

1.

First of all, the goddess Demeter reflects the Great Goddess Type in the meaning of her name. “De”, whose root in Indo-European, means “god”, and “-meter” is a Greek word for “mother”. In addition, she is the Greek goddess of fertility and harvest. Thus, she is related to the work of creation, birth, sustenance, and nurture. She makes grains bloom from the earth, which helps to sustain human beings, and also makes sacrifices for Olympian gods and goddesses. She gave birth to her beloved daughter Persephone and she helped to nurture Demophoon by breastfeeding the baby. Moreover, Demeter is involved with the concept of death and rebirth. Her daughter, Persephone, reflects death and rebirth in the way that she went into the underworld, became the wife of Hades, and returned to earth with Demeter later. Demophoon also reflects death and rebirth when Demeter laid him in the fire intending to make him immortal and then took him out of the fire.

2.

- Before the abduction, Persephone represents the life of a young girl who is innocent and naive. She did not have to worry about anything in life as she could go out having fun and picking beautiful flowers with her friends. The abduction of Persephone is an arranged marriage for a young Greek girl. Persephone cried and screamed when she was dragged away, which reflects young girls’ fear and dread of marriage. It also shows the unwillingness of young girls to

end their childhood to become a wife. After the abduction, even though she was unhappy, she could not get out of that “arranged marriage” and had to become a wife eventually.

- On the other hand, Demeter represents a married woman and a mother. She mated with Zeus and gave birth to Persephone. She had a very strong bond with her beloved daughter. When her daughter was abducted, she desperately went looking for her daughter. She was deeply in grief to the point that she did not care about eating and drinking. It was a natural reaction of a mother when she is unwilling to let her daughter go away from her or when her beloved daughter is in danger. Moreover, as a wife, Demeter was submissive to her husband. In the story, although Demeter attempted to take Persephone back, she had no choice but to accept the control of Zeus over the marriage of their daughter.

- Another character in the story of Demeter and Persephone that would represent women in their old age is Hekate. She was an old lady since she was one of the first titans. She appeared in the story as a helper who heard the screaming of Persephone and told Demeter about it. This reveals that old women tend to be the ones who are supportive and helpful.

3.

“Patriarchy” is a system of society in which males are the leaders of the family and hold the power. The family line is only traced through male lines. In this system, women barely have any power and often being considered as property of men. Females usually have to bear the control of male leaders in the family. Thus, the lives of women do not fall into their hands, but instead in the arrangements of men. The story of Demeter and Persephone is an excellent example to show the miserable lives of women in Greek society, which followed the patriarchal system. The two main forces in the story are Demeter and Persephone against Zeus and Hades.

The abduction of Persephone which causes a deep sorrow for both her and her mother, Demeter, started with the agreement of Zeus to give away his daughter to his brother Hades. In the patriarchal society, Zeus had the right over his daughter's life, therefore, had the legal right to give her away to anyone. Meanwhile, both Persephone, who was about to be given away, and her mother Demeter were not informed about this arrangement. This marriage was against Persephone's will, but she had no way to escape it. Besides, her mother Demeter, who was the goddess of fertility, harvest, and nurture, was considered as a Great Mother Goddess. Demeter played important role in the sustain of human and Olympian gods and goddesses, yet, she still did not have a voice in decision-making about her daughter. In fact, Demeter was one of the first twelve Olympian deities and also a sister of Zeus. It would have been fair if she held the same power as Zeus. But as it was a patriarchal system, especially when Demeter mated with him, she could only accept the rules of Zeus and the decision had been made for her poor daughter, no matter how deeply in grief she was. In contrast, Zeus could not care less about his daughter's opinion about the marriage. He only cared when the situation turned bad, to the point that it directly affected him that he compromised with Demeter. Moreover, Hades, who was a male leader god of the underworld, could brutally drag Persephone away without her consent. However, Helios, who was the god of the sun and saw the kidnap of Persephone, gave a compliment about Hades that he would be a suitable husband for Persephone instead of condemning Hades. In summary, the whole story shows proof for the idea that women are totally dependent on men. It is no matter how great they are, their lives would still be under the control of the male leader.