



PHRODITE

I really do not think that the Atlanteans deserve the punishment threatened by Zeus and Poseidon. A great flood will punish all the peoples around the Middle Sea, who are already innocent victims of the wars against Atlantis, and do not share the blame for Gaia's troubles.

But there is no doubt that the sex I represent are having very mixed fortunes in Atlantis now. Very many have been freed from centuries of domestic enslavement, and now are free to love and only bear children when they want. They are free to work and make their voices heard in the Forums and participate in the Councils. But these freedoms have been obtained at a high cost to many women who are still slaves, exploited as prostitutes, or debased by pornography. Hera complains that marriage has declined and promiscuity among the young has produced unwanted numbers of children in broken families.

Sexual freedom among the young takes many and curious forms of which I cannot approve. The new ways of communicating that Hermes has described with approval allows millions of pornographic images to be distributed to any who want to see them. Men and women also indulge in Dionysian revels at night which often are harmful to themselves, or result in the conception of unwanted children.

On holy days in summer there is a mass exodus to where they can practice their homage to Poseidon on beaches where they expose themselves to Helios. At night they worship Dionysus in small temples and dance to the music that Apollo has deplored.

Although all that I have criticised is nothing to the damage done on a huge scale to Gaia's realm that our father Zeus has condemned, I feel that the people of Atlantis need to be reminded of our concerns.