

Classical Mythology Test Review

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TOPICS COVERED

You will get: - multiple choice questions, which might include images - **NOTE 1:** the points to pay attention to in the various myths are: who was involved, what (if anything) is the relationship between characters, what happened, if possible where did it happen, and how did it turn out - the test will cover material included in the readings (Iliad), the website (theoi.com), and my lecture notes

Sources of Myth & the Real Trojan War

For sources, just the basic outline ### Apollodorus, Hyginus - ### Aeschylus, Euripides, Sophocles - ### Apollonius - ### Vergil - ### Hittites, Mycenaean, - ### Hisarlik, Troy VII (most likely mythical Troy) - ### Wilusa - ### Sea Peoples -

Trojan War & the Iliad

Peleus, Thetis, Eris, apple of discord, Paris, Helen

- An apple of discord is a reference to the Golden Apple of Discord which, according to Greek mythology, the goddess Eris tossed in the midst of the feast of the gods at the wedding of Peleus and Thetis as a prize of beauty, thus sparking a vanity-fueled dispute among Hera, Athena, and Aphrodite that eventually led to the Trojan War.
- Zeus held a banquet in celebration of the marriage of Peleus and Thetis (parents of Achilles). However, Eris, goddess of discord was not invited, for it was believed she would have made the party unpleasant for everyone. Angered by this snub, Eris arrived at the celebration with a golden apple from the Garden of the Hesperides, which she threw into the proceedings as a prize of beauty.
- Three goddesses claimed the apple: Hera, Athena and Aphrodite. They asked Zeus to judge which of them was fairest, and eventually he, reluctant to favor any claim himself, declared that Paris, a Trojan mortal, would judge their cases, for he had recently shown his exemplary fairness in a contest in which Ares in bull form had bested Paris's own prize bull, and the shepherd-prince had unhesitatingly awarded the prize to the god.
- Thus it happened that, with Hermes as their guide, the three candidates bathed in the spring of Ida, then confronted Paris on Mount Ida in the climactic moment that is the crux of the tale. After failing to judge their beauty with their clothing on, the three goddesses stripped nude to convince Paris of their worthiness. While Paris inspected them, each attempted with her powers to bribe him; Hera offered to make him king of Europe and Asia, Athena offered wisdom and skill in war, and Aphrodite,

who had the Charites and the Horai to enhance her charms with flowers and song (according to a fragment of the Cypria quoted by Athenagoras of Athens), offered the world's most beautiful woman. This was Helen of Sparta, wife of the Greek king Menelaus. Paris accepted Aphrodite's gift and awarded the apple to her, receiving Helen as well as the enmity of the Greeks and especially of Hera. The Greeks' expedition to retrieve Helen from Paris in Troy is the mythological basis of the Trojan War. ### *Sacrifice of Iphigenia*

- Iphigenia was a daughter of King Agamemnon and Queen Clytemnestra, and thus a princess of Mycenae. Agamemnon offends the goddess Artemis, who retaliates by commanding him to kill Iphigenia as a sacrifice so his ships can sail to Troy. In some versions, Iphigenia is sacrificed at Aulis, but in others, Artemis rescues her. In the version where she is saved, she goes to the Taurians and meets her brother Orestes. ### *Epic – epic/Homeric cycle – basic details* ### Homer, *Iliad* ### *Key episodes (basic details – check the Iliad!): Wrath of Achilles, Menelaus vs. Paris, embassy to Achilles, death of Patroclus, Achilles vs. Hector, Hector's body* ### *Wrath of Achilles*
- During the Trojan War, Agamemnon took Chryseis' daughter Chryseis (Astynome) from Moesia as a war prize and when Chryses attempted to ransom her, refused to return her. Chryses prayed to Apollo, and he, in order to defend the honor of his priest, sent a plague sweeping through the Greek armies, and Agamemnon was forced to give Chryseis back in order to end it. The significance of Agamemnon's actions lies not in his kidnapping Chryseis (such abductions were commonplace in ancient Greece), but in his refusal to release her upon her father's request.
- Achilles called for the Greek army leaders to meet to convince Agamemnon to let Chryseis go. Agamemnon was furious that he had to give up the girl, so he took for himself Achilles' slave girl, Briseis.
- Achilles was angry with Agamemnon because of that that he withdrew from the fighting and refused to let his troops fight with the Greeks. ### Menelaus vs. Paris
- this happened after Achilles withdrew from the battle
- Menelaus and Paris fought as their armies watched. Just as Menelaus was about to drag Paris back to the Greek camp, Aphrodite rescued Paris.
- Aphrodite then lured Helen to where Paris was, which was in bedroom
- she was both angry and ... as she didn't want to see Paris get hurt
- they then had sex ### Embassy to Achilles
- The Greeks are desperate. Agamemnon admits his error, and sends an embassy composed of Odysseus, Ajax, Phoenix, and two heralds to offer Briseis and extensive gifts to Achilles, who has been camped next to his ships throughout, if only he will return to the fighting. Achilles and his companion Patroclus receive the embassy well, but Achilles angrily refuses Agamemnon's offer and declares that he would only return to battle if the Trojans reached his ships and threatened them with fire. The embassy returns empty-handed (Book 9). ### Death of Patroclus

