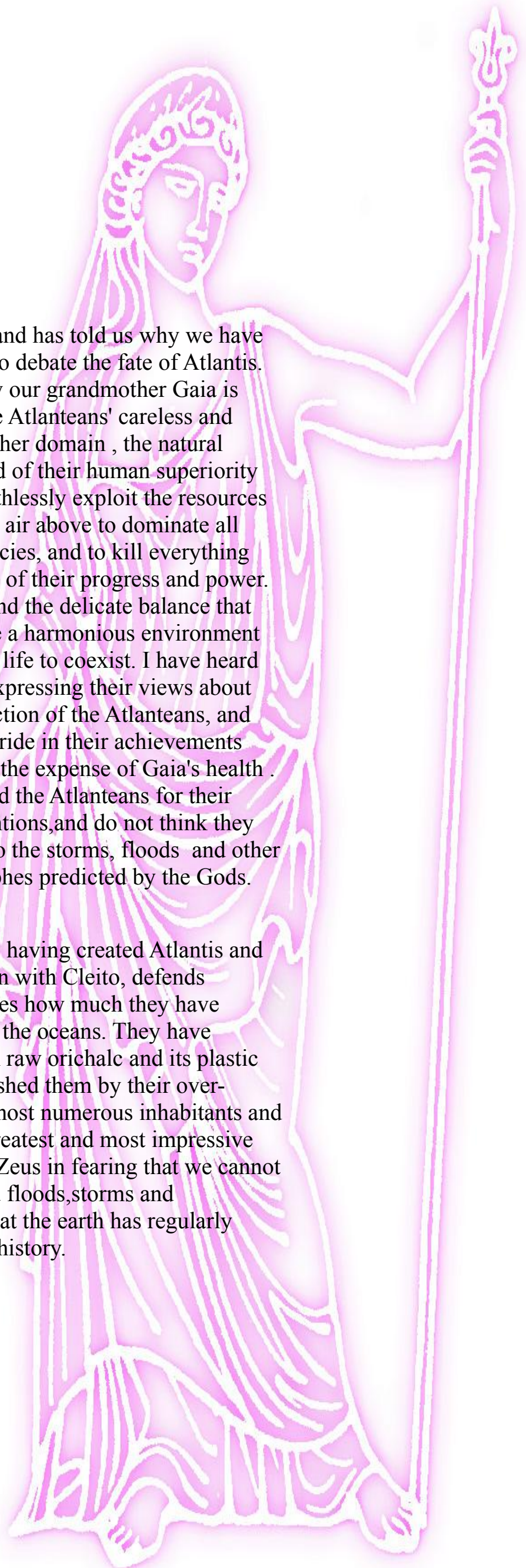
