

# THE PROBLEM WITH POMEGRANATES

## The Myth of Persephone

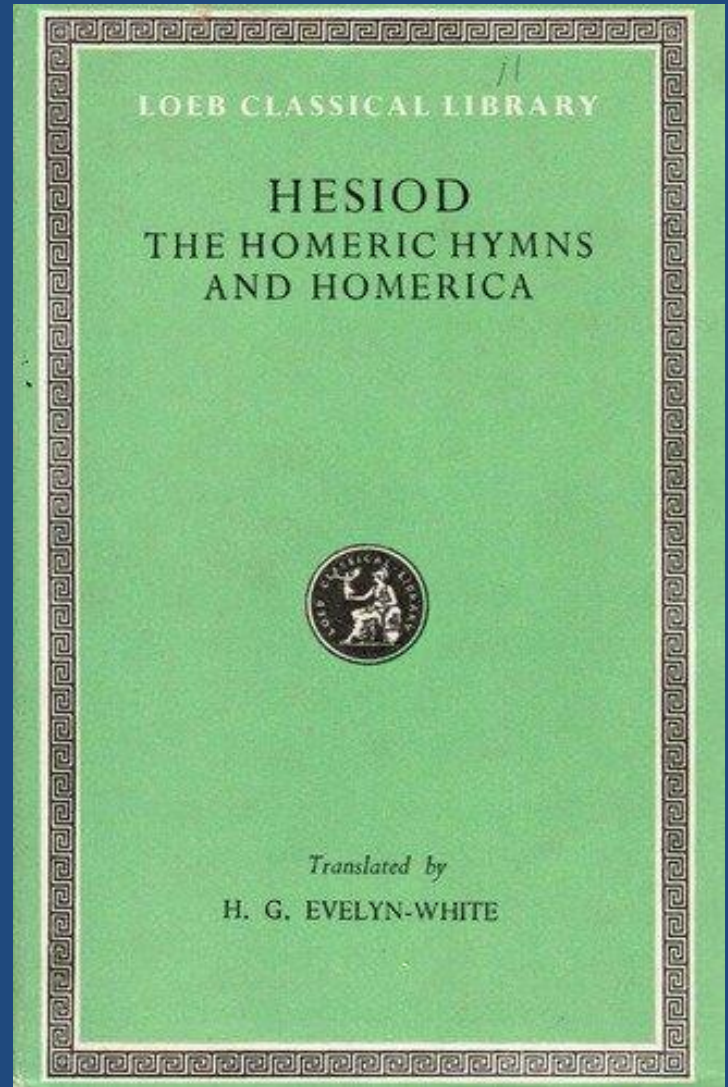
Mr. Barham  
1<sup>st</sup> Period



# THE HOMERIC HYMNS

- Not written by Homer
- 33 anonymous poems, each dedicated to one of the gods
- Written in the same verse as *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*
- Typically dated from 7-6 B.C.

Faulkner, Andrew. "Homeric Hymns." *Oxford Bibliographies*. Oxford Bibliographies, 2014. Web. 15 Oct. 2014.