- Patroclus cannot stand to watch any longer and begs Achilles to be allowed to defend the ships. Achilles relents and lends Patroclus his armor, but sends him off with a stern admonition not to pursue the Trojans, lest he take Achilles' glory. Patroclus leads the Myrmidons into battle and arrives as the Trojans set fire to the first ships. The Trojans are routed by the sudden onslaught, and Patroclus begins his assault by killing Zeus's son Sarpedon, a leading ally of the Trojans. Patroclus, ignoring Achilles' command, pursues and reaches the gates of Troy, where Apollo himself stops him. Patroclus is set upon by Apollo and Euphorbos, and is finally killed by Hector (Book 16).
- Hector takes Achilles' armor from the fallen Patroclus, but fighting develops around Patroclus' body (Book 17). ##### Achilles vs. Hector
- Achilles is mad with grief when he hears of Patroclus' death and vows to take vengeance on Hector; his mother Thetis grieves, too, knowing that Achilles is fated to die young if he kills Hector. Achilles is urged to help retrieve Patroclus' body but has no armour. Bathed in a brilliant radiance by Athena, Achilles stands next to the Greek wall and roars in rage. The Trojans are dismayed by his appearance, and the Greeks manage to bear Patroclus' body away. Polydamas urges Hector again to withdraw into the city; again Hector refuses, and the Trojans camp on the plain at nightfall. Patroclus is mourned. Meanwhile, at Thetis' request, Hephaestus fashions a new set of armor for Achilles, including a magnificently wrought shield.
- The great gates of the city are opened to receive the fleeing Trojans, and Apollo leads Achilles away from the city by pretending to be a Trojan. When Apollo reveals himself to Achilles, the Trojans have retreated into the city, all except for Hector, who, having twice ignored the counsels of Polydamas, feels the shame of the rout and resolves to face Achilles, despite the pleas of his parents, Priam and Hecuba. When Achilles approaches, Hector's will fails him, and he is chased around the city by Achilles. Finally, Athena tricks him into stopping, and he turns to face his opponent. After a brief duel, Achilles stabs Hector through the neck. Before dying, Hector reminds Achilles that he, too, is fated to die in the war. Achilles takes Hector's body and dishonours it by dragging it behind his chariot. ##### Hector's body
- Dismayed by Achilles' continued abuse of Hector's body, Zeus decides that it must be returned to Priam. Led by Hermes, Priam takes a wagon out of Troy, across the plains, and into the Greek camp unnoticed. He clasps Achilles by the knees and begs for his son's body. Achilles is moved to tears, and the two lament their losses in the war. After a meal, Priam carries Hector's body back into Troy. Hector is buried, and the city mourns. ##### Success of Iliad ##### Characterization of gods ##### Relationship between Patroclus & Achilles ##### Hector's bravery

