historical events, such as the Ionian Revolt, where it contributed ships to the battle of Lade against Persian forces.”

<https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/earth-and-atmospheric-sciences/erythrae>

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## Greece (The Known World)

- **Delphi:** “Delphi was an ancient religious sanctuary dedicated to the Greek god Apollo. Developed in the 8th century B.C., the sanctuary was home to the Oracle of Delphi and the priestess Pythia, who was famed throughout the ancient world for divining the future and was consulted before all major undertakings. It was also home of the Pythian Games, the second most important games in Greece after the Olympics. Delphi declined with the rise of Christianity and was ultimately buried under the site of a new village until the late 1800s.”  
<https://www.history.com/articles/delphi>
- **Pieria:** “A narrow strip of country on the southeastern coast of Macedonia, extending from the mouth of the Peneus in Thessaly to the Haliacmon, and bounded on the west by Mount Olympus and its offshoots. A portion of these mountains was called by the ancient writers Pierus, or the Pierian Mountain. The inhabitants of this country, the Pieres, were a Thracian people, and are celebrated in the early history of Greek poetry and music, since their country was one of the earliest seats of the worship of the Muses, hence called Pierides, and Orpheus is said to have been buried there. After the establishment of the Macedonian kingdom in Emathia in the seventh century B.C. Pieria was conquered by the Macedonians, and the inhabitants were driven out of the country.” <https://logeion.uchicago.edu/Pieria>
- **Crete:** “Crete is the largest island in Greece, located in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, measuring approximately 160 miles (257 kilometers) long. It has a rich history as one of the earliest centers of European civilization, home to the Minoans around 3000 BCE, who were known for their advancements in art, architecture, and trade. The island is characterized by a diverse landscape, including a mountain chain that runs the length of the island, sandy beaches, and fertile plains, which support agriculture and contribute to its subtropical climate. With a population of about 625,000, most Cretans reside in urban areas such as the capital city, Irákleio (Heraklion). The local culture reflects a blend of influences from various civilizations, including the Romans, Byzantines, and Venetians, resulting in unique folk traditions, music, and cuisine.”  
<https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/history/crete-island>

- **Corcyra:** “Corcyra (modern Corfu and also known as Kerkyra) located in the Ionian sea is one of the northern most Greek islands and was an important polis or city-state in the Archaic and Classical periods. Possessing a significant naval fleet and controlling access to the Adriatic, the island was often fought over by larger city-states such as Corinth and Athens in the Classical Period and was a Roman naval base in the 1st century BCE.”  
(<https://www.worldhistory.org/corcyra/>)
- **Achelous River:** Named after the river god Achelous, “The Akheloios river rises in the Pindar mountain range, flows south through the heart of Aitolia and Akarnania (Acarmania), to empty into the Ionian Sea near the mouth of the Gulf of Korinthos (Corinth). The most significant neighbouring river is the Euenos (Evenus) to the east.” (<https://www.theoi.com/Potamos/PotamosAkheloios.html>)
- **Axion:** “Axios is a river in southeastern Europe, which runs through the Republic of North Macedonia and Greece. It is 380 kms long (186 miles)...It springs from Skardos mountain, on the Albanian-Kosovo border, crosses the Skopje valley, enters the Greek territory, passes through Macedonia, and flows into the Thermaikos Gulf... The banks of the river are surrounded by forests full of elm, beech, and plane trees, while closer to the estuaries there are more tamarisks and bushes. The valley of Axios, along with that of the neighboring Strymon river, are the main crossings to Greece from the north. Axios in ancient times was navigable, a fact that contributed to the movement of people, goods and ideas, and facilitated trade, communication, and the economic bloom of the areas where it flowed.” (<https://www.efa-kilkis.gr/en/pois/axios-potamos/>)
- **Cyprus:** “an island in the Mediterranean Sea, on the coast of Asia Minor, renowned for its fruitfulness, its rich mines, especially of copper, and for the worship of Venus.” (<https://logeion.uchicago.edu/Cyprus>)

“Cyprus is also known as the “Island of Love”. According to mythology, Aphrodite, the ancient Greek goddess of love and beauty, was born from the foam of the sea on the south-western coast of the island.”