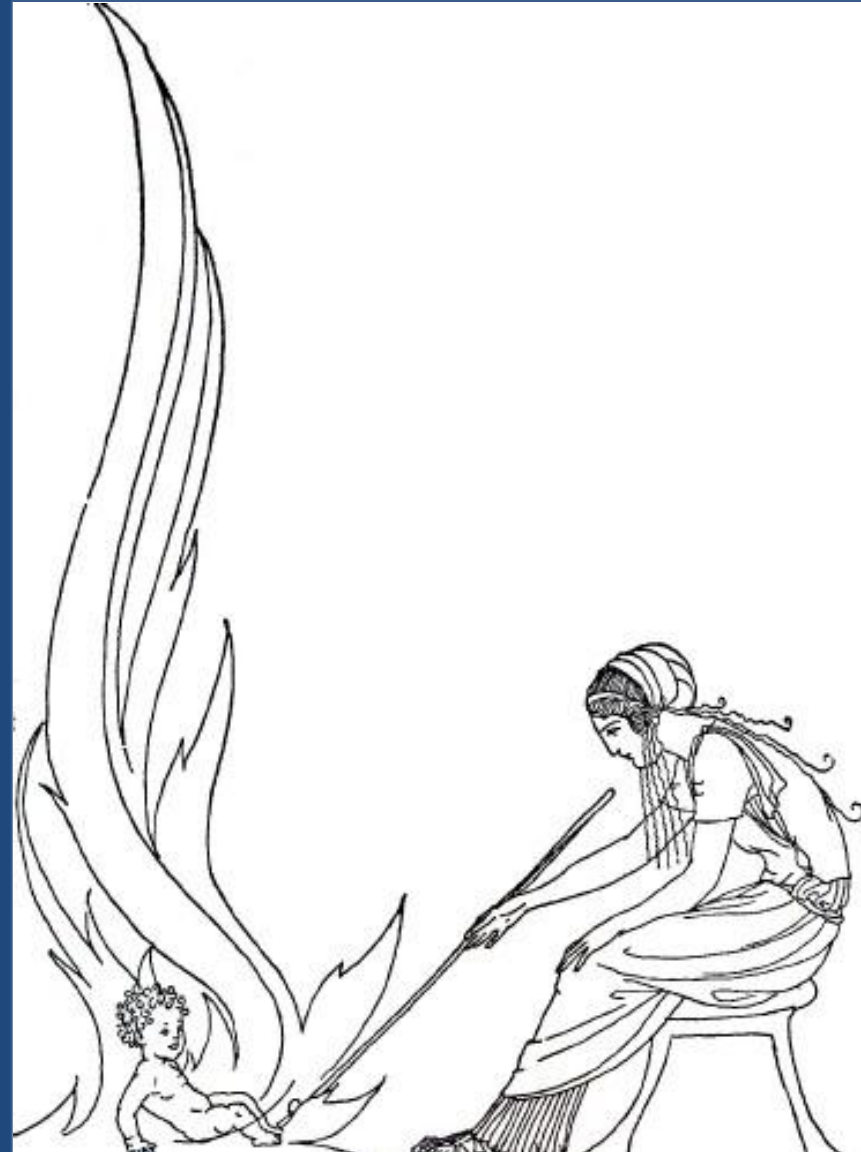
# HOMERIC HYMNS: EXCERPT

- [390] But while Demeter was still holding her dear child in her arms,  
her heart suddenly misgave her for some snare, so that she feared greatly and  
ceased  
fondling her daughter and asked of her at once:  
“My child, tell me, surely you have not tasted any food  
while you were below? Speak out and hide nothing, but let us both know.
- [395] For if you have not, you shall come back from loathly Hades  
and live with me and your father, the dark-clouded Son of Cronos  
and be honored by all the deathless gods;  
but if you have tasted food, you must go back again beneath the secret places of  
the earth,  
there to dwell a third part of the seasons every year

# SACRED OBLIGATIONS

## Hospitality

- Metaneira's daughters insistent on Demeter visiting their home
- Demeter honors hospitality by attempting to make Demophoon immortal



Willy Pogány. 1921.

# RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GODS

## Visitation from the gods

- Demeter in disguise at Eleusis
- Story of being abducted by pirates
- Blessing: Demeter establishes her temple there
- Curse: the entire Earth suffers as she withdraws

Pinax (Votive Relief) of  
Persephone and Hades Enthroned.  
500-450 BC. Greek. Terracotta.