Iconography of the gods

Be able to identify the Olympians in art: Aphrodite, Apollo, Ares, Artemis, Athena, Demeter, Dionysus, Hephaestus, Hera, Hermes, Poseidon, Zeus ###
Aphrodite ### Apollo ### Ares ### Athena ### Demeter ### Hephaestus ### Hera ### Hermes ### Poseidon ### Zeus

Aphrodite & Eros

- Aphrodite was the goddess of love, beauty, pleasure & procreation
- born from sea foam
- depicted as a beautiful woman
- often accompanied by Eros
- Eros was the mischievous god of love, a minion and constant companion of the goddess Aphrodite
- Eros was a winged godling
- His parents were Ares and Aphrodite ### attendants – Graces; Hours (Horae)
- the Kharites (Charites) or Graces were three goddess of grace, beauty, adornment, joy etc.
- Horae or Horai or Hours were the Goddess of the seasons & the natural portions of time
- these were the attendants of Aphrodite ### Priapus
- son of Aphrodite & Dionysus
- marked by his oversized erection
- god of vegetable gardens
- his large phallus symbolizing garden fertility ### nature, appearance of Aphrodite.
- depicted as a beautiful woman
- Aphrodite punished those who neglected her worship or despised her power, as well as others in which she favoured and protected those who did homage to her and recognized her sway.
- in *Iliad* 14. 197-221, *Hera* devises a plan to deceive Zeus. She was on the Achaeans' side, as Paris, a Trojan (I think), decided that Aprodite was the most beautiful goddess. She beautifies herself in the private chamber that her son *Hepaestus* built her, and tricked Aphrodite into giving her own embroidered breast band to her by saying she wanted to bring *Ocean* and *Tethys* to stop fighting and bring them closer together. With the help of *Sleep* or *Hypnos*, she tricked Zeus into a deep sleep (*Sleep* agreed to this because *Hera* promised to make Pasithee his wife, who he fancied) Because of this distraction, she was able to get the Greeks to regain the upper hand in the *Trojan War*. ### myth of Pygmalion
- *Pygmalion* was a king of the island of Kypros (Cyprus) who fell in love with an ivory statue of the goddess Aphrodite. In answer to his prayers the statue was brought to life and afterwards became his wife.
- Pygmalion saw these women [the Propoetides who had become prostitutes,]

waste their lives in wretched shame, and critical of faults which nature had so deeply planted through their female hearts, he lived in preference, for many years unmarried. But while he was single, with consummate skill, he carved a statue out of snow-white ivory, and gave to it exquisite beauty, which no woman of the world has ever equalled: she was so beautiful, he fell in love with his creation. ### Aphrodite and Adonis

- Adonis was the mortal lover of the goddess Aphrodite in Greek mythology
- he was conceived after Aphrodite cursed his mother Myrrha to lust after her own father, King Cinyras of Cyprus. Myrrha had sex with her father in complete darkness for nine nights, but he discovered her identity and chased her with a sword. The gods transformed her into a myrrh tree and, in the form of a tree, she gave birth to Adonis. Aphrodite found the infant and gave him to be raised by Persephone, the queen of the Underworld. Adonis grew into an astonishingly handsome young man, causing Aphrodite and Persephone to feud over him, with Zeus eventually decreeing that Adonis would spend one third of the year in the Underworld with Persephone, one third of the year with Aphrodite, and the final third of the year with whomever he chose. Adonis chose to spend his final third of the year with Aphrodite.
- Ovid depicts the psychic struggle Myrrha faces between her sexual desire for her father and the social shame she would face for acting thereon. Sleepless, and losing all hope, she attempted suicide; but was discovered by her nurse, in whom she confided. The nurse tried to make Myrrha suppress the infatuation, but later agreed to help Myrrha into her father's bed if she promised that she would not again try to kill herself.
- One day, Adonis was gored by a wild boar during a hunting trip and died in Aphrodite's arms as she wept. His blood mingled with her tears and became the anemone flower. Aphrodite declared the Adonia festival commemorating his tragic death, which was celebrated by women every year in midsummer. ### Cybele and Attis ### Aphrodite & Anchises ### Eros as presented in Plato's Symposium – Aristophanes' version ### Cupid & Psyche

Poseidon & the Sea

Pontus, Oceanus, Triton, Proteus, Nereus

myths of the three important Nereids:

- Thetis
 - she was a sea nymph in Greek mythology, or according to some myths, one of the Nereids, the fifty daughters of the sea god Nereus and Doris. She was courted by both Zeus and Poseidon, but neither of them married her, out of fear of a prophecy that said Thetis' son would surpass his father in glory. Instead, she married Peleus, with whom she had a son, the mythical hero Achilles.

