

The modern English name that was given to the culture and way of life of ancient Corsican and Italian people is Etruscan or Etrusci or Tusci. This civilization is set apart as it's own since it has its own language and traditions. This culture was formed in Italy after 800 BC.

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During times of mourning, the Naenia, or lamentation song, was traditionally sung to the accompaniment of a single flute. It was similar to a chant with several phrases repeated over and over again. Naenia, also the

Goddess of Funerary Lamentations, had a little temple near one of the gates leading into Rome. Dance, considered an invention of the goddess, had a place in many religious festivals from [joyous occasions](#) to times of mourning. The Etruscans especially danced at their funerals. A dance of mourning featured women and men moving to music and song in a slow procession. As they moved, they showed the gesture of mourning, a hand held before the face or touching the forehead.

- Choose some slow, thoughtful music that holds meaning for you.
- Choreograph a dance of loss. Mourning and searching. Your movements do not have to be elaborate, but should be heartfelt. They can be planned and danced in a group, yet this can also be a private dance performed alone.

We share something in common with those who lived two or three millennia ago-we all experience loss. Different cultures, different religions, different eras all

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Like some of the Egyptians, many of the Etruscans believed in eternal or after life. Prosperity in the eternal life was often linked to funereal prosperity. Thus, many of the tombs and funerals of Etruscan people were very "rich"

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reflect a diversity of responses to loss. A reenactment of the myth of Ceres and Persephone by participation in the ritual of the Eleusinian mysteries provoked a personal encounter with the goddesses, who offered hope, faith, and strength to the ancient Greeks and Romans. The ancients looked to the power and mystery of the Divine Feminine for comfort and guidance through loss and the somber days of September.

Modern Ritual:

A Libation to the Dead

The Romans honored their dead and those spirits who dwell underground by making a libation, an offering that the earth drinks. Often, a permanent libation hole was dug into the ground near family tombs to serve as a gateway to the dead spirits. The family would then make libation, using wine, or honey throughout the year to deceased relatives.

- Find a secluded quiet place and pour a libation into the Mother Earth as you remember those who have gone before, those you have loved.

Mourning and Searching

Dancing Scarecrow Autumn Candy Bouquet



An adorable scarecrow stands next to a wicker basket that is overflowing with candy on this keepsake autumn centerpiece. This sweet little scarecrow will dance into your recipient's heart and they'll literally dance with joy over all the candy we include - 55 pieces of hard candy on stems along with 4 fun size candy bars that are artfully arranged like a floral bouquet in the wicker basket. Measures 14" x 13" overall.

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We humans are bound to the earth in the natural cycle of life and death, really no different than the plants and animals—something that we easily forget, but can never avoid—for the dead return to the earth and the womb of the Mother. And we search for answers and reasons. For the initiates, the [September](#) rites of Ceres and Persephone described a ritualized time of mourning and searching.

We can never know what exactly the thousands of initiates in the September rites were seeking or what they experienced with days of fasting, a demanding fourteen-mile walk, purifications, fatigue, fear, and anticipation of the unknown. We can be assured that every man and woman was personally committed to experiencing the ritual, which involved physical and emotional hardship and demanded spiritual courage. This was a quest, a search into the deeper mysteries of the inner self.

Our knowledge is scant and suspect, since few have spoken of what actually occurred in the Telesterion, the building that housed the rites. Clement of Alexandria, a Christian and initiate, tells

us, "I fasted, I drank the kykeon, I worked, and deposited in the basket and from the basket into the chest. Kykeon was a drink of barley, water, and herbs that some suggest contained traces of barley mold (ergot), a substance similar to LSD.

We can infer, however, that a visionary state was induced from days of fasting and little food followed by a fermented beverage. But just what vision did the initiates behold? Did they find what they were seeking? The grieving and searching process was an integral part of the weeklong rite, and this experience marked a profound transformation in the lives of many men and women.