

TO THE STARS FROM THE ORPHIC HYMNS



Orpheus, Olga Deulofeu, S.R.C.

The writings that have come down to us as the Orphic Hymns are a collection of eighty-seven thematic poems written in hexameters, addressed to Gods, Goddesses and cosmic forces. The adscription indicates that certain incenses may have been used to accompany the recitation of each piece, associated with that particular power. The translation here is by the eminent eighteenth-century Neoplatonist, Thomas Taylor, adapted for modern readers.

TO THE STARS

The fumigation from aromatics.

WITH holy voice I call the stars on high,
Pure sacred lights and genii of the sky.
Celestial stars, the progeny of Night,
In whirling circles beaming far your light,
Refulgent rays around the heav'ns ye throw,
Eternal fires, the source of all below.
With flames significant of Fate ye shine,
And aptly rule for us a path divine.
In seven bright zones ye run with wand'ring flames,
And heaven and earth compose your lucid frames:
With course unwearied, pure and fiery bright
Forever shining thro' the veil of Night.
Hail twinkling, joyful, ever-wakeful fires!
Propitious shine on all my just desires;
These sacred rites regard with conscious rays,
And end our works devoted to your praise.¹

¹ From *The Orphic Hymns*. Translated by Thomas Taylor (London: Printed for the Author, 1792). Available at <http://www.sacred-texts.com/clal/hoo/index.htm>.