- When Hephaestus, the blacksmith god, was thrown from Olympus either by Hera or Zeus, it was Thetis along with Eurynome that helped him and placed him on the island of Lemnos. There, he worked for them as a blacksmith.
- When Thetis gave birth to her son, Achilles, she decided to make him immortal by dipping him in the sacred waters of the river Styx, one of the rivers that flowed through the Underworld. However, when she was dipping him, she did not realise that his heel by which she held him was not touched by the waters, thus leaving that spot vulnerable.
- Galatea
 - is a name popularly applied to the statue carved of ivory by Pygmalion of Cyprus, which then came to life in Greek mythology
- Amphitrite
 - Amphitrite was the goddess-queen of the sea, wife of Poseidon, and eldest of the fifty Nereides. She was the female personification of the sea—the loud-moaning mother of fish, seals and dolphins.
 - When Poseidon first sought Amphitrite’s hand in marriage, she fled his advances, and hid herself away near Atlas in the Ocean stream at the far ends of the earth. The dolphin-god Delphin eventually tracked her down and persuaded her to return to wed the sea-king. ### appearance and character of Poseidon ### Scylla and Charybdis
- SKYLLA (Scylla) was a sea-monster who haunted the rocks of a narrow strait opposite the whirlpool of Kharybdis (Charybdis). Ships who sailed too close to her rocks would lose six men to her ravenous, darting heads
- Scylla was beloved by Poseidon, and that Amphitrite, from jealousy, metamorphosed her into a monster
- KHARYBDIS (Charybdis) was a sea-monster whose gigantic whirlpool swirled in the straits of Messina opposite the cliffs of the monster Skylla (Scylla). She was probably the daimon of the tides with her thrice daily sucking and expulsion of waters—mentioned by Homer—imagined as the cause of the three high and low tides of the day.
- she thrice every day swallowed down the waters of the sea, and thrice threw them up again: both were formidable to the ships which had to pass between them. Charybdis is described as a daughter of Poseidon and Gaea, and as a voracious woman, who stole oxen from Heracles, and was hurled by the thunderbolt of Zeus into the sea, where she retained her voracious nature.

Zeus & Hera

Zeus' character and role as the lord of gods and men.

Ganymede

Hera

Zeus & Hera

Hephaestus

- Complex relationship & difficult upbringing ### Ares
- War
- Relationship with Aphrodite

Athena

- Goddess of wisdom and good counsel, war etc. ### myth of Athena's birth #### Metis & Zeus
- Zeus slept with Metis, although she turned herself into many forms in order to avoid having sex with him. When she was pregnant, Zeus took the precaution of swallowing her, because she had said that, after giving birth to the daughter presently in her womb, she would bear a son who would gain the lordship of the sky. In fear of this he swallowed her. When it came time for the birth, Prometheus (or Hephaistos, according to some) by the river Triton struck the head of Zeus with an axe, and from his crown Athena sprang up, clad in her armour. ### character and appearance of Athena ### Athena and Arachne
- ARACHNE (Arakhnê), a Lydian maiden, daughter of Idmon of Colophon, who was a famous dyer in purple. His daughter was greatly skilled in the art of weaving, and, proud of her talent, she even ventured to challenge Athena to compete with her. Arachne produced a piece of cloth in which the amours of the gods were woven, and as Athena could find no fault with it, she tore the work to pieces, and Arachne in despair hung herself. The goddess loosened the rope and saved her life, but the rope was changed into a cobweb and Arachne herself into a spider (arakhnê), the animal most odious to Athena. (Ov. Met. vi. 1-145; Virg. Georg. iv. 246.) This fable seems to suggest the idea that man learnt the art of weaving from the spider, and that it was invented in Lydia. ### flute & Marsyas
- Some make him a satyr, others a peasant. All agree in placing him in Phrygia. The following is the outline of his story, according to the mythographers. Athena having, while playing the flute, seen the reflection of herself in water, and observed the distortion of her features, threw away the instrument in disgust. It was picked up by Marsyas, who no sooner began to blow through it than the flute, having once been inspired by the breath of a goddess, emitted of its own accord the most beautiful strains. #### Athena vs. Poseidon

