Peace- PaX PaC- Eirene

EIRENE (or Irene) was the [goddess](http://www.theoi.com/greek-mythology/olympian-gods.html) of peace (*eirênê*) and of the season of spring (*eiar, eiarinos*). Late spring was the usual campaign season in Greece when peace was most at risk. Eirene was one of three [Horai](http://www.theoi.com/Ouranios/Horai.html), goddesses of the seasons and the keepers of [the gates](file:///F:\Peace%20IRENE%20Greek%20Goddess%20of%20Peace,.html) of heaven. Her sisters were [Eunomia](http://www.theoi.com/Ouranios/HoraEunomia.html) (Order or Good-Pasture) and [Dike](http://www.theoi.com/Ouranios/HoraDike.html) (Justice).

She was probably identified with the [Hora Thallo](http://www.theoi.com/Ouranios/HoraThallo.html) (Green Shoots), whose name Hesiod gives to Eirene as an epithet in the *Theogony*. Her opposite number was [Polemos](http://www.theoi.com/Daimon/Polemos.html) (War).

In classical art she usually appears in the company of her two sister Horai bearing the fruits of the seasons. Statues of the goddess represent her as a maiden holding the infant [Ploutos](http://www.theoi.com/Georgikos/Ploutos.html) (Wealth) in her arms. In this guise she was identified with [Demeter](http://www.theoi.com/Olympios/Demeter.html) and [Tykhe](http://www.theoi.com/Daimon/Tykhe.html).

|  |
| --- |
| PARENTS |
| [1.1] [ZEUS](http://www.theoi.com/Olympios/Zeus.html) & [THEMIS](http://www.theoi.com/Titan/TitanisThemis.html) (Hesiod Theogony 901, Apollodorus 1.13, Orphic Hymn 43, Hyginus Fab. 183) [1.2] [THEMIS](http://www.theoi.com/Titan/TitanisThemis.html) (Pindar Olympian Ode 13) |

|  |
| --- |
| **ENCYCLOPEDIA**  EIRE′NE (Eirênê). The goddess of peace. After the victory of Timotheus over the Lacedaemonians, altars were erected to her at Athens at the public expense. (Corn. Nep. *Timoth.* 2; Plut. *Cim.* 13.) Her statue at Athens stood by the side of that of Amphiaraus, carrying in its arms Plutus, the god of wealth (Paus. i. 8. § 3), and another stood near that of Hestia in the Prytaneion. (i. 18, § 3.) . At Rome too, where peace (Pax) was worshipped, she had a magnificent temple, which was built by the emperor Vespasian. (Suet. *Vespas.* 9 ; Paus. vi. 9. § 1.) The figure of Eirene or Pax occurs only on coins, and she is there represented as a youthful female, holding in her left arm a cornucopia and in her right hand an olive branch or the staff of Hermes. Sometimes also she appears in the act of burning a pile of arms, or carrying corn-ears in her hand or upon her head.  Source: Dictionary of Greek and Roman Biography and Mythology. |

**PARENTAGE OF EIRENE**

Hesiod, Theogony 901 ff (trans. (Greek epic C8th or C7th B.C.) :  
"Next he [Zeus] married bright Themis (Divine Law) who bare the Horai (Horae, Seasons), and Eunomia (Good Order), Dike (Justice), and blooming (*thallô*) Eirene (Irene, Peace), who mind the works of mortal men."

Pseudo-Apollodorus, Bibliotheca 1. 13 (trans. Aldrich) (Greek mythographer C2nd A.D.) :  
"With Themis, the daughter of Ouranos (Uranus, Heaven), he [Zeus] fathered his daughters the Horai (Horae), by name Eirene (Irene), Eunomia, and Dike."

Orphic Hymn 43 to the Horae (trans. Taylor) (Greek hymns C3rd B.C. to 2nd A.D.) :  
"Daughters of Zeus and Themis, Horai (Horae) bright, Dike (Justice), and blessed Eirene (Irene, Peace) and Eunomia (Lawfulness) right."

Pseudo-Hyginus, Fabulae 183 (trans. Grant) (Roman mythographer C2nd A.D.) :  
"The names of the Horae, daughters of Jove [Zeus], son of Saturn [Kronos], and Themis, daughter Titanidis, arethese: Auxo, Eunomia (Order), Pherusa, Carpo (Fruit), Dice (Justice), Euporia, Irene (Peace), Orthosie, Thallo."

