

One bright, sunny morning, the goddess Demeter said goodbye to her daughter Persephone. At midnight, she lit a flaming torch and set out to look for her. I was so thirsty, I just swallowed a few of the seeds." Persephone ate something? 15 "Please, Pluto," begged Hermes, "let her go for a little while. Because she no longer looked after the crops, the corn rotted in the fields, no fruit ripened on the trees and the grass turned brown. Before Persephone could scream, Pluto dragged her into the chariot and raced away. Demeter came home when Pluto Persephone? 8 "Pluto must let Persephone leave the Underworld," said a goddess. I will never let Persephone go," growled Pluto. You know Persephone doesn't love you and won't marry you." Demeter was the goddess of all the plants in the world. Suddenly, she heard a noise and looked up. She saw a chariot pulled by four black horses, driven by Pluto, god of the Underworld. Pluto had fallen in love with Persephone, but knew Demeter would never allow him to marry her daughter. 198/118 When Demeter came back that evening, she called to Persephone but there was no reply. Dressed in black instead of her usual bright clothes, Demeter wandered all over the country as a haggard, old woman. "Go to Pluto and ask him, very politely, to return Persephone to her mother," he said. "I'll let her go if she hasn't eaten any food while she's been here. You know the rule. If she has eaten anything in the Underworld, she must stay here forever." 12 "That's easy," said Hermes. Persephone cried, in answer to the question, "I couldn't eat anything here." Persephone may go back to the Earth for half of each year but must spend the other months here with me, in the Underworld. "Oh, my darling daughter," cried Demeter, hugging Persephone. "Yes," sobbed Persephone, "but I must go back to the Underworld for part of every year." "I'll be back for supper," she called. She made sure the corn grew tall in the fields and fruit ripened on the trees. Searching for the very best lilies, she wandered away and was soon on her own. As they thundered across the ground, a huge cleft opened. He and Persephone had disappeared into the Underworld. Zeus called for Hermes, the messenger of the gods