

## **Celebration of Babo / Exorcising mother nature**

*This custom is a popular fest that brings us close to the diptych of man – nature, a relation that is substantial for human lives. Babo is the person that represents mother nature, earth, motherhood, creativity, power, she is a descendant of Dimitra (the ancient Greek goddess of fertility, mother of Dionysos) and a symbol of productivity. Babo is used to mollify mother nature, the earth and the ones that concentrate creative power like pregnant women.*

*A very old custom, an ancient institution that brings us close to an unimpaird route to the ancient past. This is why it is connected with the ancient greek worship of Dionysos, performed at the regions where he was worshiped. The social use of the custom is maybe more significant than the starting meaning of it. We should appreciate this use now, since it was given long ago. It is not an epidemic gyneocracy, a women's outburst or a simple exchange of roles, since it is connected with the willpower for a great crop and fertility also (Mina Macheropoulou, Ardin journal, no 12, February-March 1998).*

Mina Macheropoulou