

Demeter and Persephone *Words: Laura G. Lindgren & Cynthia R. Crossen; Music: Cynthia R. Crossen; © 1986 Cynthia R. Crossen*

Demeter loved her daughter, loved her more than life,
Bathed her in clear water, nourished her with light,
Loving word and loving touch were all Persephone knew,
In innocent unfolding Demeter's daughter grew.

Long and lithe and lovely as a summer flower,
Beauty in Persephone bloomed from hour into hour,
"She's the wonder of my life, Sustains me like the sun,
She is my blessed daughter, She and I are one."

Demeter, Persephone, Persephone, Demeter,
Safe in her mother's keeping, Persephone roamed unbound,
In the meadow by the brook the most beautiful flower she found,
"I must have this flower, I must have this bloom...
I must have this flower, I must have this bloom..."

"The earth cracks open, a chariot appears,
And a man grabs me, takes me down, takes me down,
Fire in his eyes burns, he says no word to me,
But his cold strong arms hold me close, Hold me close.

Downward into darkness he carries me,
Downward into darkness he carries me,
Downward into, downward into, downward into darkness
He carries me on, my sweet world gone.

Oh Mother, I'm calling you, Oh Mother hear me calling, (2x)
I am in the underworld, captured by Hades' hand,
Cold and stone and darkness and a black river bound this land,
I am in the underworld, captured by Hades' hand,
Cold and stone and darkness and a black river bound this land,
And the fire that burns is not a sun,
But sears like a god's command.

How Demeter trembled when her daughter did not come,
Ran down to the meadow and wildly called her name (Persephone, Persephone),
Wind was all that answered, the sighing of the pines,
Demeter's heart beat wildly as she called and called again.

"Daughter, I am calling you, Oh daughter, hear me calling, aah."

"Daughter, I am calling you, Oh daughter, hear me calling, aah."

Then a shepherd told her,
"I saw the earth crack open, I saw her fall inside,
In fear and terror I heard her cry (heard her cry), heard her cry (heard her cry)."
Demeter screamed then, Wild with her grief and pain,
Raging, she made a bitter pledge (bitter pledge), bitter pledge (bitter pledge).

“A curse on all beauty, a blight on all love,
Earth shall freeze and bones grow cold
And the sky grow dark above.
Plants will lose their greenness, animals die by frost,
Humans huddle in the night
And pay for what I’ve lost, My daughter lost.”

A year the earth lay frozen, Demeter’s grief was known,
Though every god had pleaded, no living thing was grown;
Zeus the god of thunder, humbled on his throne,
At last sent Hermes underground to bring Persephone home.

Earth returns to blooming, springtime comes again,
Human hearts find gladness in turning fertile land.
Demeter’s heart rejoices, Persephone’s spirit is free,
Mother and her daughter embracing endlessly, free, free.

Then Demeter asked her “Did you eat anything down there?”
“Only the seeds of the pomegranate fruit
He gave me as he said good-bye.”

Aaah, aaah, aaah, aaah, Aaah, aaah, aaah, aaah,

Hades’ voice rang out from under the earth,
“You have eaten of my fruit. You belong to me too.
Six months with your mother in the brightsome world above,
But six months shall you comfort my heart
And solace me with your love,”

In the world of shadows (world of shadows)
Persephone reigns as queen
And when she climbs the path to light
She brings rebirth in spring,
With the changes turning, grief and love we know,
So circles have their seasons
And from the depths we grow, we grow, we grow.