




The Tears of the Muses

*by
Erica Georgiades*



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Drawings Concept by Erica Georgiades
Artist Perikles Iordanides
With fragments of poems by Edmund Spenser

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Introduction

In 2007 I presented a lecture in the European School of Theosophy entitled *The Tears of the Muses*, inspired by the series of poems - *The Teares of the Muses* - written by the English poet Edmund Spenser (1552 - 1599). During that time my fascination with the subject lead me to make an extensive research about the Muses, which resulted in a booklet which yet has some pending revisions in order to be ready for publication.

During my research I found many glyphs associated with the Muses and decided that drawings would be necessary in order to better illustrate them. So I requested the help of Pericles Iordanides - a very sensitive artist who is also member of Hypatia lodge - to prepare a series of drawings depicting the Muses.

We sat together for hours while I described the images and he drew them. He would stop many times, for me to make corrections and this went on for three months till the entire collection was finalized.

Now upon the request of the publishers of *Theosophy Forward* I am presenting this drawing collection originally on pencil and black-white. This e-book presentation does not include an analysis of the drawings and the Muses, but is simply for you to appreciate the art-work and enjoy fragments of Spenser's poems.

Erica Georgiades

Mnemosyne

Mnemosyne is the mother of the Muses - The Muse of Reminiscences. She is considered as the one who presides over time and is the inventor of languages.



Lesmosyne

Lesmosyne is the sister of the Mother of the Muses and her realm is oblivion. She presides over forgetfulness.



Apollo

Apollo is a solar God and the "leader" of the Muses;
one of his epithets was Mousagetos.



Rehearse to me, ye sacred Sisters nine,
The Golden Brood of great Apollo's Wit,
Those piteous Plaints and sorrowful sad Tine,
Which late you poured forth as ye did sit
Beside the Silver Springs of Helicone,
Making your Musick of heart-breaking Mone.



Clio

Clio is the Muse of History.



Hear, thou great Father of the Gods on high,
That most art dreaded for thy Thunder-Darts;
And thou our Sire, that reigns in Castalia,
And Mount Parnassus, the God of goodly Arts;
Hear and behold the miserable State
Of us thy Daughters, doleful desolate.

Behold the foul Reproach and open Shame,
The which is day by day unto us wrought,
By such as hate the Honor of our Name,
The Foes of Learning, and each gentle Thought;
They, not contented us themselves to scorn,
Do seek to make us of the World forlorn....



Melpomene

Melpomene is the Muse of Tragedy.



O who shall pour into my swollen Eyes
A Sea of Tears that never may be dried,
A brazen Voice that may with thrilling Cries
Pierce the dull Heavens, and fill the Air so wide,
And Iron Sides, that sighing may endure,
To wail the Wretchedness of World impure?

Ah! wretched World, the Den of Wickedness,
Deformed with Filth and foul Iniquity;
Ah! wretched World, the House of Heaviness,
Filled with the Wrecks of mortal Misery;
Ah! wretched World, and all that is therein,
The Vassals of God's Wrath, and Slaves of Sin....



Thalia

Thalia is the Muse of comedy and bucolic poetry.



Where be the sweet Delights of Learning's Treasure,
That wont with comic Sock to beautify
The painted Theatres, and fill with Pleasure
The Listeners Eyes and Ears with Melody;
In which I late was wont to reign as Queen,
And mask in Mirth with Graces well be seen?

O! all is gone: and all that goodly Glee,
Which wont to be the Glory of gay Wits,
Is laid abed, and no where now to see;
And in her room unseemly Sorrow sits,
With hollow Brows, and griesly Countenance,
Marring my joyous gentle Dalliance....



Euterpe

Euterpe is the Muse of Lyric Poetry.



... For far more bitter Storm than Winter's Stower,
The Beauty of the World hath lately wasted;
And those fresh Buds, which wont so fair to Power,
Hath marred quite, and all their Blossoms blasted:
And those young plants, which wont with Fruit t' abound,
Now without Fruit or Leaves are to be found.

A stony Coldness hath benumbed the Sense,
And lively Spirits of each living Wight,
And dimmed with Darkness their intelligence,
Darkness more than Cymmerians daily Night;
And monstrous Error flying in the Air,
Hath marr'd the Face of all that seemed fair....



