

Persephone In Oregon Part VI: Spring Equinox

Persephone, the mythical Greek goddess of spring and the Underworld, has captivated the hearts and minds of people for centuries. Her journey from the underworld to the earth symbolizes the arrival of spring and the revitalization of nature. In the Pacific Northwest state of Oregon, Persephone's annual visit is particularly anticipated, as it brings an abundance of life and beauty to the region.

Exploring Persephone's Influence in Oregon

Oregon, known for its stunning natural landscapes and diverse ecosystems, provides the perfect backdrop for Persephone's arrival. As the winter months fade away, spring emerges with a burst of vibrant colors and renewed energy. The state's diverse flora and fauna come to life, creating a magical atmosphere that residents and visitors eagerly await each year.

The Symbolism of the Equinox

The Spring Equinox marks the official beginning of spring when the day and night are of equal length. This cosmic event aligns perfectly with Persephone's journey from the darkness of the underworld to the brightness of the earth, symbolizing the balance between light and darkness. It is during this time that the mythological Proserpina, as Persephone is known in Roman mythology, starts the process of awakening nature from its winter slumber.



Persephone in Oregon: Part VI. Spring Equinox

by Bob Zybach (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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With the arrival of the equinox, Oregonians prepare for a season filled with natural wonders and joyful festivities. The region's lush forests and beautiful gardens become the stage for various celebrations, where the spirit of Persephone is honored and cherished.

The Blooming of Oregon's Flowers

One of the most remarkable aspects of Persephone's influence in Oregon is the dazzling display of flowers that burst forth throughout the state. The famous Oregon Tulip Festival, held in the heart of the Willamette Valley, showcases acres upon acres of stunning tulip fields in a multitude of colors. Visitors from far and wide are drawn to witness this breathtaking spectacle that rivals even the famous tulip fields of the Netherlands.

Meanwhile, the Portland Japanese Garden transforms into a serene oasis of cherry blossoms during the spring equinox. These delicate pink flowers cover the garden in a stunning display, creating a peaceful atmosphere that invites visitors to revel in their beauty. This annual event attracts thousands of people who come to witness the ephemeral beauty of these blossoms, reminding them of the transient nature of life.

Persephone's Dance with Wildlife in Oregon

As Persephone's influence reaches its peak during the spring equinox, Oregon's wildlife awakens from their winter slumber. Whale watching tours along the coast become a popular activity, as gray whales migrate from their feeding grounds in Alaska to the warmer waters of Mexico. Visitors have the opportunity to witness these majestic creatures up close as they breach and spout in a display of sheer beauty.

In the Cascade Mountains, a different kind of wildlife awakens – the feisty and playful mountain goats. These agile creatures often steal the show as they navigate the rocky slopes with grace and precision. Their playful antics and fluffy white coats make for an enjoyable sightseeing experience that adds charm and excitement to any visit to the state.

The Volcanic Connection

Oregon's unique geological makeup, characterized by its volcanic activity, adds another layer of fascination to Persephone's presence in the state. One of the most prominent examples is Mount Hood, a majestic stratovolcano that stands proud at an elevation of 11,250 feet. As winter gives way to spring, the snow-capped peak of Mount Hood starts to melt, giving rise to cascading waterfalls and crystal-clear streams.

The Columbia River Gorge, formed by massive volcanic eruptions, becomes a prime destination for nature enthusiasts during the equinox. Hiking trails filled with blooming wildflowers offer breathtaking views of waterfalls and towering cliffs. Here, Persephone's touch can be felt in every gust of wind and glimpse of nature's splendor.

The Allure of Crater Lake

Persephone's influence extends even to Oregon's famous Crater Lake, the deepest lake in the United States. This natural wonder, formed by the collapse of a volcanic crater, offers unparalleled beauty and tranquility. As spring arrives, the pristine blue waters of the lake reflect the emerging wildflowers and the clear sky above, creating a harmonious blend of colors that captivates the imagination.

Venturing further into the heart of the national park, visitors may witness Persephone's touch in the form of blooming beargrass. This tall, flowering plant dominates the landscape with its clusters of white flowers, adding a touch of ethereal beauty to the already enchanting surroundings.

The Celebration of Life's Renewal

The arrival of Persephone in Oregon symbolizes more than just the changing of seasons. It represents the celebration of life's renewal and the cycle of rebirth. The state's residents have wholeheartedly embraced this concept, creating vibrant festivals and events that pay tribute to Persephone's impact on their lives.

