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The Tale of Persephone and the Changing Seasons



In the ancient Greek world, there lived a beautiful goddess named Persephone, the daughter of Demeter, the goddess of agriculture. Persephone was known for her kindness and her love for the natural world. She spent her days among the flowers, tending to the plants and nurturing the earth.

One day, as Persephone was picking flowers in a meadow, she was abducted by Hades, the god of the Underworld. Hades took her to his dark realm and made her his queen. Demeter, heartbroken and devastated by her daughter's disappearance, mourned and grieved, causing the earth to wither and the crops to die.

Zeus, the king of the gods, took notice of the suffering on Earth and realized that something must be done. He sent Hermes, the messenger god, to Hades to negotiate with him. Hades agreed to let Persephone go, but only on the condition that she had not eaten anything in the Underworld.

When Persephone returned to the world above, she was overjoyed to be reunited with her mother. However, during her time in the Underworld, she had eaten a few pomegranate seeds given to her by Hades. This meant that she had to return to the Underworld for a portion of each year. When she was with her mother, the earth bloomed with life, but when she returned to Hades, Demeter mourned, and winter descended upon the land.

This myth explains the changing seasons on Earth, where spring and summer are periods of growth and abundance, while autumn and winter are times of rest and dormancy.