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Reading Article GP2

Article #14: Ceres and Persephone

Ceres was the goddess of the Earth. She was responsible for the harvests and the goodness of the Earth. She had a beautiful daughter called Persephone (per-sef-o-nee). Ceres loved her child very much and clothed the earth in beauty to show her delight. The god of the underworld (Hell) was called Pluto. He saw Persephone playing and singing in her mother's garden and wanted her to be his wife. He spoke to her and led her away to his kingdom, where he kept her from returning to her mother.

Ceres was miserable. She went to the chief of all the gods, Jupiter, and related her story to him. She begged him to help her get Persephone back.

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Persephone could return to her mother for six months, but had to return to the underworld with Pluto for the other six months.

Every year, when the time comes for Persephone to return home, Ceres puts blossoms on trees and flowers in the fields, and nature is warm, green and fertile. But when the time draws near for Persephone to return to Pluto, winter descends on the Earth again.