One such event is the Portland Spring Beer and Wine Festival, where locals and visitors come together to celebrate the abundance of local craft beer and wine. This lively gathering mirrors the joyous mood that permeates the entire state during this time of the year, as people raise their glasses to welcome Persephone's arrival.

The Healing Power of Persephone

Persephone's presence in Oregon holds a deeper meaning for many individuals. The goddess's journey from darkness to light serves as a metaphor for personal growth and transformation. She reminds us to embrace change, let go of the past, and find beauty in every new beginning.

As the equinox ushers in the spring, it acts as a catalyst for personal renewal. Many Oregonians partake in wellness retreats, yoga workshops, and meditation sessions during this time, seeking to connect with Persephone's energy and harness the healing power of nature.

In

Persephone's arrival in Oregon during the spring equinox brings with it a sense of wonder, joy, and renewal. Her influence can be seen in the blooming flowers, awakened wildlife, majestic landscapes, and vibrant celebrations throughout the state. Oregonians eagerly await this annual event, knowing that Persephone's visit heralds the beginning of a new season filled with beauty, growth, and endless possibilities.

So, as the equinox approaches, let us embrace Persephone's journey and allow her transformative energy to guide us into a spring filled with hope, rejuvenation, and an appreciation for the wonders of nature.



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This is the story of Persephone, who arrives in primeval Oregon from the sea, blue-haired and naked in the late afternoon of a New Moon. Here she finds an Eden-like country of great ferns and grasses, waterfalls, rivers, and giant forest trees -- but no flowers, no animals, no people.

This book of fine-art photographs follows Persephone through the seasons, as she travels across Oregon on Lunar and Solar time tables, visiting and staying in strange and mythical locations known to very few people ever, and rarely indicating any human presence to this time.

As with her Grecian namesake and forebear, Persephone first lives in a beautiful and peaceful nature, ultimately eats a forbidden fruit, becomes personally responsible for widespread misery and death, spends several months in Hell, and becomes obsessed with spring flowers and the seasons of the year. In common with her biblical counterpart, Eve, she also encounters a Talking Snake who gives her unsettling and life-changing information.

This modern allegory is told in words and images that stay true to both Greek and Christian mythologies and to the generally unknown ethereal and beautiful Oregon landscapes that illustrate this story of Persephone.

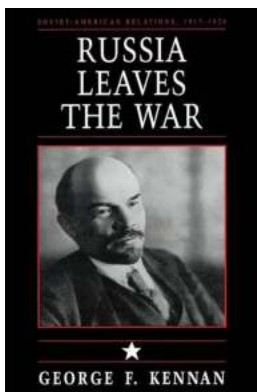
Each picture is intended to tell a story; each series of pictures ("pinax") is also intended to tell a story; all of the pictures together ("pinakes") tell an entirely different story. It depends on who is viewing the images, when and where, as to what the stories are.

Persephone's story is told in text and in an illustrative series of digital fine art photographs created by the authors in a number of esoteric, mystical, and beautiful locations in Oregon. The photographs were taken over the course of an

entire year, during all seasons, from the first day of summer 2015 to late spring 2016.

A Nikon D-7000 digital camera, 50 mm Nikon lens, Bogen 3411 tripod, and natural light were used to capture all images. Several photos were slightly cropped with PhotoShop to remove a dust spot on the upper margin and all photos were (very) slightly re-sized to make their dimensions more uniform for display. No photos were adjusted for light, color, or focus, or altered or enhanced in any other manner. What you see is, so close as possible, exactly what the camera produced, albeit scaled down from their original 11-inch x 17-inch, 300 dpi (dots per inch) size.

Text and photographs by Bob Zybach and McKenzie Peters



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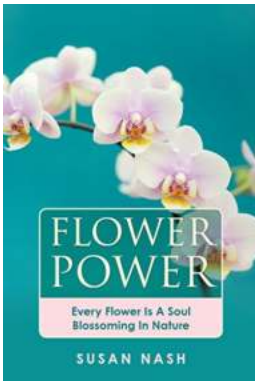
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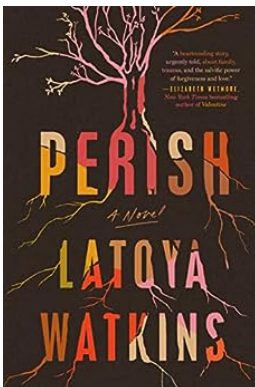
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