

PGM XIII

Lines 760-1050

About:

- The instruction for recitation of the heptagram (the seven Greek vowels) and the spell to which the god gives attention.
- The god 'from the four winds, ruler of all, who breathed spirit into men for life, whose is the hidden and unspeakable name'. L.764
- 'You are the ocean, begetter of good things and feeder of the civilized world'. L.774
- '... and accomplish for me all the desires of my soul.' L.794

Why and how is the god being invoked?

Why?

- ‘Come into my mind and my understanding for all the time of my life and accomplish for me all the desires of my soul.’ L.793
- A spell to achieve a desire or a want.
- ‘... giving me health no magic can harm, well-being, prosperity, glory, victory, power, sex appeal.’ L.804
- A spell to ask for a healthy and prosperous life.

How? The spell itself...

- To the rising sun of the 13th day of the month.
- Chant the 7 Greek vowels to NSEW. Various hand placements.
- Call upon the god as male/female god, and as different poles.
- Do not mention the god’s name or all nature will be destroyed.
- Various offerings.

Physical Instructions

- Engrave unutterable characters on a silver/gold lamella with an adamant stone.
- The engraver must be pure.
- Wrists wreathed in seasonal flowers.
- Offer frankincense.
- Rose oil in a lamp.
- The spell to annul spell on reverse of lamella.
- Put lamella into a clean box and lay offerings on top.

Christian Communion

- Bread = symbol for Jesus' body.
- Wine = symbol for His blood.
- Repeated throughout a Christian's life.
- Time of worship.
- Memorial action.
- Deepens the communion with both Jesus Christ and one another.
- Unity.

Comparison to Christian Communion

Communion

1. Worship/to remember and celebrate Christ.
2. Once a week.
3. Reflect upon one's self.
4. Internal words/reflection.
5. No spell/chant needed.
6. Transubstantiation.

PGM XIII

1. To ask for something (e.g. good health).
2. Set timing (13th day of month at dawn).
3. No self-reflection.
4. More selfish act/in order to gain something.
5. Chant to perform.
6. Offerings to the god.

Religion & Magic

Religion

- Relationship with the divine.
- Saying a prayer/talking to the gods.
- To ask for something from the gods. (Frazer)
- Worships the gods/humbles oneself. (Dickie)
- Long-term, collective goals. (Malinowski)
- Communal cult and group beliefs. (Durkheim)

Magic

- Relationship with the divine.
- Calling upon the gods.
- To obtain something from the gods. (Frazer)
- Treats gods as creatures. (Dickie)
- Concrete, individual goals. (Malinowski)
- Individual, private practice. (Durkheim)

The spell to which god gives attention

- Thus, PGM XIII is more of a magical than religious act as an individual carries out the spell alone in order to call upon the god and ask for personal gain.

My opinion

- Magic = personal goal / gain.
- Religious ceremony = better yourself in a spiritual way / to ask for help for your community.
- When magic is involved the gods have no choice?
- When it is a religious act, the gods can act out of free will?
- Plato – persuasion