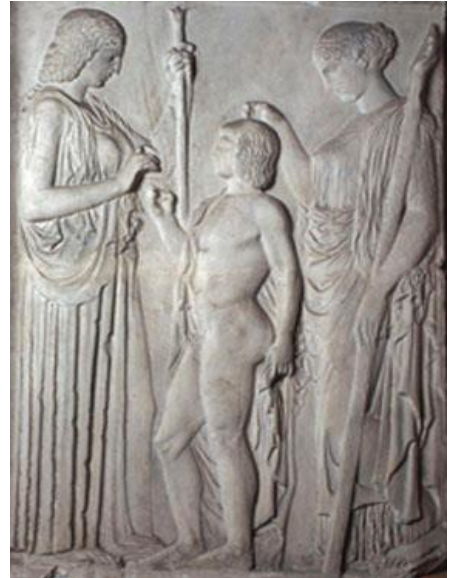


Primary Source Concerning the Eleusinian Mysteries

By definition the traditions and practices related to Demeter & Persephone allude full academic comprehension. To close the gap between conjecture and reliable knowledge we must pursue sources of information that can potentially shine light on what was taking place in Eleusis. The relief I have isolated as a Primary Source has its provenance at Eleusis, dated to c.440 BCE. In it we have Persephone who has returned from the underworld in order to bless the crops for the coming agricultural season. Her mother, Demeter stands on the left above Triptolemos passing an ear of corn for him who will gift agricultural knowledge to human kind .

The Eleusinian Mysteries celebrated this ethereal symbolism through a process of a pilgrimage and initiation into the mysteries. Initiations were separated into lesser and greater mysteries. “ They saw something that validated the continuity of existence beyond the grave, the ‘end of life as well as its divinely granted’ “

(Carl A.P Ruck, The Road to Eleusis, Chapter Six)



Using reliefs and pottery in conjunction with the Homeric Hymn to Demeter I will give a more comprehensive exploration of the Eleusinian Mysteries.

Pindar, frg. 121 (Bowra)