



The Homeric Hymn to Demeter: Translation, Commentary, and Interpretative Essays

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The Homeric *Hymn to Demeter*, composed in the late seventh or early sixth century B.C.E., is a key to understanding the psychological and religious world of ancient Greek women. The poem tells how Hades, lord of the underworld, abducted the goddess Persephone and how her grieving mother, Demeter, the goddess of grain, forced the gods to allow Persephone to return to her for part of each year. Helene Foley presents the Greek text and an annotated translation of this poem, together with selected essays that give the reader a rich understanding of the *Hymn's* structure and artistry, its role in the religious life of the ancient world, and its meaning for the modern world.

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