(<https://www.worldhistory.org/article/1351/ancient-cyprus-a-travel-guide/>)

- **Paphos:** “Paphos has been inhabited since the Neolithic period. It was a centre of the cult of Aphrodite and of pre-Hellenic fertility deities. Aphrodite's legendary birthplace was on this island, where her temple was erected by the Mycenaeans in the 12th century B.C. The remains of villas, palaces, theatres, fortresses and tombs mean that the site is of exceptional architectural and historic value.”  
(<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/79/>)

“Paphos, a city rich in history, is a gem of Western Cyprus. The city's existence can be traced back to the Neolithic period, claim archaeologists...Paphos, roughly divided into Old Paphos and New Paphos, is also famous for its sun-kissed beaches. Paphos was valued as a major port and the capital of Cyprus during Roman times.” (<https://ecis2024.eu/about-paphos/>)

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## Beyond Greece (Distant & Foreign Lands)

- **Lydia:** “Lydia was a region of western Asia Minor which prospered due to its natural resources and position on trading routes between the Mediterranean and Asia. The Kingdom of Lydia flourished in the 7th and 6th centuries BCE and expanded to its greatest extent during the reign of Croesus, famed for his great wealth. Lydia then became a Persian satrapy with its capital at Sardis. Conquered by Alexander the Great, Lydia was absorbed into the Seleucid Empire in the Hellenistic Period. Part of the Roman province of Asia, Lydia was made a separate province in the 3rd century CE.”  
(<https://www.worldhistory.org/lydia/>)
- **Phrygia:** “Phrygia is a civilization which lived and disappeared only in this region in the world. Phrygia developed as a “world state” in the 8th century B.C. and dominated Central Anatolia from Mediterranean at south to Black Sea at north, from Aegean coast at west till the cities of Yozgat and Sivas at east, while the capital was Gordion, which is near to Polatli District of Ankara...Unearthed findings also reveal the militant personality of Phrygians as well as their development in textile, carpentry, furniture and mining industry...Phrygians were also the inventors of the ornament pavement technology...They also invented musical instruments like flute and cymbal. Today many Western musical works are composed via the “Phrygian Scale”.

[\(https://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/6040/\)](https://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/6040/)

- **Sardis:** “Sardis in antiquity was one of the great cities of Asia Minor. As the capital of Lydia (a kingdom located in western Turkey, inland from modern Izmir), Sardis achieved fame and wealth especially under the last Lydian king, Croesus, before succumbing to the Persian conquest in the mid-sixth century B.C. Sardis lies at the foothills of Mount Tmolus in the valley of the Hermus River, a natural corridor that connects the Aegean and Anatolia. The city’s wealth and prosperity can be attributed to its location, ideal for trade and commerce, and to its abundant source of water and mineral resources, most notably the legendary gold-bearing sands of the Pactolus stream.”  
<https://www.metmuseum.org/essays/sardis>
- **Syria:** “Ancient Syria, a region characterized by its fertile land between the eastern Mediterranean and the northern Arabian desert, has a rich history marked by the influence of various great powers. Initially, it was home to significant independent local states like the Phoenician cities of Byblus, Tyre, and Sidon. In 539 BC, Syria became a satrapy of the Achaemenid Empire, referred to as "Beyond the River." The conquest by Alexander the Great in 332 BC led to a division of the territory between the Seleucid and Ptolemaic empires, establishing cities like Antioch. Over the centuries, Syria fluctuated between periods of autonomy and foreign dominance, including notable conflicts with the Romans, who eventually made it a province around 64/63 BC. The region thrived culturally and economically, showcasing luxurious cities and a vibrant trade network. However, Syria's stability was challenged by revolts and invasions, particularly during the Sassanian Persian incursions. Despite these challenges, figures like Odenathus of Palmyra emerged, asserting local authority until the eventual Roman reconquest. Ancient Syria's diverse history reflects the interplay of culture, power, and resistance that shaped its legacy.”  
<https://www.etsco.com/research-starters/history/ancient-syria>

