

1–89 Introduction: Rape of Persephone

- 1–2 Invocation to Demeter and Persephone
- 3–23 Hades rapes Persephone
- 24–32 Hecate hears Persephone's cries
- 33–46 The grief of Demeter
- 47–53 Demeter wanders 9 days, carrying torches
- 54–58 Demeter questions Hecate
- 59–89 Demeter questions Helios

90–300 Demeter at Eleusis

- 90–104 Demeter, as an old woman (Doso), arrives in Eleusis
- 105–144 Demeter meets the daughters of Celeus and Metaneira
- 145–168 Kallidike suggests that Demeter nurse Metaneira's son
- 169–183 Metaneira approves and sends for Demeter
- 184–205 Metaneira's servant Iambe cheers Demeter up
- 206–209 Metaneira gives Demeter a barley drink (kykeon)
- 210–223 Metaneira asks Demeter to nurse her son, Demophoön
- 224–232 Demeter agrees
- 233–241 Demeter tries to immortalize Demophoön (fire, ambrosia)
- 242–250 Metaneira discovers Demeter's plan
- 251–280 Demeter, angered, abandons the child and Eleusis
- 281–291 Sisters try to console Demophoön
- 292–300 Celeus tries to appease Demeter

301–495 Demeter and Persephone reunited

- 301–313 Demeter causes a famine for mortals
- 314–333 Zeus asks Demeter to relent; she refuses
- 334–369 Zeus asks Hades to release Persephone; he agrees
- 370–374 Hades feeds Persephone the pomegranate seed
- 375–389 Joyful reunion between mother and daughter
- 390–404 Demeter asks Persephone if she has eaten anything
- 405–433 Persephone recounts the pomegranate and her rape
- 434–440 Reunion with Hecate
- 441–469 Zeus asks Demeter (via Rhea) to fertilize the earth;
Agreement: Persephone will spend time with her mother
- 470–472 Demeter fertilizes the earth
- 473–482 Demeter founds the Eleusinian mysteries
- 483–489 Demeter returns to Olympus
- 490–495 Parting invocation to Demeter and Persephone