

Vocabulary for *Bacchae*

Dionysus or **Bacchus**: god of wine, madness, ecstasy, etc.
(also called **Bromios**, **Dithyrambus**, **Euaios**, **Iacchus**)

Bacchae or **bacchants** or **maenads**: followers of Dionysus/Bacchus
(The term **maenads** emphasizes their madness.)

hybris or **hubris** (Greek): insult, insolence, violence (even including rape), as well as specifically human insults against the gods (the way we usually use “hubris” in English)
(Compare the way the word is translated in *Medea*—Jason “insults” her.)

victim: animal sacrifice

tearing apart (Greek *sparagmos*): sacrifice of a living animal by pulling it to pieces

passion (Greek *eros*): desire, usually sexual desire

god out of the machine (Latin *deus ex machina*): both a special effect (using a crane to lower an actor representing a god) and a plot device (the god intervenes to determine the ending of the play)