

Persephone was the daughter of Zeus with his sister Demeter. Her beauty was such that Hades, the ruler of the underworld and king of the land of the dead, saw her and instantly fell in love on one occasion. Hades used a very fragrant flower, narcissus, to lure her and Persephone effectively drew to it. As soon as she picked up the flower, the ground opened and Hades emerged riding on his chariot. He swiftly grabbed her, and in the blink of an eye, Persephone and Hades disappeared. When Demeter concluded that her daughter was missing, she was devastated. She wandered the earth to look for her daughter. For nine days, without food no one could give her any leads as to where her daughter might be until Hecate told Demeter that she heard Persephone's voice when she was abducted and brought to the land of the dead. This story was confirmed by Apollo. Upon learning the truth, she was no longer depressed but enraged at everyone; she neglected her duties and responsibilities as a goddess of harvest and fertility. Disguised as an old woman, Demeter reached Eleusis looking for her daughter and was given a job to care for the prince. She befriended the royal family, and intended to make the prince immortal by bathing him in the fire every night. However, the queen panicked when she accidentally saw the ritual, Demeter revealed herself and ordered for a temple to be built, and there she isolated herself from the world. Zeus asked the messenger of the gods, Hermes, to go to the Underworld and ask Hades to release Persephone and return her to her mother. Before Persephone was returned to Demeter, she had been tricked by Hades to consume the seeds of the pomegranate fruit. Once someone has consumed food in the underworld, they will be forced to stay there. Zeus made an agreement between Demeter and Hades to allow Persephone to spend one-third of the year with Hades and the other two-thirds with Demeter.