- There once came a time in Ancient Greece when the first king of Athens, Cecrops, who was half person and half snake, had to find a patron deity for the city state of Athens.
- The two Olympian gods who were particularly interested in the patronage were Poseidon, the god of the Seas and Athena, the goddess of Wisdom and Skill. They presented themselves in front of Cecrops and Cecrops asked from them to offer a gift truly valuable for Athens.
- Poseidon came first: he struck the earth powerfully and created a well with his trident. Immediately, streaming water shot forth, but the water turned out to be salty and not very useful for the population.
- Next, it was the turn of goddess Athena. Athena stepped forward, struck her spear into the ground and then she kneeled and planted an olive branch in it. This way she created an olive tree, as a symbolization of peace and prosperity on earth.
- Cecrops was very impressed by Athena's gift. So he chose Athena to lay claim of the city of Athens and the city was named after her. God Poseidon, however, was not pleased with the decision of Cecrops and cursed the city of Athens to never have enough water from then on. After that, it is said that a major problem of water shortage started in Athens, which continues until nowadays.

Hermes

- god of herds & flocks,
- herald & personal messenger of Zeus ### Maia
- Hermes was a son of Zeus and the Pleiad-nympe Maia ### Hermes' birth and his quarrel and reconciliation with Apollo
- Maia, after her intercourse with Zeus, bore Hermes in a cave on Kyllene.
- Three main points
 - **HERMES STEALS APOLLO'S CATTLE**
 - * Though he was laid out in swaddling-clothes with her winnowing-basket for a cradle, he escaped and made his way to Pieria, where he stole some cattle that Apollon was tending. To keep from being discovered by the tracks, he put boots on their feet and led them to Pylos. He hid them in a grotto, except for two which he sacrificed, pinning up their hides on rocks, boiling some of the meat for his meal and burning the rest.
 - **HERMES INVENTS THE LYRE**
 - * Outside the cave he found a tortoise feeding. He cleaned it out, and stretched across the shell strings made from the cattle he had sacrificed, and when he had thus devised a lyre he also invented a plectrum.
 - **HERMES TRADES THE LYRE FOR THE HERDS**
 - * Meanwhile Apollon reached Pylos in his search for the cattle, and asked the locals about them. They told him that they had indeed seen a boy driving some cattle, but they could not say where they

had been driven because there were no tracks to be found. So Apollon learned who the thief was by divine science, and made his way to Maia on Kyllene to charge Hermes. Maia, however, showed Apollon the baby in his swaddling-clothes, whereupon Apollon took him to Zeus and demanded his cattle. When Zeus told Hermes to return them, he denied everything, but since his father would not believe him, he led Apollon to Pylos and gave him back his cattle. Then, when Apollon heard the lyre, he exchanged the cattle for that.

- **HERMES TRADES THE PIPE FOR HERALDRY & RUSTIC DIVINITATION**
- **ZEUS CONFIRMS THE DIVINE PRIVILEGES OF HERMES**

* And Zeus made Hermes his personal herald and messenger of the gods beneath the earth ##### Invents the lyre

- look above ##### Steals Apollo's Cattle
- look above ##### character and appearance of Hermes ### myth of Hermaphroditus
- his parents are Hermes and Aphrodite
- According to some he was once a handsome youth who attracted the love of a Naiad nymph Salmakis (Salmacis). She prayed to be united with him forever and the gods, answering her prayer, merged their two forms into one. At the same time her spring acquired the property of making men who bathed in its waters soft and effeminate.

