

Gregory Dickerson -

stairway at the back of the cave) you ran around with your torches looking (in vain) for Persephone. Within the *telesterion* you could see the outside of the *anaktoron*, the holy of holies, the inner shrine where secret objects were kept. Now you manipulated (in some way) the objects (whatever they were) in the *cistae*. Christian literature paints the objects as disgusting, but we really really know what they were. Perhaps a mortar and pestle with which you ground a small amount of grain? Cakes, salt, poppies, snakes, models of human sexual organs? Whatever they were, when you had finished the manipulation, the sudden crash of a gong was followed by a call for Persephone. In a sudden blaze of firelight from the *anaktoron* came the climactic revelation; the high priest (Hierophant: _____ of sacred _____ was seen to reveal the sacred thing (s) perhaps an ear of wheat.

On the last day, your name was entered in to the register of the initiated, you called _____ - _____ and _____ - _____ and finally knew the ends of life and were assured a rosy afterlife.

What were the sources of the wondrous effects? Mind-altering drugs? Poppies? Hallucinogenic mushrooms?) both represented in the Eleusinian iconography). LSD (derived from ergot, a fungus produced by mushrooms and found on various grains and grasses)? The latter is water soluble and could have been given in the *kykeon*