**EIRENE GODDESS OF PEACE**

Hesiod, Works and Days 212 ff (trans. Evelyn) (Greek epic C8th or C7th B.C.) :  
"But they who give straight judgements [i.e. those who invoke the goddess Dike (Justice)] to strangers and to the men of the land, and go not aside from what is just, their city flourishes, and the people prosper in it: Eirene (Irene, Peace), the nurse of children, is abroad in their land, and all-seeing Zeus never decrees cruel war against them. Neither famine nor disaster ever haunt men who do true justice; but light-heartedly they tend the fields which are all their care. The earth bears them victual in plenty, and on the mountains the oak bears acorns upon the top and bees in the midst. Their woolly sheep are laden with fleeces; their women bear children like their parents. They flourish continually with good things, and do not travel on ships, for the grain-giving earth bears them fruit."

Homer's Epigrams 15 (trans. Evelyn) (Greek epic C8th or C7th B.C.) :  
"Open of yourselves, you doors, for mightly Ploutos (Plutus, Wealth) will enter in, and with Ploutos comes jolly Euphrosyne (Mirth) and gentle Eirene (Irene, Peace)."

Pindar, Olympian Ode 4. 16 ff (trans. Conway) (Greek lyric C5th B.C.) :  
"And with a heart unsullied labours for Eirene (Irene, Peace), the city's friend."

Pindar, Olympian Ode 13. 6 ff :  
"Here [in this city] dwells Eunomia (Good Governance) and that unsullied fountain Dike (Justice), her sister, sure support of cities; and Eirene (Peace) of the same kin, who are the stewards of wealth for mankind--three glorious daughters of wise-counselled Themis.  
Far from their path they hold proud Hybris (Insolence), fierce-hearted mother of full-fed Koros (Disdain) . . . But to you sons of Aletes, how often the Horai [i.e. Eunomia, Dike and Eirene], decked in their wreaths, have given the glory of the victor's triumph for supreme valour in the sacred games."

Greek Lyric V Anonymous, Fragments 101 (from Stobaeus, Anthology) (trans. Campbell) (Greek lyric B.C.) :  
"Listen, Moirai (Fates) ... hear our prayers ... send us rose-bloomed Eunomia (Good Order) and her bright-throned sisters Dike (Justice) and garland-wearing Eirana (Peace), and make this city forget its heavy-hearted misfortunes."

Greek Lyric V Anonymous, Fragment 1021 (from Theogorus the Metochite, Miscellany) :   
"O sweet Eirana (Peace), wealth-giver to mortals!"

Aeschylus, Fragment 281 (from Papyri Oxyrhynchus) (trans. Lloyd-Jones) (Greek tragedy C5th B.C.) :  
"Not to sow evil . . ((lacuna)) Then Eirene (Irene, Peace) is . . ((lacuna)) for mortals. And I praise this goddess; for she honours a city that reposes in a life of quiet, and augments the admired beauty of its houses, so that they surpass in prosperity the neighbours who are their rivals), nor yet to engender it. And they earnestly desire land for ploughing, abandoning the martial trumpet."

Euripides, Suppliant Women 484 ff (trans. Vellacott) (Greek tragedy C5th B.C.) :  
"How far peace outweighs war in benefits to man; Eirene (Irene, Peace), the chief friend and cherisher of the Mousai (Muses); Eirene (Peace), the enemy of revenge, lover of families and children, patroness of wealth. Yet these blessings we viciously neglect, embrace wars; man with man, city with city fights, the strong enslaves the weak."

Euphorion of Chalcis, Fragments (trans. Page, Vol. Select Papyri III, No. 121 (2b)) (Greek Epic C3rd B.C.) :  
"Ares [war personified] allot them their wages in his scales, and rest again from chilling warfare, and send Eirene (Irene, Peace) with her prosperity to men! And in the market let him set Themis (Order) up, requiter of good deeds : and, beside her, Dike (Justice)."

Anonymous, Epigram (trans. Page, Vol. Select Papyri III, No. 113) (Greek elegiac C1st B.C.) :  
"Caesar calmed the storm of war and the clash of shields [i.e. at the battle of Actium], and there he cut short the sufferings of fair Eirene (Irene, Peace)."

Diodorus Siculus, Library of History 5. 72. 5 (trans. Oldfather) (Greek historian C1st B.C.) :  
"The Horai (Horae), as they are called, to each of them, according as her name indicates, was given [assigned by Zeus and Hera] the ordering and adornment of life, so as to serve to the greatest advantage of mankind; for there is nothing which is better to build a life of felicity than obedience to law (*eunomia*) and justice (*dike*) and peace (*eirene*)."

Ovid, Fasti 1. 700 ff (trans.Boyle) (Roman poetry C1st B.C. to C1st A.D.) :  
"For a long time wars have sprawled enchained at your feet. Yoke the oxen, put the seed beneath the ploughed earth. Pax [Eirene, Peace] suckles Ceres [Demeter, Grain], Ceres child of Pax (Peace)."