Demeter

- she was the Olympian goddess of agriculture, grain and bread who sustained mankind with the earth's rich bounty. ### Demeter and Persephone in the Homeric Hymn to Demeter
- The Homeric Hymn to Demeter describes in detail how Hades, god of the underworld, stole Persephone, how her mother searched for her and hid the seed within the earth until she got her daughter back again. This excerpt describes how Persephone returns, but only for part of the year, because she ate seeds in the underworld and must now forever return to spend four months of the year with her husband. ### Abduction of Persephone
- Persephone was gathering flowers in a soft meadow
- one of the flowers was a snare trap
- she bent over to pick up with both hands and that was when the ground opened and she was sucked into the underworld
- Hades was responsible for this as he wanted to make her his wife
- the flower was made to grow there at the will of Zeus ### Demeter's grief & anger

- she heard her daughter's cries for help & she started looking for her, day & night
- no one would tell her the truth of what happened
- on the tenth day, Hekate just said that he heard her cries
- then Helios, out of pity, told her the truth
- she was so angry that she refused to be in the gathering of the Gods in Mount Olympus
- she stayed in the towns of men, disguising herself ### Demeter & Eleusis
- Demeter Comes to Eleusis. She came to ELEUSIS [e-lou'sis] and, grieving, sat in the shade beside the Maiden Well. She looked like a very old woman who might be a housekeeper or a children's nurse. The four daughters of CELEUS [see'le-us] or KELEUS, the king of Eleusis, and METANEIRA [me-ta-neye'ra], his wife, saw her there when they came to draw water and questioned her. Demeter answered that she would tell them the truth, but instead invented for herself a human identity. Her name is DOSO [doh'soh], and she was carried off from Crete by pirates, from whom she escaped when they disembarked. She does not know where she has come in her travels, but she hopes that the maidens will help her find work as a housekeeper or a nurse. Callidice, the most beautiful of the daughters of Celeus, suggested that the old woman remain at the well until they return home to ask their mother if they might come back to fetch her. ### Celeus & Metaneira
- Demeter Arrives at the Home of Celeus and Metaneira. When the young women returned home and told their mother all about Doso, Metaneira directed them to return quickly and hire the woman at any price. For she cherished an only son, long prayed for, who needed care. So they brought the goddess to their house, grieving, with her head veiled and wearing a dark robe. As the goddess stood in the threshold her head reached up to the beams, and she filled the doorway with a divine radiance. Metaneira, overcome by awe, asked her guest to be seated. Demeter refused to sit on the splendid couch offered but instead waited until a servant IAMBE [eye-am'bee] brought her an artfully made chair and threw a fleece over it. Then Demeter sat down, holding her veil over her face, silent and serious, tasting no food or drink and overcome by longing for her daughter. Iambe, however, with jests and jokes (doubtlessly in iambic meter) caused the holy lady to smile and laugh. She refused the red wine that Metaneira offered but instead ordered Metaneira to mix meal, water, and mint for her. The great lady Demeter accepted the drink for the sake of the holy rite, i.e., to initiate and observe the holy rite or sacrament. This drink (the kykeon) very likely represented a kind of communion. ### Demeter & Demophoon
- Demeter Nurses Demophoon. Metaneira promised Demeter great rewards if

she would nurse her child DEMOPHOÖN [de-mof'oh-on], or DEMOPHON, and bring him up. Demeter took the child to her bosom, promising that he would not be harmed by evil charms. She nourished him on ambrosia, and she breathed sweetness upon him, and he grew like a god. At night, she hid him in the fire, without the knowledge of his parents, who were amazed how their child grew and flourished. Demeter would have made Demophoön immortal, if foolish Metaneira had not spied upon her and cried out in terror because this stranger was burying her son within the blazing fire.

