

*Anastenaria*

Those who receive the call of the saint are the chosen. They hold icons and amanetia (holy handkerchiefs) while entering the anthrakia (the area that is settled with coals) and continue their dancing without showing any sign of pain or disturbance from the fire and the high temperature. During this moment they believe that every illness and misfortune is conjured. According to the performers it is an old custom for good fortune, one among the many we meet in Greece in spring time.

(George Ekaterinidis: *Celebrations and rituals at Drama's prefecture*. Publication of the local union of Municipalities and communities of Drama's Prefecture, Drama 1997)

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