Persephone and The Professors



You have to admire the Ancient Greeks, in the pantheon of gods and goddesses they created, for it has brought about a huge industry of academics studying the texts and stories ever since.
Vainly trying to make any sense of it all, supported by an army of PhD student and plentiful grants.
Straightforward the Greek gods were not, many were known by more than one name, and many had more than area of responsibility.
Take Persephone ; Queen of the underworld; Goddess of the dead, grain, and spring. Daughter of Zeus and Demeter. Married to Hades, who was also her uncle and had previously abducted her, she returns from the Underworld every Spring. Having been tricked by Hades to eat pomegranate seeds, she must spend three months in the darkness of the Underworld, and so Winter falls above ground.
However, she is also known as Cora, with two different spellings.
Prior to her birth, her mother, Demeter was known as Rhea.
Wow, pick the bones out of that Sherlock.
So what I am about to tell you may well not fit in with what else you know about Persephone, but please indulge me in the telling of this cautionary tale.
As mentioned, Persephone was a goddess, with a strange mix of powers. She could manipulate her height, could indulge in metamorphosis, and could also mimic flowers.
There seems to be a bit of an overlap in the last two, but maybe that's just me being picky, in a Venn diagram sort of way.
Although she was said to very beautiful, which is what attracted Hades to her in the first place, he was not exactly devoted to her.
So Persephone wasn't best pleased when Hades took the river nymph Minthe as a lover. She wasn't upset, not even angry, she was full-on livid at his betrayal. Such were the emotions of gods and goddesses.
But Persephone was forbidden, by her parents, from harming Hades.
How was she to respond, you may well ask? Well, I'll tell you.
Persephone called upon all her powers, of Height Manipulation, Metamorphosis and Flower Mimicry, and she transformed herself into a giant flower and crushed Minthe into small pieces, teenie tiny pieces. From these pieces came the mint plants we know so well, used in sauces to accompany roast lamb, or possibly as an infusion of tea, or just taking over the herb border.
At this point, if we had the budget, that well known music track, by Led Zep, Trampled Underfoot would rise up. But we don't.
So the question is, as you venture outside into your gardens, are the other herbs in your patches a result of Persephone and her revenge on the waywardness of Hades?
Or have we got to wait for a professor and their PhD students to come up with a possible answer in a few decades time?

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