- **Demeter Reveals Her Divinity.** Demeter was enraged at the stupidity of Metaneira, who by her interference had ruined Demeter's plan to make the boy immortal. Nevertheless, Demeter would still allow Demophoön to flourish as a mortal and grant him imperishable honor because he had slept in her arms. Then Demeter proclaimed, "I am Demeter, esteemed and honored as the greatest benefit and joy to mortals and immortals," and gave her instructions for the future of Eleusis. She cast off her old age and transformed her size and appearance. Fragrant beauty and a divine radiance breathed around her, and her golden hair flowed down on her shoulders. The house was filled with her brilliance as though with a lightning flash. She disappeared, and Metaneira was overcome by astonishment and fear.
- **Demeter's Instructions.** Before her disappearance, Demeter had ordered that the people of Eleusis build for her a great temple and an altar below the town on the rising hill above the well Kallichoron; she promised to teach them her rites so that by performing them with reverence they might propitiate her heart. King Celeus saw to it that Demeter's will was accomplished. ### *Zeus & Hades*
- **Demeter's Determined Grief.** Demeter, still wasted with longing for her daughter, caused for mortals a most devastating year with no harvest. The earth would not send up a single sprout. By continuing in this gashion, she would not only have destroyed the entire human race with cruel famine but would also have deprived the Olympian gods of their glorious prestige from gifts and sacrifices. Zeus finally took notice. He sent Iris to Demeter in her temple at Eleusis with his command that she rejoin the company of the gods. Demeter refused to obey. So Zeus sent down all the immortal gods, who approached Demeter one by one, offering any gifts or honors that she might choose. Demeter stubbornly insisted that she would never set foot on Olympus until she with her own eyes saw her daughter again.
- **Zeus' Orders to Hades.** Thus Zeus was forced to send Hermes down to explain to Hades all that Demeter had said and done; Hermes also delivered the command that Persephone return with him out of the Underworld so that her mother might see her and desist from her wrath. Hades smiled grimly and immediately obeyed Zeus the king. He ordered Persephone to return with a loving heart to her mother; but he also told her that he

was not an unworthy husband for her, since he was the full brother of her father Zeus and that while she was with him she would rule as his queen, a great goddess. Those who did not propitiate her power by performing holy rites and sacrifices would find eternal retribution.

- **Persephone Eats of the Pomegranate.** Joyous Persephone jumped up quickly. But (according to the poet of the Hymn) Hades secretly gave his wife the fruit of the pomegranate to eat to ensure the fulfillment of his words to her as her husband; she should not remain the whole year above with her mother Demeter but would rule with him below for part of the time. He then yoked his immortal horses to his golden chariot, which Persephone mounted. Hermes took the reins, and in no time at all they came to a halt in front of the temple where Demeter waited.
- **Demeter's Ecstatic Reunion with Her Daughter.** At the sight of her daughter, Demeter rushed out of the temple with the passion of a maenad, and Persephone leaped down from the chariot and ran to meet her mother, throwing her arms around her neck. Immediately Demeter sensed some treachery and asked if Persephone had eaten any food in the Underworld. If she had not, she would live with her father Zeus and mother Demeter above, but if she had eaten anything, she would live a third part of the year in the Underworld and the other two thirds in the upper world. With the burgeoning spring she would wondrously rise again from the gloomy region below. Demeter ended by asking by what trick Hades has deceived her. Persephone said that she would tell the truth. According to her version (contradicting the description of Hades' secret deception just given), when she jumped up at the news of her return, Hades swiftly put into her mouth the fruit of the pomegranate and compelled her to eat it by force, against her will. Then Persephone painfully described how Hades carried her off, despite her screams. Their mutual grief was soothed by their loving and tender embraces. Hecate arrived and affectionately shared their joy. From that time on she became one of Persephone's attendants.

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Demeter Restores Fertility to the Earth. Zeus sent Rhea to lead Demeter back among the gods with the following message. He promised to grant Demeter the honors among the immortals that she would choose, and he consented that her daughter live a third part of the year below and the other two thirds above, with her mother and the other gods. Rhea swiftly rushed down and delivered Zeus' pronouncements and encouraged Demeter to comply, first by restoring the earth's fertility for mortals. Demeter obeyed. She miraculously caused fruit to spring up from earth that had previously been barren, and the whole land blossomed with flowers.

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