- **Sidon:** “Sidon is the Greek name (meaning 'fishery') for the ancient Phoenician port city of Sidonia (also known as Saida) in what is, today, Lebanon...Along with the city of Tyre, Sidon was the most powerful city-state of ancient Phoenicia and first manufactured the purple dye which made Tyre famous and was so rare and expensive that the color purple became synonymous with royalty. The area of Sidon was inhabited as early as 4,000 BCE and Homer, in the 8th century, notes the skill of the Sidonians in producing glass. Glass production made Sidon both rich and famous and the city was known for being very cosmopolitan and 'progressive'...Sidon is considered the 'seat' of the Phoenician Civilization in that most of the ships which would ply the seas and spread Phoenician culture were launched from this city's port. Sidon was overthrown during the conquest of Phoenicia by Alexander the Great in 332 BCE and, like the rest of the fractured Phoenician civilization, was eventually absorbed by Rome and, finally, taken by the Arab Muslims in the 7th century CE.” (<https://www.worldhistory.org/sidon/>)
- **Persia:** “The Persian Empire is the name given to a series of dynasties centered in modern-day Iran that spanned several centuries—from the sixth century B.C. to the 20th century A.D. The first Persian Empire, founded by Cyrus the Great around 550 B.C., became one of the largest empires in history, stretching from Europe’s Balkan Peninsula in the West to India’s Indus Valley in the East. This Iron Age dynasty, sometimes called the Achaemenid Empire, was a global hub of culture, religion, science, art and technology for more than 200 years before it fell to the invading armies of Alexander the Great.” (<https://www.history.com/articles/persian-empire>)
- **Medes:** “The Medes or Medians were a group of Indo-Iranian-speaking people from central Asia who migrated westwards and entered northern Iran around the end of the 2nd millennium BCE. They settled in the highlands of Zagros (Zagrus in Greek) and, by the end of the 7th century BCE, founded the kingdom of Media...(They) most likely related to each other through language and culture rather than any political rulership. The Median clans were in constant conflict with each other before their unification in the 8th century BCE...Medians were highly acclaimed horsemen and ruthless warriors, who not only secured their independence from the Neo-Assyrian Empire and other great powers of the region but went further and expanded their borders into the heartland of Mesopotamia, eastern Anatolia, and western Iran. The Median Empire became a superpower in 612 BCE, following its contribution to the downfall of the Neo-Assyrian Empire.” (<https://www.worldhistory.org/Medes/>)

- **Bactria:** “Bactria, known for its fertile agricultural land, was a significant historical region in Central Asia, primarily located in present-day Afghanistan. Its history traces back to its incorporation into the Achaemenian Empire around 540 BCE when Cyrus the Great conquered the area. Bactria became a strategic province within this empire, later experiencing invasions by Alexander the Great in 327 BCE. Following Alexander's conquests, Bactria fell under the control of the Seleucid Empire, leading to the establishment of Greco-Bactrian kingdoms, with Diodotus I declaring independence around 245 BCE. This era witnessed significant cultural and economic development, illustrated by the flourishing of trade and the minting of distinguished coins. Throughout its history, Bactria served as a melting pot of cultures, where Greek settlers interacted with local populations, leading to a gradual assimilation of Hellenistic and local traditions... However, by the second century BCE, Bactria faced invasions from nomadic tribes such as the Sakas, leading to the eventual decline of Greek influence.” (<https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/history/bactria>)
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## Underworld

- **Acheron:** “Acheron, river in Thesprotia in Epirus, Greece, that was thought in ancient times to go to Hades because it flowed through dark gorges and went underground in several places; an oracle of the dead was located on its bank. In Greek mythology it is a river in Hades, and the name sometimes refers to the lower world generally. Several other rivers in Greece are also called Acheron, which traditionally means River of Woe.” (<https://www.britannica.com/place/Acheron>)

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# Greek Chant Pronunciation: Provided by Bug Read

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## *Dionysus Escapes* Greek Guide

### **FIRST PHRASE:**

"ee-oh, kloo-eh't eh-mah's kloo-eh't ow-dah's, ee-oh bak-igh, ee-oh bak-igh"

