

The processional, viewed from the west side of the dining room floor, shows nine figures bearing offerings and one figure on a donkey. This can only be a Dionysiac (or Bacchic) processional. Other parts of the mosaic show Dionysus (his Greek name), or Bacchus as the Roman called him. Dionysus was especially revered in nearby Beth-Shean, a city called Nysa on its coins after the nurse of Dionysus, and he was said to have grown up there. Many cities in the ancient world vied for the honor of being the true home of Dionysus. This mosaic at Sepphoris was surely crafted from a pagan perspective and dramatically emphasizes that a Roman population lived at Sepphoris side by side with the indigenous Jews.