

I wrote this as part of the “Seasonal Customs and Praise Offerings” portion of my solitary Samhain/Skirophoria ritual this past year (2016). I am in the process of making new tools more suited to my Greek hearth culture, and creating a himation to wear during ritual has been part of this process. Since Persephone was one of the main deities that I honored at this ritual, it seemed like an appropriate time to ask for Her blessing on a sacred garment.

The similarity between compost bins and megaras has struck me for many years- both of them are places where “offerings” are transformed by natural processes into items or substances that encourage fertility. During the ritual, I offered to the megara a couple of phallic sugar cookies, but sugar cookies in the shape of snakes or pigs could work out just as well.

### **Blessing of Himation and of Compost Bin/Megara**

*Now shall the garments of Kore, of Persephone, be crafted, that in days to come the people might learn Her story.*

*Now shall they be blessed, that by the blessings of Athena and Dionysus might the Holy Daughter's journey be shown to the people.*

Complete attaching silver trim to black himation, chanting or singing while doing so if desired.

*In the sight of the Kindreds, I consecrate this himation to the service of Persephone, for as long as my memories and my strength allow for its role to be properly guarded. I pray that the memories and strength of those who come after me will continue to honor this himation properly as a treasure of Persephone.*

*Holy Daughter, bless the wearer of this himation with Your wisdom, courage, and strength. Grant that they may know the words that need to be spoken, and that they may speak those words clearly, with courage, in your service.*

Set black himation in a safe place, and proceed to the megara/compost bin with incense.

*(Spoken at the megara/compost bin) At this time, the veil between the worlds is thin. In this place, where Death begins a transformation into Life, it is thinner still. This compost bin has been sacred to Gaia since it was named as such. Since that day, it has been a place of transformation and beauty. On this day and in this space, in the presence of the Kindreds, I give this compost bin an additional name, appropriate to it's nature. I call this bin Megara.*

*Let this Megara be a fit place for transformation and transportation of sacred offerings, given to those who dwell in the Underworld, even as it continues to be a fit place for transformation of everyday food scraps and leaves.*

*Let that which is for the Underworld travel to the Underworld.*

*Let that which is not for the Underworld remain and be transformed in this world.*

*Let this Megara be a source of blessings for the people and for the Kindreds.*

Sprinkle water over the megara.

*May this cold Water bless this Megara with the powers of change and fertility.*

Waft incense over the bin.

*May this hot Fire bless this Megara with the ability to create a new order in harmony with the Divine purpose.*

*This Megara is blessed by the Powers of Water and Fire!*

*(pause) In times of old, pigs and other offerings were cast into the Megara at the end of the fertile season. Today, I offer this (pig/snake/etc) to the Kindreds.*

*I do so with a heart grateful for Demeter's abundant blessings.*

*I do so with a heart full of love and admiration for Persephone Praxidike.*

*I do so with a heart that honors her grieving friends, ocean nymphs now bereft of Kore's light.*

*I do so with a heart full of love for all of my beloved dead, who have passed into the Underworld.*

*Blessed be.*

Give offerings to Megara. At this time, any additional offerings to ancestors/Beloved Dead may be made. When ready, return to the main altar.

### **Works Referenced**

McLairdy, Katherine R.L. "The Megara of the Thesmophoria: Reconciling the Textual and Archaeological Records." *Chronika*, vol. 5, 2015, pp 1-8.

Reif, Jennifer. *Mysteries of Demeter: rebirth of the pagan way*. Samuel Weiser, Inc., 1999.