

# Hades, Persephone, and Demeter

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# Hades

- God of death, the underworld, riches, etc.
- Husband of Persephone, son of Cronos and Rhea
- His symbols are the cypress tree, the narcissus flower, Cerberus, etc..
- His domain, of the same name, was not seen as hell; it was just seen as what happens after death



# Persephone

- Queen of the underworld, personification of vegetation
- Daughter of Zeus and Demeter
- Was in a way one of the most important gods, along with her mother.
- Some of her symbols are pomegranates, bats, deer, and grain
- Stays in Hades for 6 months out of the year
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# Demeter



- Goddess of Grain, the harvest, and agriculture
- Symbols are wheat, torch, bread, etc.
- Gave agriculture to humans
- Along with Persephone, revered as a helper of humankind
- Sacred city is Eleusis

# The Myth Summarized

- Persephone was playing in the field
- Hades saw her and kidnapped her in his chariot
- Demeter couldn't find her anywhere
- She was so sad, that nothing grew
- Zeus saw what was happening, and he told her where Persephone was
- However, Hades had made her eat pomegranate seeds, in some versions 6, some 3, and in some 1



# The Myth Summarized ctd.

- In each, this meant that Persephone either had to return for a 1/3 or 1/2 of the year, and this is why we have winter.
- After this, Demeter went to a prince of her sacred city Eleusis and gave him the secret of agriculture

# What This Legend Shows About Greek Culture

- This myth shows how much the Greeks depended and valued agriculture.
- Not only that, but death is undefeatable (shown by the the fact that persephone still has to go to Hades every year)

# Archetypes Present

- Damsel in distress-Persephone
- Quest-To find Persephone
- Light vs. Dark-The symbolization of culture/agriculture(Demeter) vs. the symbolization of death(Hades
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# Sources

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- Angus, Samuel. *The Mystery Religions*. New York : Dover, 2011. Print