

SOLDIER-Goddesses

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 02 Oct 1997

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Alice Turner — 02 Oct 1997, 09:17

THE GODDESSES

Following classical authors, Wolfe presents the Persian wars partly as a conflict between gods, in this case two goddesses, both of whom attempt to use Latro as their tool. First is the Great Mother, called Ge, Gaea, Cybele, Korymbos, Demeter and also Hera. Allied with her is her daughter Kore/Persephone, Queen of the Dead, also Europa, the sea-nymph Thoe, and perhaps Ares/Pleistorus. Opposed to her is the Triple Goddess, whom Cybele/Ge calls the Usurper: her aspects are Moon (Selene, Cynthia)/ Huntress (Artemis, Bendis, Aigeia)/ Dark Mother (Hekate, Enodia). A clever approach I had not seen before is opposing Hera's children (i.e. Ares) to those Zeus had on his own or with mortals (this may not be consistent; we don't know how Athena stands).

Sorting out who is on whose side is not clear-cut: for example, Cybele was originally near-Eastern, thus would seem to favor the Persians—yet they have deserted her for a male deity, Ahura Mazda. Elata starts out as Artemis's handmaiden, but gets "lent" to Hegesistratus and clearly stands with Cybele as a confederate in the Horses of the Sun escapade—but is Artemis's representative at the council at the end of ARETE. And it stands to reason that the huntress Amazons would favor Artemis—but they don't. Similarly, Thoe, the sea-nymph, seems as though she would be on Artemis's side, but isn't. And I would have thought Medea would line up with Cybele, but not here.

But here is a short who's whose:

Gaea/Cybele

Lion, wolf, pig (boar): beast-mistress
Castrated priests
Spartan slaves (helots)
Hegesistratus
Amazons (via Ares)
Earth
Polos, Amykles
Aglaos
Europa
Thoe
Memory sphinx

Artemis

Dog, snake (here at least)
Eurykles/Drakaina/Medea
Spartan citizens

Tisamenus

Athenians?

Air (with Athena?)

Elata

Pindaros (via Apollo)