

# Persephone

## QUEEN OF THE UNDERWORLD



The parents of Persephone were Zeus (father) & Demeter (mother). Keep in mind that each interpretation of Persephone's story may differ from one another. There are different variations of this myth. Persephone was a very lovely child who matured into a beautiful woman. She caught the eye of Zeus's brother, Hades, who wanted to make her his wife. Hades was aware that her mother, Demeter would not agree to this, so he decided to be deceitful and make a deal with Zeus to kidnap Persephone and marry her. Hades emerged from the Earth one day when Persephone was picking flowers in a meadow one day and abducted her. Her mother heard Persephone's cries and instantly started to look for her. Demeter became extremely angry when she learned about the deal Zeus made with Hades. She retained her blessings to the Earth because she was so angry. Everything became darker and colder, crops withered away and the Earth was catapulted into a unrelenting winter. Demeter searched the whole Earth for her daughter. In the meantime, Persephone was very unhappy in the Underworld, however Hades had grown on Persephone and she began to love him. This left her torn between caring and loving her husband and missing her mother. Persephone missed the radiance and warmth of the upper world, yet her new husband was compassionate and caring. She didn't want to leave Hades, but she still loved and missed her mother dearly. Persephone then eats six pomegranate seeds, which means she would be prevented from returning to the upper world forever. Zeus gives in and tries to bring back Persephone by sending Hermes to the Underworld. An agreement was made between Demeter and Hades, because Persephone could not return to her mother due to the six pomegranate seeds that she ate. The arrangement was that half of the year Persephone would be with her mother and the other half with her husband. When Persephone returns to her mother each year, spring blooms and warmth is returned. When her daughter returns to the Underworld, the sadness of Demeter carries and brings the coldness of winter until her daughter returns in the springtime. Alas, this is how the seasons were created.