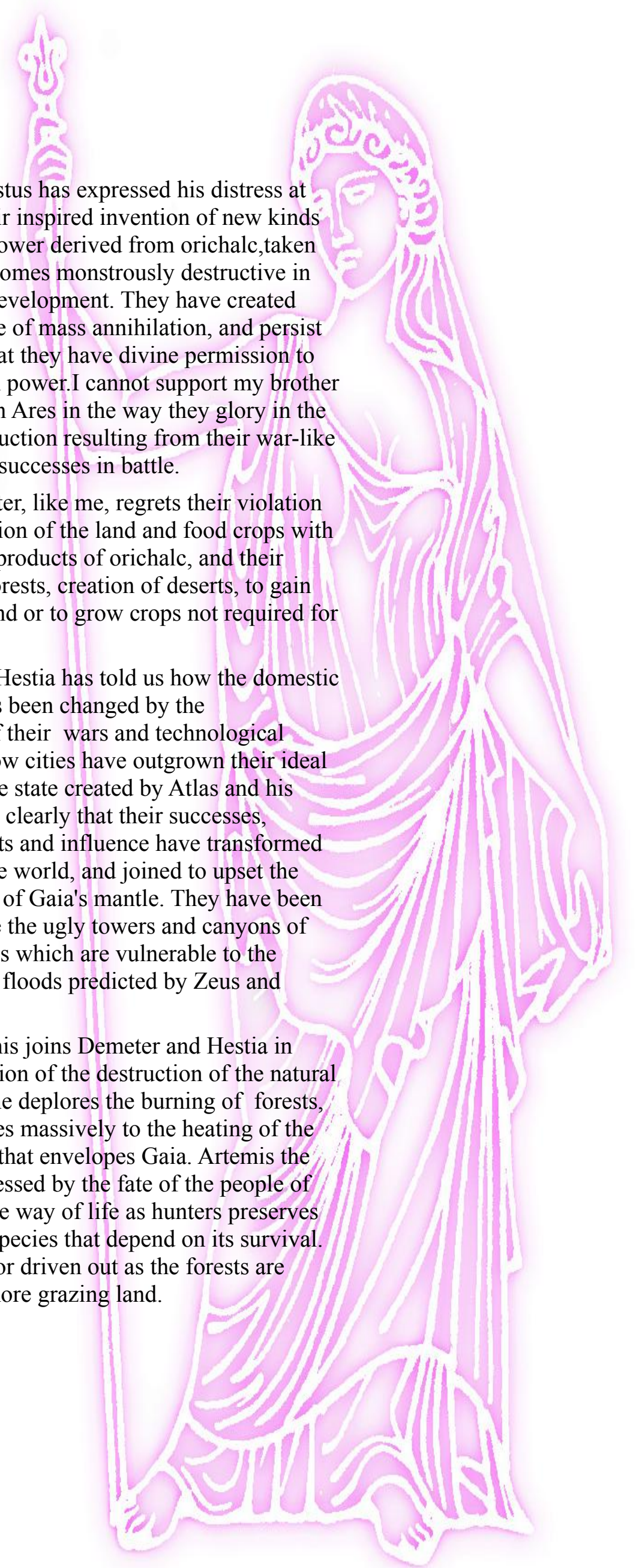


