

Acts In Scene

"Dionysus - Body and Flesh"

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Son of Zeus and Semele - a mortal one

Dismembered by the Titans and returning to life
Raised by the mountain nymphs,
Accompanied by the Maenads
Not a man - a god or an animal?
Masquerade illusion trance or madness
In his polymorphous nature

By the salt sea lies in proud embattled cities
Having taught all the world else
His dances and rite of mysteries
Many maidens bear the thyrsus, the sacred wand
The bare mountain side's so Maenad's home
Always ravening, their hearts in flames

In the dancing and the prayer,
In the music and the laughter,
In the vanishing of care
And of all before and after
On the one hand bringing joy and divine ecstasy
On the other brutal rage, unthinking spears

O Bacchae, wife and maiden
Come, O ye Bacchae, come!
Oh, bring the Joy-bestower,
God-seed of God the Sower
Bring Bromios in his power
From Phrygia's mountain dome
To street and town and tower
Oh, bring ye Bromios home

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