Greek Word	Transliteration	Pronunciation	Notes
ἰὼ	iō	ee-oh	"ee" as in "feet," "oh" as in "go". This is an exclamation, similar to "Hark!" or "Yo!".
κλύετ'	klyet'	kloo-eh't	"kloo" as in "clue", "eh't" as in "met". The final   indicates the following word begins with a vowel, and the sounds run together (elision).
ἐμᾶς	emas	ch-mah's	"ch" as in "egg," "mah's" with the "a" as in "father".
κλύετ'	klyet'	kloo-eh't	(Same as above).
αὐδᾶς	audas	ow-dah's	"ow" as in "how," "dah's" with the "a" as in "father".
ἰὼ	iō	ee-oh	(Same as above).
βάκχαι	bakkai	bak-igh	"bak" as in "back", "igh" as in "high" (or "eye"). The 'ai' diphthong is pronounced like the 'i' in "like".

## **SECOND PHRASE:**

“ee-OH ee-OH, PA-lin ow-DOH, ho se-ME-las, ho dee-os pays”

<b>Greek Word</b>	<b>Transliteration</b>	<b>Pronunciation</b>	<b>Notes</b>
ἰὼ ἰώ	iō iō	ee-oh ee-oh	"ee" as in "feet," "oh" as in "go". This is an exclamation, similar to "Hark!" or "Yo!".
παλιν	palin	pah-lin	The "a" is a long 'ah' sound
αὐδῶ	audō	ow-doh	"ow" is in "audio" and "doh" as in "dough" or the homer simpson catchphrase
ὁ	ho	ho (as in "hot")	The definite article, pronounced with a clear 'h' sound.
Σεμέλας	Semelas	se-ME-las	Stress on the middle syllable ('ME'), with short 'e' sounds.
ὁ	ho	ho	Same as the first instance.
Διὸς	Dios	dee-os	The 'i' is pronounced like 'ee' in "feet". The 'o' is a short 'o' sound, and the stress is on the 'o' syllable.
παῖς	pais	pays (as in "pace", not "pays" as in "salary")	The 'ai' combination is pronounced like the 'ay' in "say" or "pace".

**THIRD PHRASE:**

“Say-yeh peh-don khtho-nos En-no-si pot-ni-a”

<b>Greek Word</b>	<b>Transliteration</b>	<b>Pronunciation</b>	<b>Notes</b>
σεΐε	seie	say-yeh	“Yeh” as the long “ay” sound like say
πέδον	pedon	peh-don	“ch” like the sound in “bed”
χθονός	chthonos	khtho-nos	Sharp “ki” sounds like “kick” - similar to the “ch” in the Scottish word “loch” or the German “Bach”, not the “ch” in “chair”.
Ἔννοσι	ennosi	en-no-si	“En” as in “end”
πότνια	potnia	pot-ni-a	“Pot” as in “potent,” not “pot” like the cookware

### **FINAL PHRASE:**

“hap-teh keh-row-nee-on ai-tho-pa lam-pa-da,  
sim-fleh-geh sim-fleh-geh doh-ma-ta pen-theh-os”

<b>Greek Word</b>	<b>Transliteration</b>	<b>Pronunciation</b>	<b>Notes</b>
ἅπτε	hapte	hap-tch	“a” as in the “ah” sound in father, and “e” as in bet
κεράνιον	keraunion	keh-row-nee-on	“Keh” like “keg” and row” as in “how” or “now”
αἴθοπα	aithopa	ai-tho-pa	“ai” like “aisle” and “pa” with the long “ah” sound in father
λαμπάδα	lampada	lam-pa-da	Long “ah” sound again
σύμφλεγε	sýmphlege	Sim-fleh-geh (said twice)	“Sim” pronounced the same as the video game and the “ch” sound is the same as in “get”
δόματα	dómata	doh-ma-ta	“doh” as in “dough” or the homer simpson catchphrase
Πενθέος	Penthéos	pen-theh-os	This is just Pentheus’ name, but with more <i>oompf</i> than it’s usually said since this is direct Greek pronunciation.