

Ancient Greek Myth of Persephone and Demeter A Resurrection Story

Demeter was the goddess of the harvest. It was her job to be sure that the crops would grow so there would be food and flowers. Demeter and her daughter Persephone were very close. They hung out together in the fields almost every day, singing, dancing and laughing, having races, and gardening.

One day Persephone was in the fields playing by herself. It happened that at the same time Hades, the king of the underworld, decided to visit the earth. Hades was a gloomy fellow, and he normally stayed out of sight in the underworld, but he was feeling restless. He saw Persephone laughing and dancing and he felt happy which was very unusual for Hades. He decided he must have Persephone, so he tricked her into going back with him to the underworld. Persephone was very scared and sad she longed to see her mother.

Meanwhile, Demeter was searching everywhere for her daughter. When she realized Persephone was nowhere to be found, Demeter became extremely sad. Now remember that Demeter was the goddess of the crops, the growing of food and flowers. And when she wasn't happy, crops died. People began to worry that they might starve.

However, back in the underworld, Persephone discovered that she was very much needed. She saw that as new souls moved to the underworld, there was no one to greet them and help them feel welcome. As each new sad soul arrived, she greeted them with the gift of a pomegranate and a hug. By doing this she became less sad herself. But she still missed her mother, Demeter.

As for Demeter, her sadness was still so deep that there were still no crops, no harvest. Persephone sensed that this is probably what was going on in the world above, so she went to Hades with a plan. She proposed that she would live six months in the underworld and six months in the world with her mother. Hades wasn't real happy with this plan, because he had grown to love Persephone very much, but he also came to respect her and wanted her to be happy, so he agreed.

That's why we have seasons. Every spring, Demeter make sure flowers are blooming and crops are growing, and the fields are green with welcome. Every fall when Persephone returns to the underworld, Demeter ignores the crops and flowers and lets them die. Each spring, Demeter brings everything to life again, ready to welcome her daughter's return.