

H A D E S

In His Dark Garden

Plants of the Underworld

Jamie Waggoner | SassyCon 2026

Who is Hades?



Left: Ploutonion Temple at Hierapolis (Pamukkale, Turkey). Center: Kylix, 430 BCE (British Museum). Right: Roman statue of Plouton, 1st century CE (Getty Villa Museum).

The Host of Many

One of his many epithets, Polydegmon, means “Host of Many” and refers to the idea that Hades hosts all of humanity between lifetimes.



The Wealthy One

Due to the abundance of precious resources and shades that inhabit his realm, Hades is also often referred to as “The Wealthy One” (Plouton) among the gods.



AIDONEUS: The Unseen One

EUCHAITES: The Beautiful-Haired One

KLYMENOS: Notorious

EUBULEUS: Good Counselor or Consoler

ADAMASTOS: The Unbreakable

ORKOS: Avenger of Oaths



Common Misconceptions

Hades is not the god of death, nor the supernatural being who comes to claim you at the end of your life.

Hades has no control over the length of a lifetime, or the chosen hour of death for any individual.



Common Misconceptions

Hades is more of an “executive administrator” than a judge or punisher of the dead. He delegates.

Hades is not the Devil, and his Underworld is not Hell.



Hidden Gems in Myth & Story

We can discover the wisdom encoded in myth and story by mindfully, deeply exploring any fragments of context that survived within the narrative.



Hidden Gems in Myth & Story

A character's attributes or garments, or mention of specific places, plants, and animals, add layers of nuance and meaning to mythological tales.

These elements of the story are oftentimes more familiar to our human experience.



Hidden Gems in Myth & Story

Everything in the world was meaningful to the poets and storytellers who gave us these narratives.

Plants and animals have the power to enrich our comprehension and understanding of complex, multifaceted mythological figures like the gods.



In His Dark Garden: Mint



Mentha spicata – Clarity, Desire, Passion

Photo credits: Andreas Haslinger (left), Marc Schulte (right) via Unsplash.

In His Dark Garden: White Poplar



Populus alba – Affection, Remembrance, Wealth
Photo credits: danplant (left), jordiroyg (right) via Google search.

In His Dark Garden: Hellebore



Helleborus orientalis, Helleborus niger – Astral Projection, Invisibility, Madness

Photo credits: Madeline Hambury via Unsplash (left), Hearth and Vine (right).

In His Dark Garden: Dittany of Crete



Origanum dictamnus – Love, Spirit Evocation and Manifestation

Photo credits: Giorgos Palimetakis (left), Wikipedia (right).

In His Dark Garden: Mistletoe



Viscum album – Fertility, Higher Knowledge, Safe Passage

Photo credits: Graham Calow (left), Iuliu Illes (center), Pixabay (right).

In His Dark Garden: Aconite



Aconitum napellus – Baneful Magic, Boundaries, Glamoury, Protection

Photo credits: Josie Weiss via Unsplash (left), Pixabay (right).

In His Dark Garden: Mediterranean Cypress



Cupressus sempervirens – Death, Mourning, Necromancy

Photo credits: Stux (left, right); Pixabay (center).

In His Dark Garden: Quince



Cydonia oblonga – Offerings, Propitiation of the Dead

Photo credits: Markus Spiske via Unsplash (left), VistaCreate (right).

In His Dark Garden: Violet



Viola odorata – Devotion, Honoring the Beloved Dead, Sweet Remembrance

Photo credits: Kew Gardens (left), Syrio via NC Extension Gardener (right).

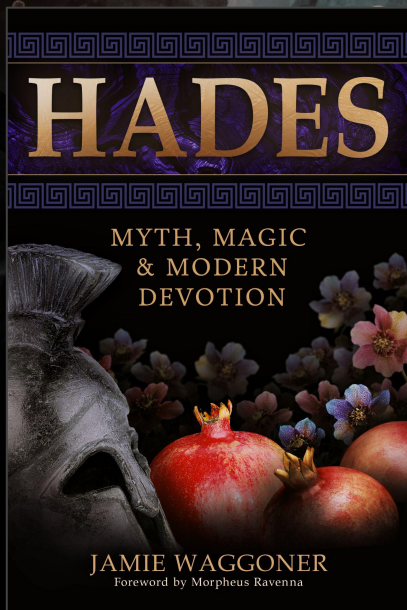
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Questions?

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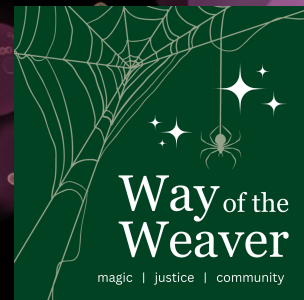


HADES

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Thank you!

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