MYTH ANALYSIS: The Myth of Persephone

# RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GODS

## Peril of the gods' "love"

- tricked (twice) and abducted by Hades
  - Lured away by the narcissus
  - Tricked into eating a pomegranate seed
- must spend one-third of the year in the land of the dead

*Proserpine.*

Dante Gabriel Rossetti. 1874



## MYTH ANALYSIS:

### The Myth of Persephone

# EARLY SCIENCE

## Explains the Seasons

- Pomegranate seed
- Winter: the third of the year when Persephone is in the Underworld
- Spring: when she returns

*The Return of Persephone.*  
Frederic Leighton. 1890-1



## MYTH ANALYSIS: The Myth of Persephone

# THEME

### Topics

- Grief and Loss
- Deceit
- Compromise

### Theme

- Compromise is sometimes required, even when justice is not served.

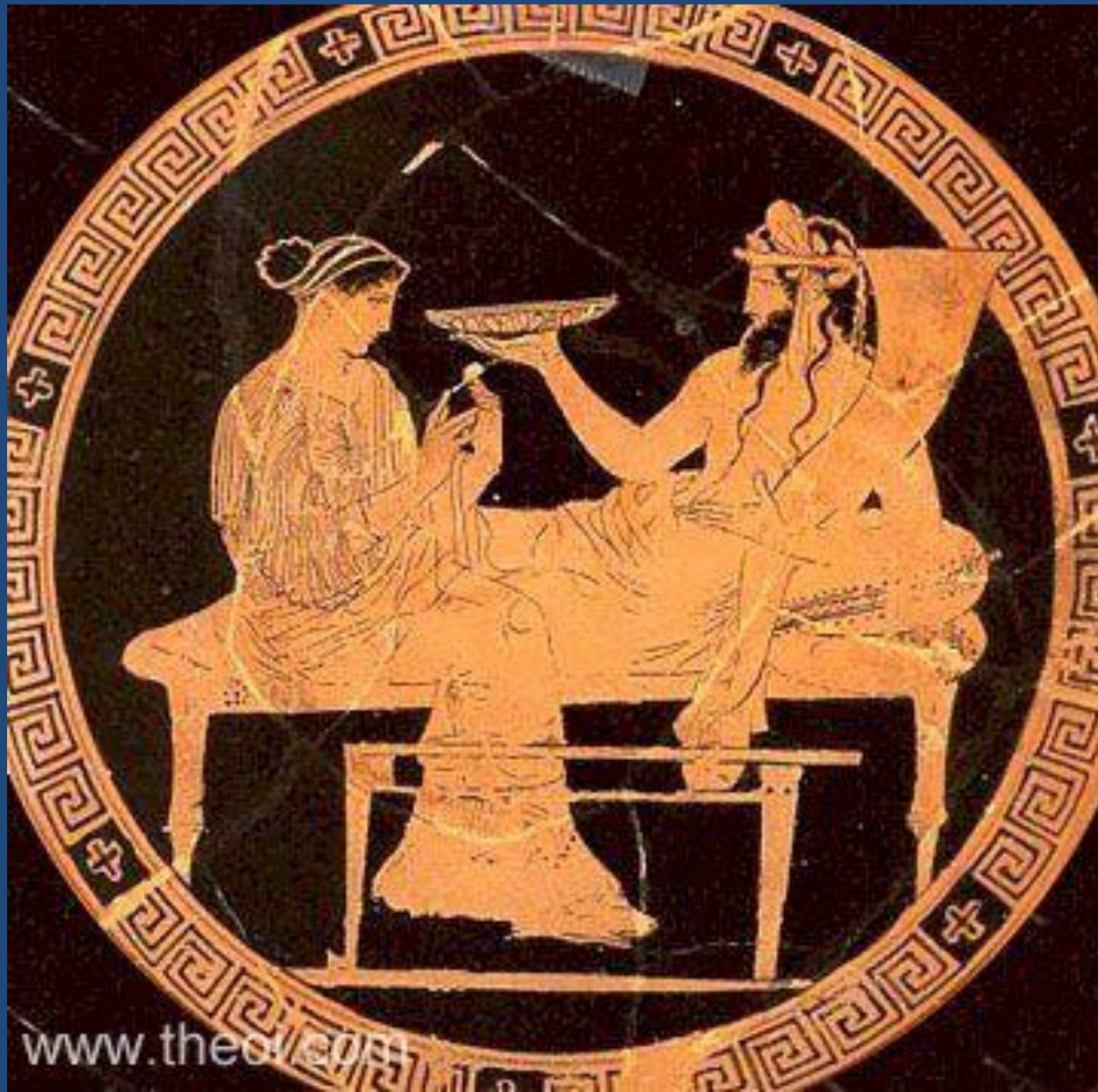


*Demeter Mourning for Persephone.*  
Evelyn De Morgan. 1906



ART REVIEW: The Myth of Persephone

GREEK VASE: 400-450 B.C.



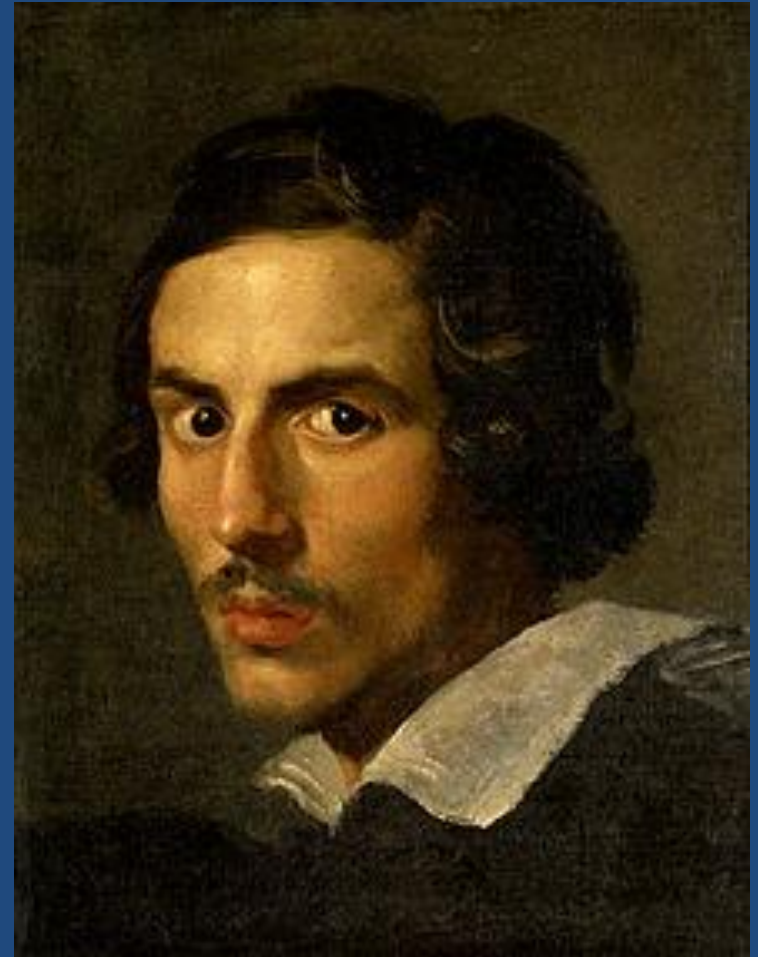
ART REVIEW: The Myth of Persephone

ROMAN SARCOPHAGUS FRONT PANEL, 3 B.C.  
(VIENNA MUSEUM OF ART)



ART REVIEW: The Myth of Persephone  
*THE RAPE OF PROSERPINA*

Marble, height 225 cm (89 in)  
Galleria Borghese, Rome



Gian Lorenzo Bernini  
1621-1622

ART REVIEW: The Myth of Persephone

# *THE RAPE OF PROSERPINA*

GIAN LORENZO BERNINI

1621-1622



ART REVIEW: The Myth of Persephone

*THE RAPE OF PROSERPINA*

GIAN LORENZO BERNINI, 1621-1622





# THE PROBLEM WITH POMEGRANATES

The Myth of Persephone