ERA

My brother and husband has told us why we have been called together to debate the fate of Atlantis. He has described how our grandmother Gaia is being damaged by the Atlanteans' careless and arrogant disregard of her domain , the natural world. They are proud of their human superiority and divine right to ruthlessly exploit the resources of the land , seas, and air above to dominate all other peoples and species, and to kill everything that stands in the way of their progress and power. They do not understand the delicate balance that Gaia needs to provide a harmonious environment for humans and other life to coexist. I have heard many of my family expressing their views about their wars, and destruction of the Atlanteans, and their overwhelming pride in their achievements many of which are at the expense of Gaia's health . But some have praised the Atlanteans for their useful technical inventions, and do not think they should be subjected to the storms, floods and other unavoidable catastrophes predicted by the Gods.

My brother Poseidon, having created Atlantis and its people by his union with Cleito, defends them, but acknowledges how much they have damaged his domain, the oceans. They have polluted the seas with raw orichalc and its plastic derivatives, impoverished them by their over-exploitation of their most numerous inhabitants and destruction of their greatest and most impressive creatures. He is with Zeus in fearing that we cannot prevent the predicted floods, storms and catastrophic events that the earth has regularly produced through its history.



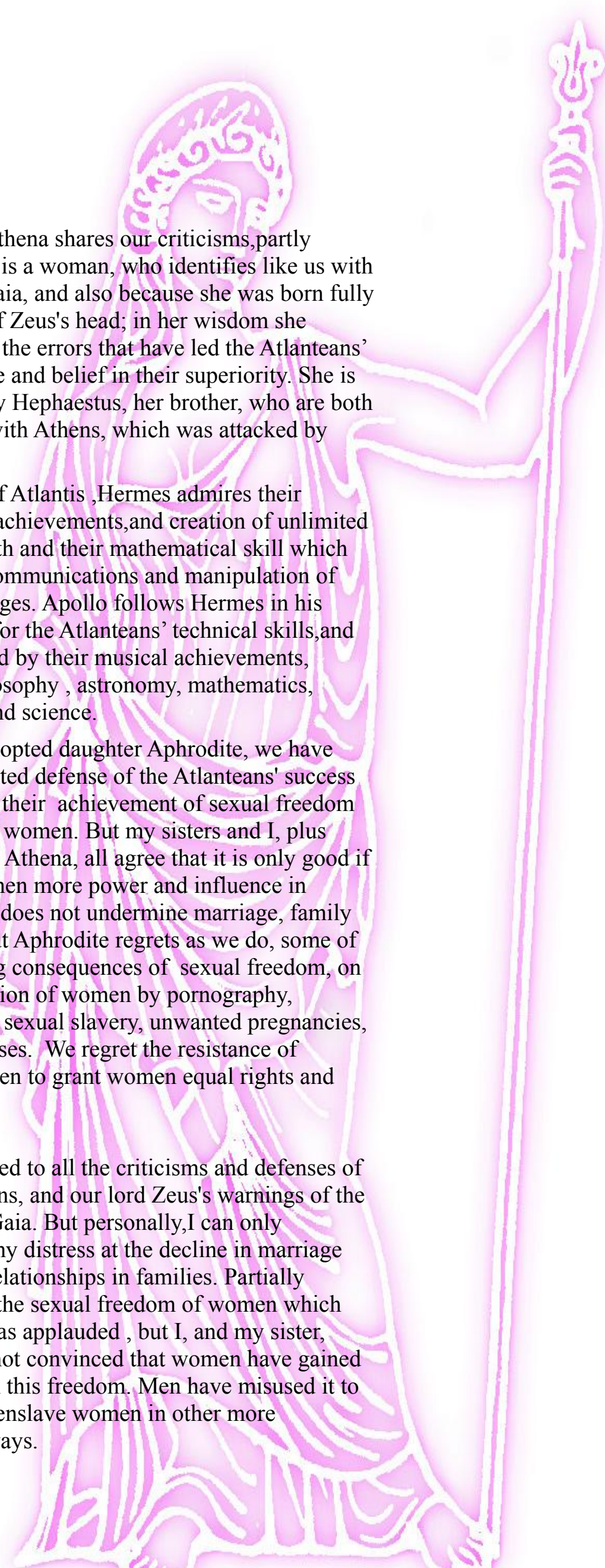


My son Hephaestus has expressed his distress at the way that their inspired invention of new kinds of mechanical power derived from orichalc, taken to extremes, becomes monstrously destructive in their wars, and development. They have created weapons capable of mass annihilation, and persist in their belief that they have divine permission to use them to gain power. I cannot support my brother Hades or our son Ares in the way they glory in the deaths and destruction resulting from their war-like aggression, and successes in battle.

My sister Demeter, like me, regrets their violation of nature, pollution of the land and food crops with the chemical byproducts of orichalc, and their destruction of forests, creation of deserts, to gain more grazing land or to grow crops not required for food.

My other sister Hestia has told us how the domestic environment has been changed by the consequences of their wars and technological advances and how cities have outgrown their ideal beginnings in the state created by Atlas and his sons. She shows clearly that their successes, wealth, conquests and influence have transformed cities all over the world, and joined to upset the delicate balance of Gaia's mantle. They have been forced to imitate the ugly towers and canyons of Atlantis in places which are vulnerable to the storms, fires and floods predicted by Zeus and Poseidon.

Our niece Artemis joins Demeter and Hestia in their condemnation of the destruction of the natural environment. She deplores the burning of forests, which contributes massively to the heating of the climatic mantle that envelopes Gaia. Artemis the huntress is distressed by the fate of the people of the forests whose way of life as hunters preserves the forests and species that depend on its survival. They are killed or driven out as the forests are destroyed for more grazing land.

