

KYKLOS APOLLÔN

Required Materials:

- Bay leaves and/or frankincense
- Censer (preferably a cauldron) with charcoal
- Yellow candle
- Sheet of paper with personal afflictions written thereon (to burn)
- Altar or small table
- White alb or robe (optional)
- Statue or relevant symbol pertaining to Apollo

Setup:

Altar with censer + charcoal and lit yellow candle, statue on altar behind it, and the paper and bay leaves next to it.

Preliminary instructions:

Having remained at least 1 day sexually abstinent prior to this ritual, and also preferably abstaining from alcohol and meat, take a purifying bath. Put on your white robe (or clean garments appropriate to the occasion). Standing before the altar facing east, say:

Let the earth be still, let the air be still, let the sea be still, let the winds also be still and do not be a hindrance to this sacred rite. No sound, no loud cry, no disturbance of any kind. For I am a priest, and since I am about to call a terrible fearful name, **LAËTONION TABARAÔTH AEÔ EÔ**, open the holy temple, the universe built on earth, and welcome Apollôn, for I am pious, pure of heart, and I know the mysteries. Come holy one, Phoibos, lord Apollôn, Paian, all seeing resplendent cosmic eye, come hither, let Thy light put to flight my gloom and purge me of mine afflictions, for only Thou art able.

Place the bay leaves/frankincense on charcoal. As the smoke rises, recite the Orphic hymn to Apollo (can be recited in the original Greek as well):

Come, O blessed Paian, O slayer of Tityos, O Phoibos, O Lykoreus.
A giver of riches are you and an illustrious dweller in Memphis,
O God to whom one cries *iêie*.
To you, O Titan and Pythian God belong the lyre and seeds and plows.
Grynean, Sminthian, slayer of Pytho, Delphic diviner,
You are a wild, light-bringing and lovable God, O glorious youth.
You shoot your arrows from afar, you lead the Muses into dance,
And, O holy one, you are Bacchos, Didymeus, and Loxias too.
Lord of Delos, eye that sees all and brings light to mortals,
Golden is your hair and clear your oracular utterances.
Hear me with kindly heart as I pray for people.
You gaze upon all the ethereal vastness,
And upon the rich earth you look through the twilight.
In the quiet darkness of night lit with stars you see earth's roots below,
And you hold the bounds of the whole world.

Yours too are the beginning and the end to come.
You make everything bloom, and with your versatile lyre you harmonize the poles,
Now reaching the highest pitch, now the lowest and now again with the Doric mode,
Balancing the poles harmoniously, as you keep the living races distinct.
You have infused harmony into all men's lot,
Giving them equal measure of summer and winter.
The lowest notes you strike in the winter, the highest in summer,
And your mode is Doric for spring's lovely and blooming season.
Wherefore mortals call you lord, and Pan, the two-horned God,
Who sends the whistling winds.
For this too, you have the master seal of the entire cosmos.
O, blessed one, hear my supplicant voice and save me.

Take the paper, hold it to your heart, and mentally transfer all your afflictions on to it. Then set it alight on the candle flame, and place it in the censer, saying with intent:

Then Phoebus Apollo boasted over her: "Now rot here upon the soil that feeds man! You at least shall live no more to be a fell bane to men who eat the fruit of the all-nourishing earth, and who will bring hither perfect hecatombs. Against cruel death neither Typhoeus shall avail you nor ill-famed Chimera, but here shall the Earth and shining Hyperion make you rot. Thus said Phoebus, exulting over her: and darkness covered her eyes. And the holy strength of Helios made her rot away there; wherefore the place is now called Pytho, and men call the lord Apollo by another name, Pythian; because on that spot the power of piercing Helios made the monster rot away.

Once it has burned completely, recite the following thanksgiving prayer:

I thank Thee Oh mighty one for the blessings Thou hast bestowed upon me. Let mine offering be fit in Thine eyes, and as the symbol of mine inner darkness hath here been consumed by Thy fire on this altar, so mayest Thou burn away all imperfections from my being that I may remain an unsullied mirror for Thine imperishable light.

Put out the candle

Notes:

As an alternative to the Orphic hymn, the 63 adorations of Apollo or a personalized hymn are equally appropriate.

A minimum 1 day of sexual abstinence should ideally be observed prior to this ritual, as not only will it purify the self for the rite, but it will strengthen it. I recommend 3 days personally. Fasting for at least one day will also enhance the effects.