

TEMENOS GREECE PRESENTS ODYSSEY ONE PSYCHE AND THE ANCIENT GODS OF GREECE

FALL 2004

Athens – Aegina- Nauplion- Mycenae- Epidaurus- Corinth - Eleusis

Our pilgrimage begins on the beautiful Saronic Gulf Island of Aegina. Together we will pay homage to the Goddess Aphaia, whose temple is perched high on a mountain top amid acres of pine trees. Aphaia was a virgin Goddess who sought sanctuary in the pine grove which surrounds the Temple building; a sanctuary particularly women may still access seeking calm and solace. We will visit the Temple of Apollo in Aegina town, discover pistachio fields and dine by the shimmering sea. What will it be for you, moussaka or fresh fish grilled to perfection on smouldering coals?

Next we will board a boat which will ferry us across the Saronic Sea to ancient Epidaurus. From there our private bus will drive us to Nauplion a delightful town in the plane of Argolis. The Palamidi, a Venetian fortress overlooks the town and some brave souls will climb the 999 steps to the top! I did!

From Nauplion we will take several excursions. First stop, Mycenae the ancient stronghold of the Mycenaean civilization where the trilogy of the Oresteia took place. We will walk through the famous, or infamous, lion gate and see the megaron (palace) of Agamemnon, king of Argos, amid the ruins of the ancient fortress. One can really sense the power of the masculine on this site. However, nearby, amid orange and lemon groves, rises the remains of the Temple of Argive Hera. Here the feminine rules in all of her three aspects of the maiden, the chthonic underworld feminine and the Talleah queenly ruler. The three levels can clearly be seen as they overlook the majesty of the plane of Argos. Later we will pilgrimage to Agia Moni a small nunnery near Nauplion. Here, every year, the Goddess Hera would renew her virginity (Being at one with herself) at the Kanathos spring.

The next day a short bus trip through beautiful rolling hills will find us at the ancient healing sanctuary of Epidaurus. Here pilgrims who were ailing brought their votive offerings to Apollo and His divine son Asklepius. After purification, the supplicants would lay down on the "kline" a stone bench and pray for the healing dream. Often Asklepius would appear to them as a Dog or a Snake. Simply making the journey to this Temple was enough to be healed. It was said that no one could die there.

As we journey back to Athens we will stop at the Archaeological site of Corinth. The remains of a 6th century Temple of Apollo stands proudly erect and close by you'll discover the Peirine fountain. This is where Pegasus was drinking when Bellerophon captured him. In the Asklepion room we will see an impressive collection of votive offerings to Asklepius made out of clay such as sore ears, shattered bones and broken hearts.

After an overnight stay in Athens we will visit Eleusis where the great renewal mysteries of Demeter and her daughter Persephone took place. Here among the flowering meadows the soul maiden kore was abducted by Hades, Lord of the underworld. As his queen, Persephone ruled side by side with Him as his wife, mother, as his equal. Demeter pined for Her daughter and the fields lay barren. Her anger was unappeased and nothing would grow. Before Persephone returned to the light of the upper world she ate a pomagranate seed thus ensuring Her return to the underworld 1/3 of every year. Moira, Fate had spoken! As Persephone returned to Her Mother, Demeter rejoiced and once more the fields bore fruit and the corn ripened in abundance. If you join me on this adventure we will share the

mythology together. Perhaps the three Fates, Lachesis, Atropos and Clotho will lead you to discover your own renewal place and bear the fruit of your spiritual journey.

Back in Athens we will approach the majestic and awesome Acropolis of the Goddess Athena, patroness of ancient Athens. We will stand by the Parthenon and Erechthion where Athena caused Her sacred olive tree to sprout. Perhaps Her sacred owl will guide us through the dark labyrinth of our own souls.

We will visit the national museum, if the renovations are completed and have plenty of time for shopping and exploration.

Please join me for this great adventure!

Yasu

Frances