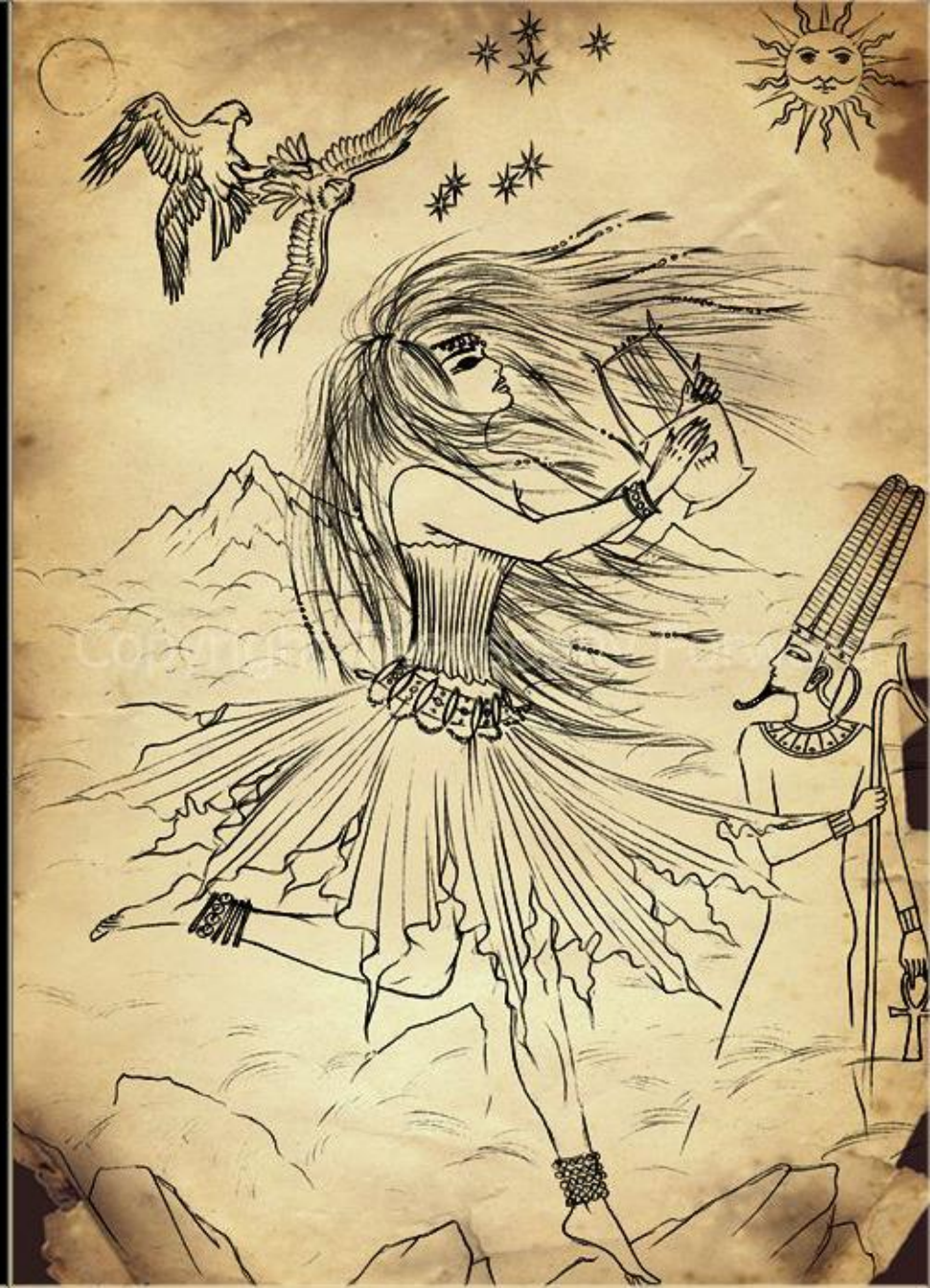
Terpsichore

Terpsichore is the Muse of Choral Dance.



... They to the vulgar sort now pipe and sing,
And make them merry with their Fooleries;
They cheerly chant, and Rimes at random fling,
The fruitful Spawn of their rank Fantasies:
They feed the Ears of Fools with Flattery,
And good Men blame, and Losels magnify.

All Places they do with their Toys possess,
And reign in Liking of the Multitude;
The Schools they fill with fond New-fangleness,
And sway in Court with Pride and Rashness rude!
'Amongst simple Shepherds they do boast their Skill,
And say, their Music matcheth Phoebus' Quill



Erato

Erato is the Muse of Erotic poetry and mimicry.



... For I that rule in Measure moderate
The Tempest of that stormy Passion,
And use to paint in Rimes the troublous State
Of Lover's Life in likest Fashion ;
Am put from practise of my kindly Skill,
Banish'd by those that Love with Lewdness fill.

Love wont to be School-master of my Skill,
And the deviceful matter of my Song;
Sweet Love devoid of Villany or Ill,
But pure and spotless, as at first he sprong
Out of th' Almighty's Bosom, where he nests;
From thence infused into mortal Brests



Calliope

Calliope is the Muse of eloquence and epic poetry.



To whom shall I my evil Case complain,
Or tell the Anguish of my inward Smart,
Sith none is left to remedy my Pain,
Or deigns to pity a perplexed Heart;
But rather seeks my Sorrow to augment
With foul Reproach and cruel Banishment?

For they to whom I used to apply
The faithful Service of my learned Skill,
The goodly Off-spring of Jove's Progeny,
That wont the World with famous Acts to fill,
Whose living Praises in heroick Stile,
It is my chief Profession to compile



Urania

Urania is the Muse of Astronomy and Astrology.



What Wrath of Gods, or wicked Influence
Of Stars conspiring wretched Men t' afflict,
Hath pour'd on Earth this noxious Pestilence,
That mortal Minds doth inwardly infect
With love of Blindness and of Ignorance,
To dwell in Darkness without Soverance?

What difference 'twixt Man and Beast is left,
When th' heavenly Light of Knowledge is put out,
And th' Ornaments of Wisdom are bereft?
Then wandreth he in Error and in Doubt,
Unweeting of the Danger he is in,
Through Fleshes Frailty, and Deceit of Sin



Polyhymnia

Polyhymnia is the Muse of Sacred Poetry.



A Doleful Case desires a doleful Song,
Without vain Art or curious Complements;
And squallid Fortune into Baseness flong,
Doth scorn the Pride of wonted Ornaments.
Then fittest are these ragged Rimes for me,
To tell my Sorrows that exceeding be.

For the sweet Numbers and melodious Measures,
With which I wont the winged Words so ty,
And make a tuneful Diapase of Pleasures;
Now being let to run at liberty
By those which have no Skill to rule them right,
Have now quite lost their natural Delight



TIPS

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