

DODONI

Dodona, in Doric Greek, or Dodoni in Attic, was the Oracle devoted to a Mother Goddess identified at other sites with Rhea or Gaia, that here was called Dione, who was joined and partly supplanted in historical times by the Greek god of gods and mortals, Zeus.

The shrine of Dodona was regarded as the oldest Hellenic oracle, possibly dating to the second millennium BC, according to Herodotus. Situated in a remote region away from the main Greek poleis (cities), it was considered second only to the oracle of Delphi in prestige. Priestesses and priests in the sacred grove interpreted the rustling of the oak (or beech) leaves to determine the correct actions to be taken. Aristotle considered the region around Dodona to have been part of Hellas and the region where the Hellenes originated. The oracle remained an important religious sanctuary until the rise of Christianity during the late Roman era.

