

**Persephone Speaks**  
**By Agapi Stassinopoulos**

*Persephone, beloved goddess of spring and queen of the underworld, tell me where I can find you and how I can better learn from you...*

You can find me dancing with my playmates  
In the luscious meadows  
Filled with flowers of every kind and colour-  
Roses, crocuses, beautiful violets, irises,  
Hyacinths and narcissus.  
I am slender and beautiful- maiden among the  
immortal gods,  
Brilliant and adored.  
I am Demeter's beloved and cherished child.  
Carefree and innocent,  
I live in my eternal springs, and  
Everything around me is always blooming!  
'Til one day Hades, the awesome god of the underworld,  
And my father's brother came from under the earth and snatched me away  
from my happiness.  
I was raped and abducted,  
I screamed and wept.  
No one heard my cries or rescued me.  
My mother grieved and wept  
And wandered on the earth.  
I lived in hell.  
It seemed like an eternity.  
I lost all time.  
I ate nothing.  
I spoke to no one.  
I lived without hope or light,  
I lived in bondage.  
I gave up hope of  
Ever seeing my mother's face again.  
She never stopped plotting,  
She never gave up.  
She used her goddess power and  
Threatened famine on the earth.  
My father, Zeus, succumbed,  
And sent the beautiful Hermes  
With his winged sandals and chariot  
To find me,  
And my heart leapt for joy.  
The day had come to see the earth again,  
My mother's face the flowers and my playmates.

As I stepped into Hermes' chariot,  
Hades, who was bereft to see me go,  
Handed me a pomegranate seed.  
I thought nothing of it I took it and ate it,  
Not know that this act  
Would forever bind me to return.  
And then I was back in my mother's arms  
Her tears of joy and mine blending into one.  
Oh, to see the light of day again  
And touch the earth with my slender feet!  
Helios, god of the sun, shone brightly in our hearts.  
But I had tasted the food of the underworld.  
I had no choice it was arranged  
That every spring, summer and fall  
With my mother I'd remain  
And I'd spend the winter months with Hades.  
I am not afraid anymore  
I am not in grief.  
I bring my light into the underworld  
And help others  
Who, like me, come and fear death.  
I love my husband, Hades,  
Not as my abductor but as the man I chose to marry.  
I've overcome!  
My abduction became my resurrection.  
I'm fearless over death,  
Eternal and forever young,  
The woman and the maiden all in one.  
You'll find me in the dark and light domains of your  
heart.