

Exemplar Poetry - Demeter's Prayer to Hades

Dove, Rita. "Demeter's Prayer to Hades." *Mother Love: Poems*. New York: Norton, 1996. (1995)

This alone is what I wish for you: knowledge.
To understand each desire has an edge,
To know we are responsible for the lives
we change. No faith comes without cost,
no one believes without dying.
Now for the first time
I see clearly the trail you planted,
What ground opened to waste,
though you dreaded a wealth
of flowers.
There are no curses—only mirrors
held up to the souls of gods and mortals.
And so I give up this fate, too.
Believe in yourself,
go ahead—see where it gets you.

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