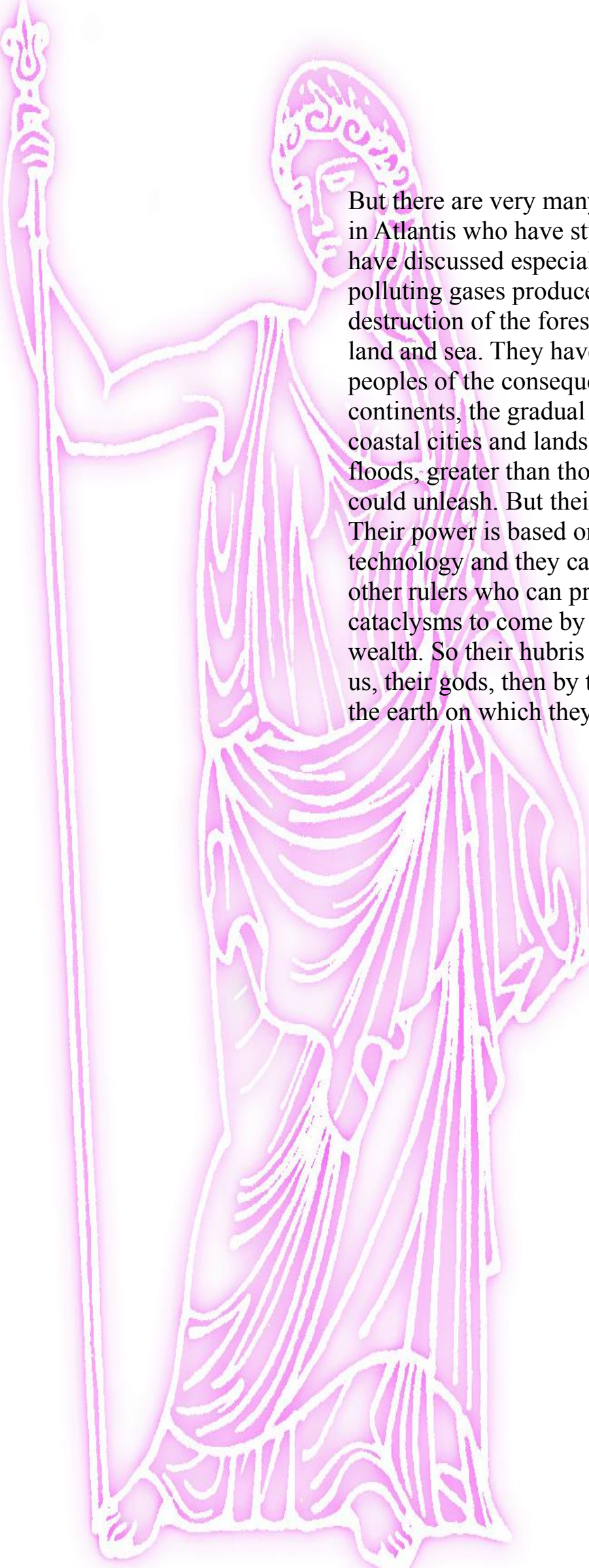


Of course Athena shares our criticisms, partly because she is a woman, who identifies like us with Rhea and Gaia, and also because she was born fully armed out of Zeus's head; in her wisdom she understands the errors that have led the Atlanteans' to their pride and belief in their superiority. She is supported by Hephaestus, her brother, who are both associated with Athens, which was attacked by Atlantis.

In support of Atlantis, Hermes admires their intellectual achievements, and creation of unlimited virtual wealth and their mathematical skill which speeds up communications and manipulation of realistic images. Apollo follows Hermes in his admiration for the Atlanteans' technical skills, and he is seduced by their musical achievements, poetry, philosophy, astronomy, mathematics, medicine, and science.

From our adopted daughter Aphrodite, we have heard a spirited defense of the Atlanteans' success and pride in their achievement of sexual freedom for men and women. But my sisters and I, plus Artemis and Athena, all agree that it is only good if it gives women more power and influence in society, and does not undermine marriage, family security. But Aphrodite regrets as we do, some of the appalling consequences of sexual freedom, on the degradation of women by pornography, prostitution, sexual slavery, unwanted pregnancies, sexual diseases. We regret the resistance of Atlantean men to grant women equal rights and rewards.

I have listened to all the criticisms and defenses of the Atlanteans, and our lord Zeus's warnings of the dangers to Gaia. But personally, I can only emphasise my distress at the decline in marriage and stable relationships in families. Partially because of the sexual freedom of women which Aphrodite has applauded, but I, and my sister, Hestia, are not convinced that women have gained overall from this freedom. Men have misused it to exploit and enslave women in other more degrading ways.



But there are very many philosophers and prophets in Atlantis who have studied all the problems we have discussed especially the effects on Gaia of polluting gases produced by orichalc, the destruction of the forests and lives of animals on land and sea. They have warned their leaders and peoples of the consequences, the melting of icy continents, the gradual sea level rise flooding coastal cities and lands, exceptional storms and floods, greater than those that Poseidon or Zeus could unleash. But their leaders are helpless to act. Their power is based on the wealth created by their technology and they cannot risk being deposed by other rulers who can promise to avert the cataclysms to come by actions that will reduce that wealth. So their hubris will be punished, if not by us, their gods, then by the more powerful forces of the earth on which they depend – Gaea.

